

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, October 3, 2017

The special meeting of the City Council in the City of Virginia, Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councillor Paulsen, Johnson, Jorgensen, Littlewolf, Baranzelli
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cuffe Jr. recessed the special meeting at 6:01 p.m.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor to re-adjourn the special meeting at 6:53 p.m.
Motion passed.

The special meeting was re-adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

This special meeting was called to consider a Petition request from abutting land owners to vacate the 300 Block of 1st Street South between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue. This vacation is being requested by the St. Louis County in order build a new St. Louis County Services Facility.

Councillor Johnson noted in the beginning he had received feedback that no one wanted this street closed, however in the last few weeks this has changed. He did feel that everyone was not getting the same information at the same time over the last six months concerning this vacation. Moving forward he wants this to be a lesson learned that public information meetings are held before the process. The numbers that are now in support are overwhelming and he is very impressed with the public involvement concerning the vacation.

Councillor Littlewolf stated that this has been challenging and feels the information has not been transparent. In order for us to make wise, visionary and creative decisions, transparency is needed. Littlewolf said that she hears only the fear of the loss of jobs if the County were to relocate their facility, however she didn't hear how the street vacation would benefit anyone. She took Commissioner Nelson at his word when he said the facility would not be moved out of the central location of Virginia. The newspapers then announced the County was not committed to Virginia as a location. Councillor Littlewolf expressed she had hoped for a better creative solution.

Councillor Baranzelli will be supporting this vacation and does not want to see this facility be built elsewhere.

Councillor Paulsen agrees with Littlewolf regarding the need for transparent information and had believed Commissioner Nelson, but then saw the County was considering other locations. At first Paulsen had received negative feedback from residents on the problems this street vacation would cause for school busing, funeral parking and residential parking. Now that the County is considering relocating the facility if the street is not vacated, it changes everything. She is about truth and will be excited to see what the economic impact will look like with this development.

Mayor opens this up to the public:

Les Peterson from the public came forward to state he never believed that the City would have turned the County down on the street vacation for this project.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. had the opportunity to sit in all the meetings regarding this development and believes the County followed the property process to keep the City informed. He also believes Commission Nelson was truthful with the City, however there are six other County Commissioners on that board in respect to the passing a resolution on recruitment of property. The County has decided on this plan that requires to vacate the street based on the services they were going to provide. Regardless if this is a tax paying or non-tax paying development, these are much needed services for all types of people in our community. This is for the greater good, for future of our children, community, and economic development.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 17126 approving the vacation of the 300 Block of 1st Street South between 3rd Avenue and 4th Avenue.

Ayes: Councillor Baribeau, Paulsen, Jorgensen, Johnson, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe Jr.

Nays: Littlewolf

Resolution adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.