

**VIRGINIA CITY**  
**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**City of Virginia, Minnesota October 13, 2015**

Regular meeting of the City Council of the city of Virginia, Minnesota was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. in the council chambers, city hall.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present—Mayor Cuffe, Jr.; Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Sipola,  
Baranzelli, (7)

Absent- none

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Dr. Michael Miskovich presented the city council an award from the Minnesota Department of Health Oral Health program and Drinking Water Protection section in partnership with the Minnesota Dental Association, this award is for the public water systems that have adjusted the fluoride concentration in the drinking water for the past 50 years. This is recognized by the Center of Disease Control and Prevention as one of the ten great achievements in public health of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Doug Nelson discussed property issues in his neighborhood, the 700 block of 4<sup>th</sup> street south, and he would like to know what the timeline is for getting resolved. Attorney Butorac explained what happened, the plat stopped in middle of the house, and it affects five homes in the area, it has been surveyed in order to make a presentation to the register of titles to accept the plat; it could possibly be two to three months before completed. If we have to re-plat it will be more expensive and will take longer, it depends on what the register of title decides. After the process is complete there will be two deeds for property.

Fire Chief Allen Lewis thanked the city for allowing him to attend the Firefighters memorial ceremony. There were three firefighters from Virginia who were honored, they had died in the line of

duty, John Grym, Harry Hawkinson, and Chauncey Pettinelli.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 22, 2015
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-018 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve renewal of Optional 2 A.M. Liquor License for Flaimer’s, Inc. d/b/a Flaimer’s, located at 127 Chestnut Street
4. Adopt Resolution 15179 with the IRRRB for soil contamination clean up on former East Range Clinic site
5. Adopt Resolution 15180 with MN Department of Public Safety for traffic safety enforcement projects and VPD to be the fiscal agent

Motion carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt resolution 15170

approving the transfer of City property to K. Waschke Properties, LLC (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)

Resolution adopted unanimously

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the following variance for:

Pohaki Lumber Co. at 804 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Virginia MN:

- 1) Approve a 12’ foot variance to the required 15-foot side yard setback in order to construct a Lumber Storage Rack 3 feet from the South property line

Motion Carried

Councillor Baribeau updated the council on the RAMS By-law constitution changes and ballot. There is one vote for each member city to approve the changes. Baribeau has been active in the discussion regarding the changes and recommends to approve.

Moved by Baribeau, supported by Sipola to approve the constitutional amendments to the RAMS

by laws. Motion Carried

Further discussion was held on what benefit there is to the city to be a member of RAMS. The council agreed to have a discussion before the dues are paid for the next year. Baribeau noted that RAMS is becoming more transparent and will have more information available in the future.

A letter was presented to the council from Police Chief Dennis Benz on his retirement in November; Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the resignation letter from Chief Benz. As of November 30, 2015, Benz will be retiring; with 29 years of service with the city. Each Councillor commented on his professionalism and the respect they have for Chief Benz.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to accept the resignation of Chief Benz as of November 30, 2015. Motion Carried

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 6, 2015

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to allow Jonathan Benz, to attend the MN Crime Prevention Annual Conference, October 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Duluth MN. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow Matt Kelley & John Swenson & Jonathan Benz to attend the DMT-G Certification November 16-19<sup>th</sup> 2015 in St Paul MN.

Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve Pay Request #1 for Mesabi Bituminous for Waschke Site project \$155,324.29. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve Pay Request #3 for Ulland Brothers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South improvements \$311,961.95. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt resolution 15181 for the Emergency Apparatus service contract for 2015-2016 in the amount of \$5,755.00.

Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve rental fee waiver policy for the Miners Memorial Building as was previously written. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15182 to transfer City property parcel #1 to Tritec Land, LLC. Resolution adopted unanimously

Discussed revising the development agreement for parcels 2, 3 and 4. Tourville noted things have been progressing since the initial meeting and would like to proceed with this transaction in order for them to move forward.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to develop a lease agreement for Tritec to be able to access his current property and use the area as temporary lay down. Motion Carried

The council would like to reduce number of years in the development agreement from five to three, and there is still some clean up on other three lots, we can approve the access and work continue to on the Development Agreement. They will begin construction shortly on the lot we are conveying.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt resolution 15183 to submit a reimbursement request for the Hwy 53 project. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15184 for a reimbursement request for the DNR Grant for \$190,000.00 Resolution adopted unanimously

Motion by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt resolution 15185 for the Mine View in the Sky clean up by Holmes Recycling Service for \$9,786.00.

Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to seek proposals on the buildings at the Staver Foundry. Motion Carried

Discussed the property easement request for Hwy 53-Attorney Butorac updated the council, he spoke with Penny Rolf, there are some language concerns in the contract, he proposed some alternative language for the contract and Rolf will be in contact with the city, they have a temporary easement and don't need a permanent one till 2018, so there is time for discussion

Discussed CDBG grant submission Councillor Littlewolf suggested submitting two proposals, the Olcott Fountain and the Baileys lake Trail,

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to submit two projects for the CDBG grant, Baileys Lake Trail and the Olcott Fountain Project. Motion Carried

Councillor Jorgensen updated on the Fountain Project and had concerns submitting two applications. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that submitting two proposals won't hurt either request; we have time to prioritize when we make the presentation to the board

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Building & Grounds Committee Meeting held on September 29, 2015

Agreed to begin discussions for an acquisition to move ahead with the building for Lyric-Small Parts Players. Discussion for them to relocate downstairs and the Teen center upstairs was contingent upon Teen Center approval. A letter was received from the teen center supporting the Lyric Center for Arts and agreeing for them to make the move. The Teen center will move upstairs and be called the "Loft"

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to support the discussion for the acquisition for ownership for Lyric-Small Parts Players. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow, Small Parts Players to use the building on a temporary basis for the theatre program-Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by McReynolds to work with city staff, Marlise Riffel and Attorney to draft an ordinance allowing chickens in the city. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to continue with the neighborhood renewal program, with the following additions: \$1 for \$1 match, residential and rental rehab throughout the city or by order of Fire Marshall. Motion Carried

\$5,000 balance remaining, maximum \$500 grant per resident as a matching fund

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to recommend to finance to include in 2016 budget \$5,000 for the Neighborhood renewal program – Motion Carried

Discussed the garbage and blue bag issues and will continue discussions regarding this

Councillor Sipola updated on the Personnel Information

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15186 hiring David McClellan as a Paramedic. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt resolution 15187 hiring Elizabeth. Khrin as an EMT. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt resolution 15188 hiring Kurt Doree as an EMT. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt resolution 15189 hiring Stephanie Wichlacz as a Library Associate. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15190 hiring William Fischer as an EMT. Resolution adopted unanimously

#### COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

City Administrator John Tourville gave an update on the Waschke/Clinic site.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the DEED grant application for the cleanup and adopt resolutions 15191 and 15192. Resolutions adopted unanimously

Councillor Jorgensen-reported on Range Recreation Civic Center- condenser failed, purchased a used one for \$32,000 and is getting replaced. Curl Mesabi will be hosting a world event in December, four countries will be competing, men's, women's and mixed doubles it is an Olympic event, it will be good exposure for the area.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. made the following announcements and updates:

The administrative board of peace officers was reviewed, and gave an update on numbers and compliance, the VPD passed without any incidence.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. welcomed new Police officer Holacheck who was currently hired to VPD, the city would like to welcome officer Holacheck and his family to the area.

The VPD will have an open house from 2-6 on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. The public is welcome.

The VFD held open house, it was a great success and very informative.

Discussed the calendar parking issues at the high school, the VPD is working with the school and violators have been notified, have had limited success. Every effort was made for compliance but it's not working out, enforcement action will begin tomorrow.

The Economic Development project by Midway is still in process, the state declined access to the property, the Purchase Agreement is in place and they will talk with SenatorTomassoni and see if he can help with access. The stop light request was also denied. The Purchase Agreement is contingent upon access approval

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. attended the Polymet rally in Aurora, Mayor Skelton of Hoyt Lakes, and Mayor Cannata of Hibbing were there on behalf of the laborers. The pro-rally was held here while a negative rally was held in St Paul. Discussion on moving forward on the Non-ferrous mining issues

Received a thank you from Glascoe Family for allowing use of Miners at no charge.

Received a thank you for support of the creative Minnesota study in city of Virginia-arts and culture sector

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with the next regular council meeting to be held Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE, JR.  
Mayor

PAMELA LaBINE  
City Clerk