

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 25, 2011

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Vice-Mayor Baribeau at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Sipola, Russo, Baribeau, Mayor Peterson - 7

Absent: Mayor Steve Peterson

Vice-Mayor Baribeau led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Carolyn Guskie of 224 Fourth Street South, Virginia, MN 55792 addressed the Council under the PUBLIC FORUM section of the meeting. Ms. Guskie voiced her concerns over the blight situation in the City this past summer. City Attorney responded to Ms. Guskie by explaining the blight violations, committee and the appeal process. Councilors Littlewolf and Sipola commented to her that the 100 block neighborhood was being targeted for blight clean up and if she wished to speak longer to the Council to ask to be on the agenda under "appearances."

Ms. Guskie went on record as stating she wanted to be on the Council agenda for the next four Council meetings under appearances.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held October 11, 2011.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 11-019 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 11163, authorizing special assessments against properties for delinquent public utilities.
4. Approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for Virginia Band Boosters, Inc.
5. Resolution No. 11164, authorizing special assessments against properties for delinquent blight invoices.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 11165, accepting the offer of the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority, to purchase a \$16,526,481 General Obligation Sewer Revenue Note, Series 2011, providing for its issuance and authorizing execution of a project loan agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola send a letter of support for endorsement of ISD No. 706's proposal to extend levy referendum. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 11166, revised the Fire Department Automatic Aid Agreement between the cities of Virginia, Mountain Iron and the St. Louis County 911 Dispatch Center, for language clarification. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 11167, accepting the proposal from Zambelli Fireworks for the Fourth of July fireworks display for the years 2012, 2013, and 2014, at a cost of \$7,500 per year. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 11168, accepting the proposal from Hibbing Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$83,900, for C.P. 6-11, Recycled Materials Crushing Project. Virginia Public Utilities has agreed to pay one half; the project came in under estimates. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 11169, approving Change Order No. 1 to increase the contract with Ulland Brothers, Inc. by the amount of \$11,025, for the P& H Site Rough Grading Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 11170, approving Change Order No. 2 to increase the contract with Ulland Brothers, Inc., by the amount of \$176,485.00, for the P & H Site Rough Grading Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Ralston to adopt Resolution No. 11171, approving Change Order No. 1 to increase the contract with Ulland Brothers, Inc. by the amount of \$8,623.61, for C.P. 5-11, Pearsall Industrial Addition Utility, Infrastructure & Site Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to approve the travel request for Britt See-Benes, City Attorney's Office, to attend the 2011 Year End Information and Tax Updates Seminar, to be held on November 10, 2011, in St. Cloud, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Cuffe to approve the travel request for Bill Hennis & Bill Cole, Engineering Department, to attend the MNDOT Construction Technician Recertification to be held on March 6 & 7, 2012, and April 10, 2012, in Duluth, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 11172, approving the purchase of the property located at 802 North 4th Street, in the amount of \$42,000, plus payment of the delinquent property taxes. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to allow the Public Works Department to use the proceeds from the sale of the two graders to purchase upgraded equipment for their department. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Ralston to adopt Resolution No. 11173, accepting the proposal from Mountain Environmental, Inc., to spread approximately 1,200 wet tons of biosolids from the Wastewater Treatment Plant, at an estimated cost of \$19,540.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Sipola to authorize City Operations Director John Tourville to send Detective Tim Koivunen and Officer Estey to the 2011 Minnesota Towards Zero Deaths Conference in Duluth, MN. Safe & Sober funds will pay for the travel and seminar. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Building/Grounds Committee held on October 18, 2011.

The New Blight Officer Ryan Dethloff is doing a fine job and gave a report to the Committee. There will be regular reports in the future from the Blight Officer.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to request the Park Commission to make a recommendation on the request from the Crescendo Youth Orchestra to borrow the City's holiday lighting display for use at the Minnesota Discovery Center. Discussion followed as to the possible damage the lighting would suffer during transit due to the fragile state they are in. Councilor Littlewolf also mentioned that the Friends of the Greenhouse showed interest in the smaller lighting displays. John

Tourville, City Operations Director also mentioned he had received a request from the City of Cloquet showing interest in purchasing the lighting if the City was willing to sell. Councilor Ralston said he could pull the committee individually on their desire to loan or sell the lighting displays. Councilor Ralston also requested more information on the sale proposal to the City of Cloquet. City Operations Director is to bring that information back to the Finance Committee next Tuesday, November 1, 2011.

Councilor Ralston then rescinded his motion along with Councilor Cuffe.

Motion by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to refer the request of the holiday lighting displays to Finance Committee meeting next Tuesday, November 1, 2011 and also to explore the possible sale to the City of Cloquet. Motion carried.

Councilor Ralston reported that the Committee reviewed the projected increases in the garbage fees to generate additional revenue to fund an annual City-wide clean up. It was determined that the City was moving in the right direction to address the blight issues but the Committee wanted to have the Finance department gather further information on the revenue generated by a \$1.50 rate increase. Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to request the Finance Department to determine the additional revenue that would be generated with an increase of \$1.50 per month in the garbage rate. Motion carried.

A question on the IRRB P & H grant status to include a \$20,000 donation to the Children's Memorial Park was presented to the Committee by Cheryl Weappa and Dan L'Allier. City Operations Director, John Tourville stated he saw nothing in the grant agreements that indicated \$20,000 was to be given to the Children's Memorial Park. Attorney Tom Butorac stated that the grant agreements are pretty clear on what the money should be spent on. Moved by Ralston and supported Littlewolf to request that City Operations Director, John Tourville and Finance Director review the IRRB P & H grant agreements and report back to the Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Request from a resident to purchase an additional lot on Northern Heights generated discussion about lots that residents have purchased and not fulfilled their building commitment to.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to request the City Attorney to send letters to the people that have not fulfilled their commitment to build on the City property in the Northern Heights and Fairview Additions and notify them that the City intends to terminate their rights to the property. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to deny the five invoices for labor, submitted by Doug Aysta, for reimbursement through the Neighborhood Renewal Mini-Grant Program. The Buildings/Grounds Committee will meet again on November 1st, with the Housing Committee to meet at 11 AM to review the mini-grant application and guidelines for the future Neighborhood Renewal Program. Motion carried.

Commission Liaison/Department Head Reports:

- John Tourville gave an update on the groundbreaking ceremony for P&H MinePro to be held on October 31, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. Hard hats and shovels for all of the Council and Mayor. The ceremony will take place on the P&H haul road site. You may enter from old Hwy 53 out of Virginia, southwest side. Refreshments and tents will be set up along with heating, and sound system.
- Councilor Sipola, Chair of the Lakes Beautifician Committee reported on the successful brush and clean up project around the lake by 6th Avenue. It took thirty-six man hours utilizing the following volunteers:
Phyllis Harvey, Paul Monacelli, JoAnn Sipola, Larry Cuffe, Faye Roche, Tom Hejny and IRYA teen volunteers, Jenna Kingsley and Maggie Ditzler. A huge thank you to those who donated their time and effort in the clean up. Great job!
- Councilor Littlewolf gave a report on the Library and VPU Commission regarding our City website. Every department is encouraged to reviewed and update their website information by contacting Britt See or Debbie Judnick. Councilor Littlewolf said the only Commission page that has been successfully updated has been the Human Rights Commission site.
- The Virginia Public Utilities is working delinquently and making progress on the Menards and P&H sites.
- Councilor Russo mentioned that the Hospital will be having a public forum on the City Charter issue on Thursday, October 27, 2011, at the Rehab Center from 6 PM to 8 PM.

City Operations Director, John Tourville followed up on what Councilor Littlewolf had expressed appreciation for the expertise work from the Public Utilities's employees for work on the Menards and P&H MinePro projects. He also expressed gratitude to City Engineer Bill Hennis for all of

the work he has done on these projects. John Tourville also thanked Vice-Mayor Charlie Baribeau for attending the \$6 million County Courthouse expansion project groundbreaking ceremonies and making the statements about the importance of the project for Virginia. Tourville also thanked Councilors Ralston and Sipola for their participation in the ceremony.

Councilor Sipola said he was approached by Paul Monacelli regarding directional signage for the Olcott Park Greenhouse. This topic had been submitted to Building/Grounds Committee and referred to Street/Alley last May. Council felt this was something that the sign department could work on during the winter months.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to have the Public Works sign department generated directional signage for the “Olcott Park Greenhouse.” Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 22, 2011.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

SHERRY ERICKSON
Finance/HR Director