

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 28, 2014

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Mayor Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councillor Ralston removed Item 2, Finance Resolution No. 14-019, from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve Consent Agenda, with exception of Item 2:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held October 14, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-019 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 14250, authorizing special assessments against properties in violation of Clear Water Discharge Ordinance.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 14251, authorizing special assessments against properties for delinquent public utilities.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 14252, authorizing special assessments against properties for delinquent blight invoices.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 2, Councillor Ralston stated the payment to Anthony Jeffries to facilitate the public meetings on the proposed rental code should have been discussed by the Finance

Committee. Councillor Littlewolf stated City Administrator Tourville approved the \$500 expense for Anthony Jeffries through his discretionary fund.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to table the payment to the Anthony Jeffries, in the amount of \$500, and refer to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Lori Stavnes, Advocates for Family Peace, appeared to request the City Council to proclaim the month of October, 2014, as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". Ms. Stavnes stated domestic violence awareness recognizes survivors of domestic abuse and says "no more" to domestic violence and sexual assault. Ms. Stavnes stated they serve the entire northern portion of St. Louis County, even though their main office is located in Hibbing.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Sipola to proclaim the month of October, 2014, as "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on October 21, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to draft an agreement with Jim Glowacki for the proposed development of a professional office building on the City property located on Silver Lake, with the expansion needs of the dental office and trail easement taken into consideration. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Administrator to certify the 179D Energy Tax Allocation form for DSGW Architects for the Essentia Clinic building located at 901 North 9th Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize Councillors Baranzelli and Sipola to review the proposed contract with the Mesabi Humane Society for animal control services for the year 2015 and submit a recommendation to the Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14253, accepting the proposal from Alex Air Apparatus, in the amount of \$8,160.50, to purchase a rescue strut/tripod kit. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14254, accepting the proposal from E.H. Lawrence Co., Inc., in the amount of \$40,600.00, to repair the West side of the Library roof. Resolution adopted unanimously. City Attorney Butorac stated the contract will include a completion date.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to obtain architectural drawings and bids for the Miners Memorial locker room renovation project. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 12455, approving the change order to increase the contract with Grivette Environmental Management, by the amount of \$4,925.00, for the East Range Clinic Asbestos Abatement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the Lead Engineer, City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate with Dennis Serson for the purchase of Lots 9-16, Block 8, Pillsbury Addition, and submit a recommendation to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the membership dues with the League of Minnesota Cities, in the amount of \$7,834, for the year beginning September 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to request the City Attorney to send a letter to Karen Zeisler, St. Louis County, requesting that she work with the adjoining property owners on the sale of 602 15th Street North and notifying her that the City of Virginia is not interested in purchasing all eight tax forfeited parcels. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the highlights of the Public Utilities Commission meeting that was held on October 27, 2014.

- The power plant event that occurred on August 1, 2014, has cost the utility in excess of one million dollars and the insurance company has advanced \$700,000. There is no intent to raise rates due to the event.
- The repair of the water tower is estimated at one million dollars.
- Future environmental regulations, including the mercury rule, were addressed. In order to meet the MPCA mandate to eliminate the use of coal by 2017, an additional gas line will be installed, at an estimated cost of \$387,000.
- A new residential Conservation Improvement Program will be rolled out.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the Human Rights Commission is seeking three new commission members.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the Lyric Center is sponsoring an Iron Pour, on Saturday, November 1st, on the City property located on Fourth Street North on Silver Lake, with an artistsø reception held on November 2nd at the Lyric Center.

Councillor Baribeau stated he is in the process of preparing a street improvement plan.

Councillor Ralston stated he is not in favor of the proposed Housing, Property Maintenance and Rental Code and requested that a Committee of the Whole meeting be scheduled to

review the proposed code. Councillor Ralston recommended that the City Council focus on ways to administer the current ordinances, through education and community awareness, rather than developing a new layer of rules. Councillor Littlewolf stated the meeting was not scheduled in October, as Councillor Baribeau was not available to meet. A meeting will be scheduled in November to review the proposed Housing, Property Maintenance and Rental Code with the entire City Council.

Councillor Baranzelli will discuss the use of volunteers at the skating shacks at the next Park/Recreation Commission meeting.

Mayor Russo reported on the following items:

- Welcomed the college students that were present at the City Council meeting.
- Congratulated the Virginia Girls Tennis Team for their second place trophy that was attained at the State tournament.
- Toured Virginia with representatives from the Brownsfield Program and noted Virginia will be included in their national report.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, November 12, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk