

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, November 28, 2017

The regular meeting of the City Council in the City of Virginia, Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. at 6:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

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

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held November 14, 2017 and the Public Hearing held November 14, 2017.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-022 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the following travel requests:
 - a. Jen Brozek and Matt Kelley, VPD to attend the Crisis Intervention Training December 11-14, 2017 at the East Range Police Department at no cost to the City.
 - b. Jessie Holecek, VPD to attend the MN BCA DARE Training January 22-February 2, 2018 in St. Paul MN at a cost of \$3,574.75
4. Approve the sale of surplus item from the Virginia Fire Department
5. Approve the payment of invoice from Ulland Brothers \$52,992.58 for the purchase of the Crust RAP and concrete and to invoice the VPUC for half the cost per Resolution 17102 passed on August 8, 2017.

Councillor Baribeau requested to pull item 5.3 regarding the liquor license approval.

Motion Carried.

Councillor Baribeau questioned the number of liquor licenses that are available. Councillor Baribeau is also concerned with the number of extra liquor licenses the City has. The licenses were issued by legislation and fore sees a problem of issuing a license to closed establishments that have exceeded the "hold" time for the license. It was suggested to discuss the issue during the codification process.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the 2018 liquor licenses renewals for all of the establishments that have met the requirements for liquor renewals:

- a. 12-On-Sale Liquor

- b. 1-On Sale 3.2 Beer
- d. 3-Off-Sale Liquor
- e. 4-Off Sale 3.2 Beer
- f. 7-Sunday License
- g. 3-Club License

Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Finance Director Sherry Erickson explained to the Council the reason for a Second Allonge. The Second Allonge is to the \$5,313,507 Grant Anticipation Note Series 2016B and has a one year extension to December 31, 2018 and the same rate of interest as the previous Allonge. The Allonge is in relation to the Hwy 53 funding gap.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 17151 authorizing the issuance and delivery of a Second Allonge to the Grant Anticipation Note Series 2016B. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 17152 to appoint City Administrator Britt See-Benes to the CDBG advisory committee. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Committee of the Whole Meeting held November 21, 2017

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the recommendation of the League of MN Cities to *deny* the claim that was presented by Mr. Timothy Norman that caused damage to his vehicle. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the Resolution 17153 ordering a negative declaration on the need for an environmental impact statement for the City of Virginia Environmental Assessment Worksheet contingent upon a wording change in the Record of Decision in paragraph (3) regarding incorporating the bricks and other architectural features. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the quote from SEH for the

engineering and design work for the State Aid Street Project on 12th Avenue South from 8th Street to the HRA Parking Lot and 13th Street South from 12th Avenue to Highway 53. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17154 approving the quote from NEO Chemicals for Purchase of the RE300 for the Waste Water Treatment Plant at a cost of \$31,950 for the bulk quantity price. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to adopt Resolution 17155 for the designation of the City of Virginia's Polling Places, Precincts 1 to 5, for the 2018 election per the new legislation passed in 2017. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17156 submitting a grant request for a 50/50 matching grant to the Office of the State Auditor for the purchase of five new DS200 precinct scanner and tabulators. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve nominating Councillor Baribeau to the RAMS Board of Directors. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the re-appointment of Councillor Littlewolf as the alternate to Councillor Baribeau for the RAMS Board of Directors. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17157 implementing a 3% Credit Card Convenience Fee for all payments to the City excluding parking tickets beginning December 1, 2017. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve sending a letter to Ms. Smith, the property owner and the surrounding business owners to inform them of the potential parking change at 307 1st Street North. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to deny the purchase of City Parcel #090-0158-00030 by Mr. and Mrs. Brian Ocepek based on the recommendation by the City Engineer as the intended use is not allowed by Chapter 11 of the City Code. Motion Carried.

Personnel meeting November 28, 2017

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the re-appointment of Boyd Carlblom to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Commission for a three-year term ending December 31, 2020.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Baribeau gave a report from the VPUC meeting held on Monday, November 27, 2017. The water from Eveleth to Midway has been disconnected and Midway is now receiving water from the City of Virginia water system. Local area businesses have done the required energy upgrades to qualify for the CIP program with a combined reimbursement of \$50,000. The number five boiler is having issues and will be repaired. Two employees will be retiring from the VPUC. The VPUC has been proactive in training individuals for the replacement of the retirees. The VPUC is also working on a strategic plan for gas customers' throughout the City. A committee has been formed to work on the gas project. Marketing and informational packet with regarding the steam conversion will be available soon.

Councillor Johnson stopped by the Stuff the Ambulance that was held November 24-25, 2017. The Fire Department was very successful in the donations and there were quite a few volunteers from various cities that donated their time.

City Administrator See-Benes attended Small Business Saturday and noted that it was well received by the residents. The bell drop was a success and it will be a request to do it again next year. The horse carriage rides were fun and had a good turnout. Everyone thanked the Council for the approval of the two events.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. was contacted by Robert Egge regarding the Hwy 53 signage and guardrails. MNDOT has been provided the additional safety requests. Hwy 53 and 2nd Avenue North and South will be added to the signage for directional purposes.

Concerns were discussed during the blasting at U.S. Steel and how the area will be cleared in the blast perimeter. There will be staff in the area as well as state patrol etc. to help when the blasting will occur.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr., updated on the revenue stream the City receives from the Taconite Production Tax and Local Government Aid.

Congratulations to the Finlandia Foundation, in celebrating Finland's 100th year of independence. On December 6, 2017 there will be a celebration at the Depot in Duluth.

Friends of the Jewish Museum of History and had an article in their flyer regarding the City of Virginia's time capsule that was opened in August.

Discussion was held on blighted property and what the process is for blighted buildings. There is a list of blighted buildings that will be removed, weather permitting. Residents will be receiving fines for violations of blight and staff has met regarding the rental code.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. encouraged all to find someone in need and help them out during the Holiday Season.

The Council meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m. to Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the

Council Chambers.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr., Mayor

Pamela LaBine, City Clerk