

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

City of Virginia, Minnesota, November 10, 2015

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

Present: Mayor Cuffe, Jr.; Councillors; Jorgensen, Baribeau, McReynolds, Baranzelli, Sipola (6)

Absent: Councillor Littlewolf (1)

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Bruce Kingsley was present to ask about the International Maintenance Code. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that it's in draft ordinance form with attorney and then will be going to the Building and Grounds Committee with the final draft to be presented to the council. The Mayor will check with attorney see where it's at and let him know. Mr. Kingsley spoke with attorney general's office and they were aware of code issues, and he was referred to St Louis county office, they are aware of the code but, they said there isn't any teeth in current code. He spoke with Attorney Butorac regarding this. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. noted that they can enforce part of the code but it may not be associated with blight. Mr. Kingsley has issues with the property next door to him, they were given a deadline for renovations and if they didn't comply they should be fined or assessed. There was an extension granted but no work has been done yet. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. said there has been no action taken and the extension was given by the attorney. Mr. Toman, the owner guaranteed to have work done. If the property was sold to the renter, we will look at it and see why the work wasn't done. The Mayor said it will be referred to blight officer and take photographs and get a resolution to the problem.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held October 27, 2015.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-020 – Schedule of Bills.

Motion carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Communications from Planning and Zoning Commission submitting recommendations from the meeting held November 2, 2015:

Moved by Councillor McReynolds, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the resolution 15203

for the street vacations for City of Virginia at Natural Harvest Food Cooperative, 503 3rd Street North, Virginia, Minnesota. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the following variance for Scott Skalko – 820 Hoover Road, Virginia, Minnesota:

- 1) A 28 foot variance to the required 40 rear yard setback, in an I-1 Industrial District, in order to install (2) 30,000 gallon propane bulk tanks 12 feet from the rear (west/HWY 53) property line. Fire Marshall has approved.

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee Meeting held on November 3, 2015

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Baribeau to table the request for the curb cut for VCCU and kidney shaped north bound exit until spring 2016. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Sipola to reroute the north alley on the 300 block of 1st Street South westbound as a one way. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councilor Sipola to deny the request for more signage at the Italian Bakery. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Sipola to allow City Attorney Tom Butorac and Police Chief Benz research the issue regarding the adult entertainment at the Coates Hotel and report back their findings. Motion Carried

Councillor Sipola reported on the Personnel Committee Meeting held on November 3, 2015

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the MOU and adopt resolution 15204 to approve of Meagen Hunt into the AFSCME #454 bargaining unit as Accounting Clerk II. Resolution passed unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the MOU and adopt resolution 15205 to approve of Kristen Johnson into the AFSCME #454 as Administrative Assistant/IT Specialist. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the MOU and adopt resolution 15206 to approve the listing of Program Assistant w/IT Specialist II in the AFSCME Local #454 matrix. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to post internally for the Chief of Police Position, and then externally if needed. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt resolution 15207 to hire David Stromberg as the part-time parking monitor beginning on or after November 2, 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee of the Whole held on November 3, 2015

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15208 approving the proposal from Jerich & Associates for a one year contract for \$36,000.00 beginning November 1, 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve Bill Hennis to attend the 60th Annual Institute for Building Officials on January 10 – 15th 2016 in St Paul, cost of \$1,385.51. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve Krystina Nickila to attend the 60th Annual Institute for Building Officials on January 10-12th, 2016 cost of \$686.51. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the final pay estimate

for 4th Street North improvements to Hammerlund Construction: \$81,865.78. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt resolution 15209 awarding the bid for Joy Global site grading to low bidder Hoover Construction in the amount of \$837,277.00

Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15210 to approve giving Natural Harvest Food Co-op the first right of refusal for a 12 month period on Lots 1-7, Block 36 in Virginia Addition. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to adopt Resolution 15211 for the City of Virginia to be the fiscal agent for the Brownfield grant. Resolution adopted unanimously

Baribeau noted that if the grant is successful and the city does set up the criteria they can collect administrative fees. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. asked for a dollar amount that was left in the CIRI fund, the information was to be presented at this meeting. They have not heard anything regarding that.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the contract with V.L. Jacobson and Company to write the Brownfield grant for \$7,000.00 and the city to upfront the cost.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye-Councillors Baribeau, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (4)

Nay-Councillors Sipola, Baranzelli (2)

Absent: Councillor Littlewolf

Motion Failed

Baribeau said as of today eight cities are committed; they will be requesting \$400 per city and from the other communities. Eveleth is willing to pay toward the grant writing. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the resolution for the council. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the grant writers contract. It was suggested to table until V.L. Jacobson can attend a meeting to get further information. It was agreed to let the resolution to be the fiscal agent as it stands.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau supported by Councillor Jorgensen to re-design and re-bid the area from the west property line to the east property line of Home Town Focus and in accordance to DNR specifications for the Silver Lake not to exceed \$75,000.00 Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Baribeau supported by Councillor McReynolds to adopt resolution 15212 to

approve the proposal with Encompass for \$32,500 .00 for the façade restoration at Essentia. Resolution adopted unanimously

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Councillor Jorgensen discussed the park and recreation and they are in process of naming the gun club and will be taking nominations till the 18th of November. Criteria of naming the buildings can be obtained at the clerk's office.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. discussed some concerns regarding the mentally ill and homeless and where and how they are living. The Police and Fire Departments have been checking on people. They are in the process of establishing a program called Change the Range. They are trying to flood the community and social media with positivity and winter accessories for those who are in need. It can be put in a public area for anyone to take. They recommend placing it in a Ziploc bag and take a picture and post on Face Book or insta gram. If you see someone who is in need, they suggest take what you need and give what you can. A kick off campaign will be at the 6th avenue Holiday gas station.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. thanked the Vets for their service. On Thursday, November 12th from 4 -6:30 p.m. there will be a free dinner at the Elks club. They will be serving a hot turkey sandwich dinner with all the trimmings.

Joy Global work is moving forward.

There is an opening on the HRA board, we have received five applicants, it's a Mayoral appointment, but will leave the applications in clerk's office if the Councillors want to take a look at them, would like input from Councillors.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. met with Senator Tomassoni, on the property by Midway, the developers would like to provide a business plan for the property, and currently there isn't any access, to the area. They have been looking at the property and possibly making some changes. There may be a way of removing the J turn on Vermillion Drive and have access north and south from Cuyan Drive and have a frontage road for access to the property. Not approved by state but they are looking at it diligently.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with the next regular council meeting to be held Tuesday, November 24, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE, JR.
Mayor

PAMELA LaBINE
City Clerk