

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, NOVEMBER 12, 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.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held October 28, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-019 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for the Mesabi Chapter-Ducks Unlimited to hold a raffle on November 20, 2014.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 14256, ordering the razing of a hazardous building located at 111 12<sup>th</sup> Street South.
5. Resolution No. 14257, authorizing submission and acceptance of an Iron Range Resources Grant for the abatement, demolition and removal of the East Range Clinic building at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue West and 9<sup>th</sup> Street North

Motions carried and resolutions adopted unanimously.

Rick Flatley, Safe Sport Coordinator for the Virginia Youth Hockey Association, was present to address the lack of change rooms for the girl hockey players at the Miners Memorial Building. The girl hockey players currently do not have their own locker room and are utilizing the women's bathroom and coaches' room. Mr. Flatley stated the girls deserve respect and dignity and asked that a temporary solution be determined for this hockey season. He also requested that the future locker room renovation plans include a designated locker room for the girls.

Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola and Baranzelli stated they were not aware of the situation and assured Mr. Flatley that corrective measures will be taken immediately.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Littlewolf to direct the City Administrator to meet with the Park/Recreation Director and set up a meeting with Rick Flatley and the Youth Hockey Association to address the issues with the change room for the girl hockey players on a temporary basis, until a long term solution can be determined. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14258, canvassing the votes of the General Election held November 4, 2014. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to set a public hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 25, 2014, to consider two projects to be submitted for Community Development Block Grants. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14259, accepting the low bid from ACCT, Inc., in the amount of \$2,150, to perform hazardous waste inspections at three residential tax forfeited properties: 113 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, 1108 17<sup>th</sup> Street South and 906 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on November 4, 2014:

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14260, authorizing the City of Virginia to obtain financing, estimated at \$3,425,000, through Dougherty Funding, LLC, for the Virginia Public Utility for the following items:

- Install gas burners in the #11 wood boiler for environmental compliance purposes.
  - Extensive upgrades of the natural gas infrastructure to provide sufficient gas capacity for year-round operation of the #10 gas boiler.
  - Building redundancy into the main gas distribution lines feeding the City.
- Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to authorize the Library staff to purchase a sweeper, in the amount of \$2,658, with funds from the Arrowhead Library System. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14261, approving Change Order No. 3, to decrease the contract with Hammerlund Construction, Inc., by the amount of \$3,324.20, for the deletion of the traffic control sensors from the Fourth Street North Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to request the Street and Alley Committee to review the plans for the street lights for the Fourth Street North Improvement Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to authorize the Finance Director, Mayor and City Administrator to reallocate the City's investments as they mature. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to have the Building and Grounds Committee work with the City Attorney to determine if the Rotary Apartments will revert to the City of Virginia on their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to submit a proposal to St. Louis County to sell the Northland parking lot, at a price of \$200,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Administrator to make an intent to purchase the Cochems Insurance site, located in the 400 block of First Street South, to expand the City parking lot. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Ralston to table the contract with the Mesabi Humane Society for animal control services for the year 2015 and refer back to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to authorize payment to Anthony Jeffries, in the amount of \$500, for the presentation on proposed Housing, Property Maintenance and Rental Code. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate a fair market price for the City property located in Pillsbury Addition that Dennis Serson is interested in purchasing and acknowledging the contamination issue would be assumed by the buyer. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe supported by Baribeau to deny the request from Jim Glowacki, in its present form, for a first right of refusal for the City property located on Silver Lake and retain the property until March, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Administrator to hire a commercial appraiser to determine the market value of the City property located on Fourth Street North that is being considered for the proposed AEOA/Range Mental Health project. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on November 4, 2014.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Sipola to authorize the Personnel Chairperson, Human Resource Director and City Administrator to review the current hiring policy and submit

recommended changes to the Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee will submit a revised hiring policy to the City Council for final approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to review a written proposal from Thomas Butorac, City Attorney, for a phased retirement at the next Personnel Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to make a final determination on the request from Thomas Butorac for a phased retirement no later than the second City Council meeting in November. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to authorize Police Chief Benz to perform the administrative functions of the Fire Chief, during the interim period, and approve additional compensation of \$250 per week for the interim duties. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Park and Recreation Director to advertise for volunteers to monitor the Midway, Ridgewood and Jefferson skating shacks this winter. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to refer the safety concerns for the City Assessor's staff to the Public Safety Committee. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Represented the City at Veterans Day ceremonies at St. Michael's Rehabilitation Center and Roosevelt School.
- A new patch has been designed for the Virginia Police that includes the Veterans Memorial.

Councillor Littlewolf stated she will discuss the Iron Range Youth in Action's role in the Ridgewood skating rink at the next Partners Board meeting.

Councillor Baranzelli reminded the public that calendar parking changed to a daily basis on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Vehicles must park on the side of the street with an even number address on the even numbered days and on the side of the street with odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days. The change over time begins at 6:00 P.M. for the next day and the daily calendar parking will continue until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve dance permit for the Virginia Youth Hockey Association to hold a dance on November 26, 2014, at the Miners Memorial Building. Motion carried.

Mayor Russo appointed Christine Springhetti to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for a five year term commencing November 22, 2014.

Jim Makowski addressed the City Council regarding the organization of a neighborhood crime watch. It was suggested that Mr. Makowski meet with the Police Chief and submit any recommendations to the Public Safety Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M. with the next meeting scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 25, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk