

MINUTES
Special Council Meeting
December 20, 2019
Council Chambers, Virginia City Hall
8:15 AM

Present: Councillor Baribeau, Baranzelli, Friedlieb, Johnson, Paulsen, Biondich,
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Lad Strzok from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency informed the Council of his request for a lease at city hall to store the equipment to conduct the ambient air quality testing. The lease would allow access to the storage room near the roof access. The MPCA is required to have twelve testing sites in Northern Minnesota. The testing is conducted with an air quality index and anything below 50 is considered good air quality.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the lease agreement between the City of Virginia and the State of Minnesota for Air Quality Monitoring and storage of the required equipment from December 1, 2019 to November 30, 2024. Motion Carried.

Consent agenda:

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held December 10, 2019 and the Public Hearing held on December 10, 2019 and the Special Meeting held December 17, 2019
2. Approve payment of accounts payable for the second half of December
3. Approve the Sale of Surplus Equipment
4. Approve the Temporary Liquor permit
 - A.) Lyric Center on January 10, 2020
 - B.) Friends of the Greenhouse January 25, 2020
5. Approve the Exempt Permit for the Whitetails Unlimited to conduct a raffle at the Elks Lodge on March 7, 2020
6. Approve the travel request:
Police Department:
 - A.) Jessie Holecek and Jason Picard, Winning the Battle Seminar, January 10, 2020 in Duluth, MN cost of \$84.60 each

B.) Katherine Kral, Crisis Intervention, January 6-7, 2020 Fond du Lac College, Cloquet MN
cost of \$392.00

Engineering Department:

C.) Bill Cole and Krystina Nickila to attend the ICC Upper Great Plains Region III meeting
February 2-7, 2020 in Chaska, MN cost of \$1,866.52 each

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the second reading of the purchase agreement between the Joint Powers Board of ISD #706 and the City of Virginia. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 19192 for donation to the Teen Center from the AT&T Corporate Employee Giving Program. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Biondich, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt the Resolution 19193 proceeding with recommendation identified from the Fire Department Service Planning Committee. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Biondich to adopt Resolution 19194 authorizing the application of a Fire Department Service Planning Grant with the State of Minnesota. Resolution adopted unanimously.

The Council discussed previous dialogue regarding Essentia. The Council voiced concerns on the status of Essentia and what the proper decision should be moving forward. It was noted that information has not been disseminated to all of the Council equally. Councillor Baribeau informed the Council of a discussion at a board meeting with Essentia that currently isn't public information and suggested the Council delay the vote on the Lease Revenue Bond until further information can be acquired by the City Administrator.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb to authorize City Staff to proceed with Hospital Lease Revenue Bond 2020 and engage Northland Securities to act as Underwriter commencing on January 13, 2020. Motion failed for lack of a support.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to authorize City Staff to proceed with Hospital Lease Revenue Bond 2020 and engage Northland Securities to act as the underwriter effective immediately.

Aye: Councillor Paulsen, Johnson, Baranzelli, Cuffe, Jr. (4)

Nay: Councillor Biondich, Friedlieb, Baribeau (3)

Moved by Councillor Biondich supported by Councillor Johnson to set a Special Meeting with Essentia on Thursday, December 26, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.

Aye: Councillor Biondich, Johnson, Baranzelli (3)

Nay: Councillors Baribeau, Friedlieb, Paulsen, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (4)

Motion Failed

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to set a Special Meeting with Essentia on Monday, December 30, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Previous motion was withdrawn by Councillor Johnson and Councillor Paulsen

Moved by Councillor Biondich, supported by Councillor Johnson to set a Special Meeting with Essentia on Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL:

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 19195 approving the contract with Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19196 approving the contract with International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Paulsen discussed a proposed letter that will be sent out to parents regarding the private skating club. Brian Silber informed the Council of the discussion that was held by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The participants that are registered in a club in the low or high advanced areas need to register with the Duluth Figure Skating Club. The Park Commission would like to consider forming a club in Virginia. Silber wanted to reach out to the parents to see if they are interested in making this change. If the Skating group becomes a club, they would need a board of directors. It would be an interval or provisional club. Silber then noted that the City would be able to host a qualifying competition in the future at the MECC. The Duluth figure skating club isn't affiliated with the Duluth Parks and Recreation, they just rent ice time.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 19197 for the

hiring of Junior Figure Skating positions. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Johnson to add to the Committee of the Whole agenda on January 7, 2020 to discuss implementation of a private skating club and invite the pertinent people to attend.

Motion Carried.

See-Benes gave an update on a request for a letter of understanding regarding the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Secretary/Bookkeeper position. Currently Kris Marafioti has been training for the position since October 1, 2019. This position is above her regular job duties. The airport commission will pay an additional rate of \$2.50 per hour. It was suggested to have a broad discussion on the position and to discuss at a Personnel Committee meeting.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to refer to the next Committee of the Whole meeting approval of the Letter of Understanding between City of Virginia and AFSCME Local 454 for the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority Secretary/Bookkeeper. Motion Carried.

The meeting was recessed at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting re-adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Councillor Biondich left meeting at 10:10 a.m.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Brian Silber Parks and Recreation Director informed the Council that a verbal notification has been given to ISD#706 regarding the date for the construction of the Miners Event and Convention Center and how it will effect Owens Field. The school is requesting a letter be sent to the district stating when the field will no longer be assessable. The proposed schedule for the site demo will commence on April 13, 2020. The district will have to relocate their track program for the Spring of 2020.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the location of the Miners Event and Convention Center and notify the Leaseholder of Plans for construction commencing on April 13, 2020. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the first reading for the sale and transfer of City property located at 322 8th Street South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Silber gave an update on the proposal for the Juniper bushes at the Olcott Fountain. The trees should be planted by June of 2020.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19198 for the

purchase of Juniper Bushes at the Olcott Fountain for 120 (5) five gallon Juniper Bushes/Shrubs from Range Landscape, Inc. in the amount of \$7,800. Resolution adopted unanimously.

See-Benes gave an update on the request to convey property located in Progress Park to the school. The County noted that there were three places that were platted for roadways. There are utilities in the area and the city would maintain the utility easements.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the conveyance of land (3) three parcels in Progress Park as requested by the joint school board. The City will maintain the utility easements. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the City to send a letter of support for the Boundary Bill change for property transfer with the Iron Range OHV recreation to DNR from MPCA. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 19199 to act as a sponsor agency for Federally Funded FY 2024 Transportation alternative grant for the Silver Lake Trail Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

The Council discussed approving the liquor license request for Northern Divide Bar and Eatery. The Council discussed other issues and concerns regarding the operation of the restaurant. It was noted that a liquor license can be issued, suspended or revoked by the Council anytime if necessary.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the On-sale and Sunday liquor license for Northern Divide, Inc. d/b/a Northern Divide Bar and Eatery for 2020. Motion Carried.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. complemented City staff and the Council for the work they do for the City.

Councillor Johnson voiced his frustration regarding the design process for the MECC. Moving forward with the MECC design Johnson wants to be sure that we don't go past the point of the details in the design and at that the Council and staff won't have any say in the design process. Johnson also noted that he does not want the final design presented without staff and council having prior input. It was suggested to add this item to future Committee of the Whole agendas for discussion and updates.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to add to the Committee of the Whole agendas an update on the MECC for all meetings as a separate agenda report. Motion Carried.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

The Special Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. to Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr., Mayor

Pamela LaBine, City Clerk