

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 12, 2010

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Mayor Peterson led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held December 15, 2009, and Reorganization Meeting held on January 4, 2010.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 10-001 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve 2010 Secondhand Good Dealer's License for Operation Blessings.
4. Approve 2010 Solid Waste Haulers License for Waste Management.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 10026, designating depositories for 2010.
6. Adopt Resolution No. 10027, approving amendment to Iron Range Resources Grant No. B43-2100 for the construction of infrastructure for a housing development in the Fairview area.

Motion carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the letter from Ken Waschke regarding purchase of Lots 3 and 4, Block 2, Fairview Third Addition, for \$50,000. Councillor Ralston noted that one of the lots has a power line and retaining pond, which makes it less desirable.

Moved by Ralston and supported to accept the offer from Ken Waschke, in the amount of \$50,000, to purchase Lots 3 and 4, Block 2, Fairview Third Addition, with the resolution approving the sale acted on at the January 26th City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the designation of the official newspaper for 2010. Councillor Baribeau recommended designating the Mesabi Daily News, based on the 72 hour requirement for meetings notices. Councillor Littlewolf stated the legal and display ads are also published in the Manney's Shopper, which reaches more people.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10028, designate the Mesabi Daily News as the official newspaper for 2010. Resolution adopted, with Councillor Russo abstaining from the vote.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve Final Pay Estimate No. 3 for Utility Systems of America, in the amount of \$2,743.15, for C.P. 2-09, AEOA Youth Foyer Project. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley Committee meeting held on January 12, 2010.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10029, approving entering into a contract with Benchmark Engineering, Inc., to provide professional engineering services for the year 2010, in the amount of \$75.00 per hour, with other specialty services provided at rates agreed upon by the City prior to the work being performed. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau state the Street/Alley Committee will review the Special Assessment policy at a future meeting.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to continue to allow the loading zone in the 500 block of 6th Avenue South as long as the Thrift Shop remains open. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Street/Alley Committee reviewed the safety concerns on 9th Avenue North, from 9th Street North to Highway 53, and stated the area does not meet the criteria for stop signs. The Police Department will be notified to monitor the area and to utilize the digital

speed sign to slow traffic on 9th Avenue. Councillor Littlewolf requested that the Street/Alley Committee review the placement of pedestrian signage at the crosswalk locations on 9th Avenue North.

Councillor Baribeau stated the ten year street plan will updated at a future Street/Alley Committee meeting.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Police Chief provided an ordinance to impose a fee for the people that are responsible for nuisance events or activities that generate an extraordinary cost to the City for providing normal law enforcement services. The City Attorney will review the ordinance, which will be further reviewed at a future committee meeting.

Councillor Baribeau stated he will work with Councillor Cuffe and the Police Chief on revitalizing the Neighborhood Crime Watch Program.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the feasibility study for the greenhouse will be finalized this month. A Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting will be scheduled on January 28, 2010, to review the final feasibility study for the greenhouse.

Councillor Littlewolf stated she received a letter from a citizen regarding an opinion expressed in the Public Utilities newsletter regarding climate changes and felt the newsletter should only contain facts, rather than political opinions. Councillor Littlewolf stated she will bring this issue to the attention of the Public Utilities Commission

Councillor Baribeau stated the costs due to Federal mandates to convert to green energy are being passed on the customers and recommended that the City Council begin contacting the legislators regarding the mandates.

Councillor Russo congratulated the staff at the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for having zero negative comments on the annual audit.

City Operations Director Tourville thanked City staff for their work in obtaining a grant to cover the costs to clean up the contamination at the youth foyer site.

City Clerk Roskoski stated the Personnel Committee will meet at a Committee-of-the-Whole at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 21, 2010, to interview applicants for the commissions.

Moved by Ralston and supported to donate \$250.00 to the 15th Annual Iron Range Youth in Action Young Leaders Conference, to be held February 27, 2010. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson stated a Special City Council meeting will be held at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, January 20, 2010, to discuss the results and recommendations from the report regarding the future of the Virginia Regional Medical Center, which was prepared by Leigh Hantho of Align Healthcare.

See 2010 Resolution Book for Finance Resolution No. 10001 and Resolution Nos. 10026 – 10030.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 P.M., with the next regular City Council Meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 26, 2010.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk