

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 27, 2015

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

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli,
Mayor Cuffe - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cuffe welcomed Tom Tammaro and Greg Manninen, the liaisons from the Virginia School Board.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held January 13, 2015
 2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-002 – Schedule of Bills.
- Motion carried and Resolution adopted unanimously.

Nick Skarich, Dougherty and Company, was present to review the issuance, sale and delivery of the Utility Net Revenue Note for the Department of Public Utilities. Mr. Skarich stated the note will provide some benefits to the Public Utilities, including a low interest rate of 2.5 percent and prepayment at any time, without penalty.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Public Utilities Commission approved the documents relating to the Utility Net Revenue Note at their meeting held on January 26, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15044, proving for the issuance, sale and delivery of a Utility Net Revenue Note, Series 2015A. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Ken Corbett, Straight through Archery Club of Aurora, was present to discuss the State Indoor Archery Tournament that will be held April 10, 11 and 12, 2015, at the Miners Memorial Building. Mr. Corbett stated 1,000 archers are anticipated to participate in the tournament. A vendor show will be held in conjunction with the tournament and a banquet will be hosted on April 12th at the curling club. The archery tournament is open to the public, at no charge.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15045, approving the sale and transfer of City property, known as the Northland Parking Lot, to St. Louis County, for a price of \$200,000. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Cuffe stated the Public Utilities Commission has declared a winter water emergency and approved to forgive up to ten units of water per month to allow the residents in Midway to run water to prevent frozen water lines. Councillor Baribeau stated the water forgiveness credit is effective February 1, 2015.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to waive the corresponding sewer charge for Midway residents for any amount that the Public Utilities feels is appropriate to protect the water lines, effective February 1, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15046, approving the final payment to Rice Lake Construction, in the amount of \$44,135, for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on January 20, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and McReynolds to approve a temporary 15 foot easement with Independent School District No. 706 to allow the construction of a bus lane at the Parkview School, contingent upon the School District being responsible to replace or repair anything disrupted during the process and subject to the City Engineering Department approving the legal description. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to send a letter to St. Louis County to request a review of the solid waste service fee structure for commercial and residential parcels and to take into consideration the number of rental units within a property, versus charging a flat fee for the building. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to move forward with the changes to the agreement with St. Louis County for the collection of residential and commercial recycling materials, as recommended by the League of Minnesota Cities, and request the City Attorney to review the revised agreement, prior to submitting to the City Council for final approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15047, extending the contract with Short, Elliott and Hendrickson, Inc., to provide professional engineering services for the year 2015, at a cost of \$85.00 per hour for registered professional engineering services, and at applicable rates agreed upon by both parties for other contracted services. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to table the request to reduce the special assessment for a Heat Conversion Loan for the property located at 420 Chestnut Street and refer to the next Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to request the Finance Committee to review the financials for the Tennis for All Facility at their next meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to request Kris Johnson, Administrative Assistant/IT, to obtain quotes for the purchase of new tablets and accessory packages for the City Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to refer the Cell Phone Policy to the next Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15048, approving the transfer of property to Tritec. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to extend the contract with Rick Puhek for the temporary licensed City Assessor position through January, 2015, in the amount of \$1,500.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to request additional information from the Iron Range Youth in Action on the number of Virginia students that participate in the Young Leaders Convention and a list of the other donations that are received. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to table the discussion on the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools Director position until after they hold a special meeting on February 4, 2015. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Personnel Committee-of-the-Whole meetings held on January 20 and January 27, 2015.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to reappoint Darwin Alar to the Municipal Cable Commission for a one year term ending December 1, 2015, or replaced. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to reappoint Gordon Dahl to the Municipal Cable Commission for a one year term ending December 1, 2015, or replaced. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to continue to advertise for two positions on the Municipal Cable Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to reappoint Barbara Politano to the Hospital Advisory Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to reappoint Jerry Marks to the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to reappoint Anne Bier to the Human Rights Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to appoint James Nelson to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to reappoint Scott Weappa to the Park and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to reappoint Greg Gilness to the Park and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to appoint Gabe Zika to the Park/Recreation Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to appoint Katheran Caulfield to the Library Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to appoint Boyd Carlblom to the Eveleth/Virginia Airport Authority for a three year term ending January 1, 2018. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to request the President of each Commission or Board to report to the Personnel Committee if a member misses more than twenty-five percent of the meetings in a year. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on January 27, 2015.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to authorize the Engineering Department to prepare a cost estimate to complete the pedestrian walking trail around Bailey's Lake. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15049, vacating the easements in the Great Northern Addition to Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to authorize the Public Works Department to prepare reflective signage for the unidentified hangars at the Eveleth-Virginia Airport and the five buildings at the sea plane base. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to designate the office space located on the second floor of City Hall, formerly leased by the AEOA for adult education, for City Council use. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools will hold their annual meeting on February 13, 2015, in Hibbing.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on

January 26, 2015, as follows:

- Staff is working on the Conservation Improvement Program for residential area.
- Repairs continue on the turbine and there is a one month delay in getting back on line.
- General Manager has the authority to use his discretion to allow certain areas of Virginia to run water to prevent frozen water lines and forgive water charges up to ten units per month. A request will be sent to the City Council to waive the sewer charge for these additional areas.
- Repairs have been made to the wood boiler.

Councillor Littlewolf stated she is a member of the Highway 53 Visual Quality

Committee and will be serving in an advisory role to discuss the aesthetics of the two new bridges.

Councillor Littlewolf noted it is MnDOT's plan to construct the bridges by the fall of 2015, complete the roadway by March of 2015, with the total construction completed by the fall of 2017. She also noted the City of Virginia would be financially responsible for things such as colored LED lights or to change the look of the noise barrier.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee will discuss the

future of the Mineview in the Sky.

Councillor Sipola gave a report on the 2014 final report for the biomass plant and noted

eighty-one percent of energy produced at the Virginia Public Utilities is by biomass renewable energy.

Virginia's goal was eighty percent for 2014. The statewide goal was to have twenty percent of renewable energy production by 2020. Councillor Sipola confirmed the success of the Laurentian Energy Authority and the entire biomass contract by producing eighty-one percent of renewable energy, with nineteen percent coming from coal or gas.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the following issues:

- The Department of Public Utilities is working with MnDOT on the delivery of utilities to the Midway Addition, due to the realignment of Highway 53.
- Thanked the Virginia School District for hosting several playoff games for the hockey, wrestling and basketball programs.
- Working with representatives from the AEOA and Range Mental Health on the project to construct a joint facility on City property located on Fourth Street North.
- Public Works Department is working diligently to clean the sidewalks.
- Reviewed Section 7.05 of the Virginia City Code that requires citizens to clean sidewalks within twelve hours after the final snow fall. The City may levy a charge if the snow has not been cleaned up after twenty-four hours.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 10, 2015.

LARRY CUFFE JR.

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

City Clerk