

**REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING  
VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL  
JANUARY 2, 2015 – 5:00 P.M.**

Reorganization meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Vice Mayor Baribeau at 5:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli, Vice Mayor Baribeau – 6

Absent: None

Councillor Larry Cuffe Jr. resigned from his City Council seat for the term ending December 31, 2016.

City Clerk Roskoski swore in newly elected Mayor Larry Cuffe Jr. for a four year term ending December 31, 2018.

City Clerk Roskoski swore in newly elected Councillor Dennis Jorgensen for a four year term ending December 31, 2018.

City Clerk Roskoski reported Councillors Nevada Littlewolf and Charles Baribeau were reelected to their City Councillor positions and had them complete an Oath of Office for an additional four year term ending December 31, 2018.

Mayor Russo's formal portrait was hung on the wall of the Council Chambers.

Mayor Cuffe expressed his sincere appreciation to Mayor Louis Russo and City Councillor Michael Ralston and presented them with a jacket and commemorative plaque for their faithful and dedicated service to the City of Virginia.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Littlewolf to nominate Councillor Baribeau for the Vice Mayor position for the period January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2016. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe reviewed the guidelines for City Council meetings, public hearings and committee meetings.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 15025, approving the guidelines for City Council meetings, public hearings and committee meetings. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Cuffe congratulated Councillor Littlewolf and Councillor Baribeau on their reelection and welcomed new Councillor Dennis Jorgensen.

Mayor Cuffe stated the City Council represents the citizens of Virginia and must establish a collective vision for the future by building upon the accomplishments made over the past several years. Once the appointments are made to the various committees, commissions and boards, they will focus on the following areas:

- Street and alley repairs
- Crime
- Recreation and culture
- Blight
- Absentee landlords
- Main street revitalization
- Olcott Park restoration
- Fiscal discipline
- Maintenance and improvement of core services
- Neighborhood infrastructure
- Utility rates and restructuring
- Economic development
- Expansion of the tax base

Mayor Cuffe stated the first order of business will be to appoint an individual to fill the two year vacated City Council position that will expire on December 31, 2016. The Mayor and Council will determine the process and all options will be on the table to fill the vacated position.

The City Council will also focus on the following issues:

- Outline a reorganization plan for all City departments to improve productivity and efficiency, without jeopardizing core services.
- Update the long term strategic plan for the City, with input from citizens, businesses and key community leaders.
- Continue to focus on slum and blighted properties by requiring private residences and rental units to comply with new maintenance codes designed to improve living conditions and property values.
- Review the long range plan to repair the streets and alleys.
- Diversify the economic footprint and attract new businesses that are not affiliated with the mining industry.
- The Mayor and City Council will build consensus by working together to achieve common goals and objectives, without influence by political party affiliations or personal bias.
- Increase the revenue stream by expanding the commercial tax base through economic development.
- Review the City budget.
- Recruit volunteers to facilitate a variety of activities at playgrounds.
- Call upon community groups to resurrect a program designed to improve the City’s aesthetics.
- Review projects that have been on the back burner, including the Miners Memorial Community Center Expansion Project, Joint Public Works Facility, Fire-based EMS building and Public Safety Training Facility.
- Determine a new focus for the Olcott Park Greenhouse.
- Publish an annual report through a variety of venues to highlight the accomplishments made by City departments and volunteers.
- Partner with the Virginia Foundation, service and non-profit groups, the Virginia School Board, Downtown Business Merchant’s Association, Tourism Bureau, Laurentian Chamber, local clergy and others to develop and implement a strategy to help improve the quality of life in Virginia.

Mayor Cuffe made the appointments to the Standing Council Committees, Commissions Liaisons and other committees/boards for the period January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2016, as follows:

<b>COUNCIL COMMITTEES</b>			
<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIRPERSON</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>MEMBER</b>
<b>Finance (as COW)</b>	Baribeau Alt. Sipola	ALL	
<b>Street/Alley/Public Safety</b>	Baranzelli	Littlewolf	Baribeau
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	Littlewolf	Jorgensen	New Councillor
<b>Insurance</b>	Sipola	Baribeau	New Councillor
<b>Personnel</b>	Sipola	Cuffe	Baranzelli

<b>COMMISSION LIAISONS</b>		
<b>COMMISSION</b>	<b>Liaison</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>Public Utilities</b>	Baribeau	New Councillor
<b>Hospital Advisory Commission</b>	Baribeau	Cuffe
<b>Park &amp; Recreation</b>	Baranzelli	Jorgensen
<b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b>	Baribeau	Littlewolf
<b>Eveleth/Virginia Airport</b>	Sipola	New Councillor
<b>Library</b>	Littlewolf	Baranzelli
<b>Human Rights</b>	Littlewolf	New Councillor
<b>Cable</b>	Baranzelli	Jorgensen

<b>OTHER BOARDS</b>	
<b>Fire Labor/Management</b>	Baranzelli
<b>AFSCME Labor/Management</b>	Sipola
<b>Police Labor Relations</b>	Cuffe
<b>Partners Board</b>	Littlewolf
<b>Range Association of Municipalities and Schools</b>	Baribeau
<b>Range Recreation and Civic Center</b>	Jorgensen
<b>Arrowhead Regional Development Commission</b>	Baribeau Term expires January, 2017
<b>Virginia School Board</b>	Cuffe Alternate - Littlewolf
<b>Housing and Redevelopment Authority</b>	Littlewolf
<b>City Safety Committee</b>	Sipola

<b>Board of Review (5 members)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baribeau (trained through 7/1/17)</li> <li>2. Sipola (trained through 7/1/17)</li> <li>3. Littlewolf</li> <li>4. Jorgensen</li> <li>5. New Councillor</li> </ol>
<b>CIRI Board</b>	Baribeau
<b>Essentia Board of Managers</b>	Sipola Term 1/14/14 – 12/31/16
<b>Highway 53 Impact Committee</b>	Baribeau/Cuffe
<b>VEDA Board (2 Members)</b>	Baranzelli (term ending 12/31/16) Jorgensen (term ending 12/31/18)

Mayor Cuffe asked the City Council to review the appointments and notify him if a change needs to be made.

Mayor Cuffe reviewed the resolution to declare a vacancy for a City Council position and stated the City Council will consider the vacancy at the meeting scheduled for January 13, 2015.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 15026, declaring a vacancy of a City Council position for a term ending December 31, 2016. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 13, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk