

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, February 26, 2019

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Cuffe Jr. at 5:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

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

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen and supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 19037 approving the purchase of a turnout gear washer and the required electrical connections in the amount of \$12,925.00 by the submission and acceptance of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Grant in the amount of \$6,637.50 with the City contribution of \$6,287.50. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the amended Agreement between the City of Biwabik and the City of Virginia for Ambulance Coverage. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19038 approving the purchase of a 2019 Chevy Equinox for the Fire Department in the amount of \$22,711.30. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt the Consent Agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held February 12, 2019
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 19-004 Schedules of Bills.
3. Approve the following travel requests:
 - A) Allen Lewis to attend the Blandin Foundation Leadership Program March 11-15, 2019 in Grand Rapids, MN at no cost
 - B) Allen Lewis to attend the National Fire Academy Executive Leadership March 17-29, 2019 in Emmitsburg, Maryland at a cost of \$309.50 for meals.

- C) Allen Lewis to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs June 3-7, 2019 in Henderson, NV at a cost of \$960.00 where he will be a keynote speaker.
- D) Tiffany Larson, Will Fischer, Mario DelGreco, Lisa Hanover to attend the FDIC International April 7-13, 2019 in Indianapolis, IN at a cost of \$5,000.

Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Paulsen and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the Ordinance Amending the change to City Code Section 2.31 titled "Joint Airport Commission". Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Friedlieb to re-appoint Rose Adams to the Human Rights Commission for a three-year term ending February 1, 2022. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to appoint Joyce Bloomquist to the Library Commission for a three-year term ending February 1, 2022. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve CGI Communications to continue to place community videos on the City website. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli and supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 19039 for the Professional Pre-Design Services Agreement with DSGW for the Virginia Miners Event and Convention Center for a cost of \$40,000.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Councillor Friedlieb to adopt Resolution 19040 to enter into an agreement with Mesabi Bituminous for the construction of the ATV Trail Connection at 8th Street South that will open bridge access for ATV traffic from HWY 53. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Paulsen Recommend St. Louis County award the bid for the 9th Avenue West Reconditioning Project to KGM Contractors in the amount of \$312,267.50. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 19041 authorizing the City of Virginia to submit a revised grant application and to accept funds from the Department of Iron Range Resources Laurentian Partnership Grant for the United Taconite Barrier Berm Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb and supported by Councillor Biondich to table the discussion on the February 2019 Classification of Tax Forfeited Parcels in the City of Virginia. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Friedlieb to approve the revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of the Greenhouse for the Olcott Park Greenhouse. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 19042 for the hiring of Mr. Brandon Svoboda as a Patrol Officer. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 19043 for the hiring of Mr. Jason Picard as a Patrol Officer. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 19044 for the hiring of Ms. Janet Hougas as Library Clerk. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Friedlieb and supported by Councillor Johnson to approve sending a letter of support for the renovation of the Martin Hughes School in Buhl for the establishment of a children's mental health facility. Motion carried

Councillor Johnson stated that there is a need for these services for children in our communities, currently families have to travel several hours to the closest mental health hospital. Councillor Baribeau also added that RAMS supports legislative funding that would provide this new youth mental crisis center to the former Buhl High School.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Paulsen to write a letter of support of the Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club's application of grant funds for the development of the ATV trail between Biwabik and Gilbert and the purchase of a groomer for this trail. Motion carried.

Councillor Johnson noted that this is going to connect people from the east side to the west side of the Iron Range via ATV and snowmobiles.

Councillor Baribeau gave an updated the Council that the Virginia Public Utilities had completed over 400 steam conversions in 2018 and has currently has 175 applications. The VPUC was able to convert more than anticipated in 2018 due to the number of homeowners already having gas meters.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. congratulated Steve Esty on his new position of Chief of Police for the City of Hibbing. He commended all of Estey's work here at the City of Virginia and wishes him the best as he moves forward in his law enforcement career.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. announced that the Quad City Food Shelf will be moving from Gilbert to the Fastenal building in Mountain Iron, with a special thank you to the VFW and the American Legion for donations that made it possible for a new refrigeration system. March is Minnesota FoodShare Month at the Quad City Food shelf; any donations of food and dollars made this month will be matched through the FoodShare program. Please donate to our local food shelf that supports over 500 families in our community.

Councillor Baribeau announced that the United Way Meet up and Chow Down Recharged Program will continue in 2019 at the new location of the United Methodist Church on 9th Avenue, offering free lunch to children ages one to 18 on Monday-Friday during the summer months.

Mayor Cuffe thanked Betty Frazee for her letter of support for a new Fire Hall and Public Safety Building in the City of Virginia.

Mayor Cuffe Jr. Represented the City Council at a Property tax hearing for the proposed 1% sales tax for the Miners Event and Convention Center this week. He gave testimony to members of the tax committee

asking for this tax and clarifying it would not affect the property taxes of the citizens of Virginia. The next step is having this be presented to the full committee for consideration if in fact a tax bill is passed this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. to Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.