

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, February 9, 2016**

The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Councillors Baranzelli, Sipola, Jorgensen, McReynolds, Littlewolf, Baribeau, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Members Absent: none

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting January 26, 2016.
2. Approve the application from Roosevelt Elementary PTSA to hold a bingo on March 24, 2016 at the Miners Memorial Building.
3. Approve Transient Merchant/Solicitor License for Barb's Fried Bread for the Land of the Loon Festival in the Olcott Park, Miners Memorial Building and Chestnut area plus any street dances or scheduled car shows.

Motion Carried.

Item 5.2 was pulled for an additional invoice to be paid on the Schedule of Bills, engineering fees to SEH for Hwy53 for the initial construction, \$210,000.00.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to amend resolution 16-003 the schedule of bills, and add the SEH invoice to the regular bill run. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the resignation letter from City Administrator John Tourville, effective March 25, 2016. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve resolution 16042 designating the Miners Memorial Building as the Precinct One Polling Place. Resolution adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Moved by Councillor Sipola supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the Mayor to sign the FAA project closeout for the Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee of the Whole February 2, 2016.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the RAMS membership for one year at a cost of \$950.00.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councillors Jorgensen, Baranzelli, Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Nay: Sipola (1)

Motion Carried.

There has been significant discussion and concerns at past meetings about continuing in RAMS. The Mayor had concerns with the past school issues and having another lobbyist involved. It may interfere with projects the City has hired a lobbyist for. He will change his vote on this matter. Councillor Sipola voiced concerns on RAMS, and is still not in favor of the concept of the organization.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to draft a letter of support to St Louis County stating they will maintain their hub of business activity in the downtown Virginia area and the City will continue to work with them. Motion Carried.

Councillor McReynolds voiced concern that historic buildings will be demolished in the downtown area, and is not in support of the current plan, but approves to draft the letter of support.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve payment to Grande Hardware in the amount \$16,190.00 for sewer/water infrastructure improvements and to use funds from the Economic Development Fund to cover the payment. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to approve resolution 16043 for the change order with Mesabi Bituminous for the Waschke site in the amount of \$88,382.22. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve pay estimate #2 to Mesabi Bituminous for the Waschke Site in the amount of \$347,028.35. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve resolution 16044 to approve the quote of \$52,429.00 from Mesabi Bituminous for the Silver Lake Shoreline Stabilization Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Sipola noted for the audience, the project is from property line to property line by Home Town Focus and a grant has been received for the project.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow the Fire Department to move ahead with the Explorer Program and the funds to come from the Fire Marshall or Fire Department budget a cost of \$500.00. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve resolution 16045 for the 36 month Edge Pro Service Agreement with Compudyne at a cost of \$2,400 per month. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to allow the City Engineer to draw up a legal description for: the portion of the Staver property that lies south of the northerly boundaries of 10th Street South extended and remove this from legal description in the CDBG Grant. Motion Carried.

This is the first step in the process of re-platting the area.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to recommend to the Finance Committee the proposal from Waters & Company for executive recruiting services.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Mayor Cuffe, Jr., Councillors Sipola Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen (6)

Nay: Baranzelli (1)

Motion Carried.

The councilors are in favor of the proposal with Waters and Company and Sharon Klumpp. Her expertise and background will be beneficial in helping the city in the process of locating a City Administrator. Councillor Baranzelli doesn't agree with spending the money for this and thinks the council can handle this. Councillor Sipola noted the money is covered in the budget as John Tourville's wages will not be paid out for a few months while the hiring process is taking place. The Mayor commented that we are hiring a company that has professionalism in this area and they are able to find us the best candidate in the process. In addition the Mayor stated that we looking to adjust our City governess and have the goals in place for more concise operations.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee of the Whole February 9, 2016.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve resolution 16046 to accept the proposal to provide executive recruiting services with Waters and Company for \$22,000.00 and additional services requested outside the scope of work would be \$220.00 per hour.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Councillors Sipola, Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Nay: Councillor Baranzelli (1)

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve resolution 16047 to purchase one Motorola portable radio at a cost \$4,268.26 from Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the Police Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings and Grounds February 9, 2016.

Councillor Littlewolf updated on the properties that were demolished in 2015 and the ones to be demolished in 2016:

Properties that were demolished in 2015:

206 11th Street South; 211 4th Street South; 111 12th Street South; 520 5th Street South; 222 10th Street South; 408 7th Street South; 122 1st Street South; 609-611 16th Street North (garage only); 237 7th Street South; 122 1st Street South; 427 14th Street North.

List of properties to be approved for demo:

114 5th Avenue South; 529 13th Street North; 1019 7th Avenue North; 205 3rd Street North.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to move forward with the misdemeanor charges regarding the unresolved blight issues at 410 5th Street.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Mayor Cuffe, Jr., Councillors Littlewolf, McReynolds, Sipola, Baranzelli (5)

Nay: Councillor Jorgensen (1)

Abstain-Councillor Baribeau-relative (1)

Motion Carried.

Mr. Toman claimed he was not aware of the issues on the property. He has received letters from the City Attorney regarding unfinished items and has taken care of some of the requests. He is offended by the building code and has not owned the building at 410 5th Street, as June 2015. Mr. Toman manages 30 other properties and feels he is being treated unfair on this property. They also discussed the issues that have happened at the residence, and with the renters. The Council was told the home was sold on a contract for deed. It was agreed to cite both parties with a misdemeanor, the owner and the contract for deed holder.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to amend the motion that would direct the City Attorney to issue a misdemeanor blight citation to both the deed holder and the contract for deed holder at 410 5th Street. Motion Carried.

Councillor Baribeau abstained.

Discussion on the property continued, Councillor Jorgensen is willing to abate, and wants a financial guarantee the work gets done by a certain date. According to the City Attorney this has been an ongoing issue for four years; he did get some things done, but not everything. There are still cosmetic issues with the property. Mr. Toman suggested he would meet with Mr. Kingsley and see what needs to be done. Mr. Toman was willing to set up an escrow account which will be held by a title company and payable to the City of Virginia if its' not done by a specific date. Councilor Jorgensen would like to give two weeks to get this taken care of. Councillors Sipola and Littlewolf are not in favor of amending the motion, they would like to turn it over to the courts. This will send a message to others; this is the end of the line. It's not a negotiation; you still need to fix the property.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Sipola to request the City Attorney to provide the draft of the Property Maintenance Code by the next scheduled Building & Grounds meeting to be held in March (*date to be determined*)2016. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the Knox Box Ordinance with clarifications in reference for Subd. 1 A; items 1, 2, and 3 to be update in Subd.1 B and present to the City Council for approval. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the Coordination Agreement of Knox Box with the City of Mt. Iron and the quote for purchasing the Knox Boxes as presented, and move to the Finance Committee for approval. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to allow space specifically for Congressman Nolan's office at City Hall, at no charge and to work with the City Administrator to find appropriate office space. Motion Carried.

Motion by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to send each commission, the IMA and any others on the list for the steering committee proper notification requesting they recommend a name for the steering committee in regards to the Comprehensive Plan. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to request the City Clerk to contact SEH and get a written or verbal response on where they are in the process of the Comprehensive Plan.
Motion Carried.

Commission reports:

Councillor Baribeau deferred his report on the Hwy 53 till the next council meeting.

Councillor Jorgensen-updated on the VEEDA board, they are looking at Progress Park land south of Borgan road, it is undeveloped land. The environmental study was done and came out good; they are researching wetlands, and will be logging it off in the future and plan to rezone.

At the VEDA meeting they have proposed to use \$50,000 to make grants available in downtown for business. We are currently in the process of writing guidelines, for \$5,000 matching grant will bring to the council for approval. There have been two businesses interested in the USDA loan funds available. Councillor Sipola had questions regarding the levy that was approved for VEDA and giving out funds to business.

The Mayor will be meeting with MNDOT regarding the Cuyana Drive and potential development of that property.

February 24th both Mr. Tourville and the Mayor are going to St. Paul to meet with the lobbyist at the legislature regarding the Miners Memorial Project, gap funding, and other items of concern.

The Laurentian Chamber dinner is February 19th at Fortune Bay, the City would pay for council member only to attend.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to authorize the city to pay for any Councillor or Mayor only, to attend the Laurentian Chamber Dinner, cost of \$90.00.

Ayes: Mayor Cuffe, Jr., Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Baranzelli, Jorgensen (6)
Nay-Councillor Sipola (1)
Motion Carried.

There was a Fire Department awards ceremony at the Elks Club; plaques were presented to the following:

Retirement plaque - Assistant Chief Buddy Mell

Officer of the year: Scott Frederickson

Fire fighter of the year: Ross Gramling

Rookie of the year: Jon Carlson

EMT/Paramedic of the year: Frank Roark

They had a nice display of pictures and played a DVD.

Attended the retirement party for Dawn Heisel and presented her with a retirement plaque.

CGMC Coalition legislative day is March 16, 2016, and you must RSVP by March 2, 2016, this event will take place in St. Paul, an agenda will be coming.

There will be an open house at City Hall on April 22, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the Sexual Assault program.

The next Recharge the Range meeting is February 29th; four Councillors would like to attend, Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, and Jorgensen. An email will be sent out for registration.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. with the next regular meeting to be held Tuesday, February 23, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

Larry Cuffe, Jr., Mayor

Pamela LaBine, City Clerk