

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 26, 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.

Paul Brinkman, currently serving as President of Hospital Commission, questioned the process that was followed and the criteria used to reject his application for reappointment to the Hospital Commission. Mr. Brinkman stated he was disappointed that the vote was not on record and that the City held his appointment to a higher standard. Mr. Brinkman also stated his attendance was regular for the Hospital Commission meetings. Councillor Russo, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, stated the committee debated the issue and voted 5-2 to not reappoint Mr. Brinkman to the Hospital Commission. Mr. Brinkman thanked the City Council and wished the City and Hospital the best in the future.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held January 12, 2010, and Special Meeting held January 20, 2010.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 10-002 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Transient Merchant's License for Lake Country Gold and Silver.
4. Approve travel request for Thomas Butorac, City Attorney, MN City Attorney's Educational Conference, February 4-6, 2010, Bloomington, MN.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Scott Asbach, Hometown Focus, was present to offer information on the potential savings on publication rates by appointing the Hometown Focus as the legal newspaper. Mr. Asbach also informed the City Council that the State Statutes does not require cities to print meetings notices, if they mail or deliver a notice to those that request a notice at least three days prior to the meeting. As an alternative, the City may publish the notice once in the official newspaper.

Mr. Asbach stated the City spent \$38,000 in newspaper printing in 2009 and informed the City Council that approximately \$22,000 could have been saved by printing in the Hometown Focus, due to the column format and difference in rates. Mr. Asbach requested that the City Council reconsider the bid for the legal newspaper and appoint the Hometown Focus as the legal newspaper for 2010. Councillor Baribeau expressed concern that the Hometown Focus only prints one paper a week. Mr. Asbach reviewed their circulation information and stated the Hometown Focus fulfills all the requirements of a legal newspaper. Mr. Asbach stated the City could utilize either newspaper or the internet to provide information to the public. No further action was taken.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10031, authorizing the sale of Lots 3 and 4, Block 2, Fairview Third Addition, in the amount of \$50,000, to Ken Waschke. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Sipola volunteered to serve as Virginia's representative on the Airport Zoning Board, as there has not been active attendance by the Virginia representative for the past two years.

Moved by Cuffe to appoint Councillor Sipola as Virginia's representative to the Airport Zoning Board. Motion died for lack of support.

Councillor Russo requested that further information regarding the Airport Zoning Board be obtained and discussed at the Personnel Committee meeting to be held on February 16th.

Discussion was held on the appointment of the members to a sub-committee to discuss the recommendations prepared by Leigh Hantho of Align Healthcare regarding the future of the Virginia Regional Medical Center. Mayor Peterson stated the liaison and alternate to the Hospital Commission were appointed to the initial sub-committee.

Moved by Ralston and supported that the Council liaison and alternate to the Hospital Commission be appointed to the sub-committee to implement the recommendations prepared by Leigh Hantho of Align Healthcare regarding the future of the Virginia Regional Medical Center, with the sub-committee to appoint the third member.

Ayes: Councillors Cuffe, Ralston, Sipola, Russo - 4

Nays: Councillors Littlewolf, Baribeau, Mayor Peterson – 3

Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau volunteered to be the third member of the committee. Concerns were expressed with the possibility of having Councillor Baribeau and Hospital Commissioner Baribeau both serving on the sub-committee. Councillor Russo stated a motion was approved at the special meeting to have three City Councillors and three Hospital Commissioners serve on the sub-committee.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to appoint Councillor Baribeau as the third representative from the City Council to the sub-committee to implement the recommendations prepared by Leigh Hantho of Align Healthcare regarding the future of the Virginia Regional Medical Center.

Moved by Russo and supported to call for the question. Motion carried.

Roll call on original motion:

Ayes: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Russo, Mayor Peterson – 7

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Councillor Russo stated a City employee will be provided to take minutes at the sub-committee meetings. Mayor Peterson stated the sub-committee will establish guidelines for their meetings and a report on the sub-committee will be given at the City Council meetings.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to set a public hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, to consider adoption of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10032, approving Change Order No. 3 to increase the contract with Ulland Brothers, Inc., by the amount of \$5,310.56, for C.P. 3-09, T.H. 135 Utilities Project, Phase II. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve Final Payment No. 9 to Hibbing Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$77,738.93, and adopting Resolution No. 10033, approving Change Order No. 1, to decrease the contract with Hibbing Excavating, Inc., by the amount of \$57,867.66, for C.P. 1-08, 6th Avenue Reconstruction & Southside Tennis Courts Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to authorize City administrative staff and City Councillors to attend the 2010 Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Legislative Action Day to be held on February 17, 2010, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on January 19, 2010.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10034, accepting the quote from L & L Rentals, Inc., in the amount of \$6,524.59, for a hot water pressure washer for the Public Works Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to table the purchase of a projector and retractable screen for the Council Chambers and continue to consider more cost effective options. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. accept the quote from Compudyne, Inc., in the total amount of \$17,157.71, for the purchase of a new server and hardware for City Hall, including installation fees and migration of the files. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported to authorize the City Attorney to continue efforts to collect the delinquent revolving loans issued to Range Monument and Stacy's Fine Jewelry and to add the delinquent loans to the 2010 property taxes, if necessary. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to purchase and install a timer for the lights at the Northside skating rink, to be used during the skating rink season. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to refer the use of volunteers to the Personnel Committee. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson stated the Finance Committee will reviewing each enterprise fund in detail at future meetings.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on January 19, 2010.

Moved by Ralston and supported to receive and file the information from St. Louis County regarding tax forfeited properties. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to allow the St. Louis County Attorney's office to utilize office space in City Hall for a grant coordinator during regular City Hall hours through December 31, 2010, without any additional amenities. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to approve the transfer of the property located in Section 30, Township 58 North, Range 17 West to the Virginia Rifle Club, with the resolution adopted at the February 9th City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to table the request from the Virginia Foundation for the City to assume the environmental liability for the former ICO building and invite a representative from the Virginia Foundation to a Finance Committee meeting to review their plans for the building. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on January 21, 2010.

Moved by Russo and supported to reappoint Joe Leoni to the Hospital Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Kathryn Cremers to the Library Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Patricia Monacelli for three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Dale Krog to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to reappoint William Smolensky to the Park and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to reappoint Greg Gilness to the Park and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

An Ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section. 2.37 of the City Code entitled “Park and Recreation Commission” was placed on the Councillors’ desks. City Attorney stated the ordinance change will allow the expansion of the Park and Recreation Commission from five members to six members and the ordinance will be acted on at the February 9th City Council meeting.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Chad Seppala to the Park and Recreation Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013, as the sixth member of the commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Jon Jacobson to the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to reappoint James Petroskey to the Public Utilities Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to reappoint Harry Grinage to the Human Rights Commission for a three year term ending February 1, 2013. Motion carried.

City Attorney Butorac stated the current commissioners will serve on the commissions until the vacancies are filled.

Councillor Littlewolf gave an update on the Human Rights Commission and stated they received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Right to be used for their Spring Conference, which will be held on April 12, 2010, at the Hibbing Community College.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Chemical Abuse Advisory Board meeting, which was held on January 25th to discuss chemical abuse incidents and identified areas that need additional attention.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the VEEDA meeting and stated the Virginia and Eveleth City Councils will be invited to a meeting to review the history of VEEDA and the by-laws.

See 2010 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 10031 – 10035 and Finance Resolution No. 10-002.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M. Next meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk