

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JULY 20, 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, Ralston, Sipola, Baribeau, Russo, Mayor Peterson -6

Absent: Councillor Littlewolf - 1

Mayor Peterson led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held June 22, 2010.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 10-014 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 10095. approving amendment to Iron Range Resources Grant No. B43-2252 for the demolition of buildings and disposal of materials and site improvements at the old Seppi site location.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Brenda Krueger, Springsted, Inc., was present to review the issuance and sale of approximately \$995,000 in General Obligation Temporary Sewer Revenue Bonds to finance the improvements to Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Ms. Krueger stated the bond proposals will be opened at 10:00 A.M. on Tuesday, August 24th, and presented to the City Council for consideration at their August 24th meeting. The principal amount of the bonds is estimated at \$995,000 and will be adjusted, based on the final interest rate. Ms. Krueger stated the City intends to obtain a loan through the PFA to fund the project and prepay the bonds. The bonds will mature on February 1, 2013, and can be prepaid without any penalty. Springsted will be working with staff to obtain a credit rating for the City. The City's general obligation debt currently has an "A+" rating and Springsted expects to maintain that rating.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10096, providing for the issuance and sale of approximately \$995,000 General Obligation Temporary Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2010A. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10097, approving the transfer of the alley that runs North-South between Lots 1 through 5 and Lot 6, Block 6, Block 21, Original Plat of Virginia, to Queen City Federal, for \$1.00, contingent upon Queen City Federal paying all costs to record and transfer the property. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the following recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission for Scott and Danya Johnson of 1202 11th Street South:

1. Deny a 2 foot variance to the required 5 foot setback, in order to place a garage 3 feet from the West property line.
2. Approve a 20 square foot variance to the maximum allowance of 1,000 square feet accessory structures allowed in a residential district.
3. Approve a variance of no more than one garage allowed per resident, in order to allow two garages on this parcel.

Motion carried.

Niece Strand was present to object to the recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the variances requests for Stephanie Strand of 114 11th Street South.

1. Deny a 2 foot variance to the required 5 foot setback, in order to place a garage 3 feet from the South (Alley) property line.
2. Deny a 2 foot variance to the required 5 foot setback, in order to place a fence 3 feet from the South (Alley) property line.

Ms. Strand requested a 2 foot variance from the alley to place a garage 3 feet from the property line, due to the nature of her yard. The yard has a propane tank, which takes up a large amount of space, and there are substantial gardens with fruit bearing plants that would be expensive to move. Ms. Strand further stated that the new garage would be repositioned on the lot and the door would open to the alley. The new garage would also be in line with her neighbor's garage and would

not impact any City services. Ms. Strand stated she would prefer to have new her fence line up with the new garage and there are no objections from the neighbors. The Council recommended that she obtain written statements from the neighbors to present to the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council.

Moved by Ralston and supported to refer the variance requests for Stephanie Strand for the property located at 114 11th Street back to the Planning and Zoning Commission for further review. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the City Council and administrative staff to attend the 2010 Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Summer Conference to be held August 18-20, 2010, in Winona, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson stated the first City Council meeting in August will be rescheduled to Wednesday, August 11, 2010, due to the Primary Election on August 10th.

Councillor Ralston stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on July 13, 2010, and no formal action was taken. Councillor Ralston updated the City Council on the following items that were discussed: 1) Former Troy building demolition project will be completed within the week. 2) Request for the installation of signage regarding animal waste will be referred to the Lakes Beautification Committee to incorporate into their current project with the Virginia School District. 3) Committee is in the process of appointing a building official that is qualified to inspect and determine hazards in blighted properties.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting, which was held as a Committee-of-the-Whole, on July 13, 2010.

Moved by Ralston and supported to accept the proposal from Keith and Emma Peterson to purchase Lot 1, Block 2, Fairview Second Addition, in the amount of \$15,000, with the resolution approving the sale to be adopted at the August 11th meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson stated he was pleased with the 2009 City audit, which was presented by Bart Rodberg of McGladrey & Pullen at the Finance Committee meeting.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10098, to designate the City of Virginia, December 31, 2009, General Fund Balances. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10099, adopting the “Water Emergency and Conservation Plan” for the City of Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to include the 2011 budget appropriation for the Calvary Cemetery in the budget process. Motion carried. Councillor Sipola agreed to assist the Calvary Cemetery in preparing a budget.

Moved by Cuffe and to authorize the City Attorney to change the City Code regarding calendar parking for the period May 1st through October 31st, effective in 2011, as follows:

- 1st through 16th – Vehicles shall park on the odd side of the street, with a changeover time of 6 PM on the 16th.
- 17th through the end of the month – Vehicles shall park on the even side of the street, with a changeover time of 6 PM on the 1st.

Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the City Operations Director to submit an application to the Iron Range Resources for a Business Infrastructure Grant for \$500,000. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting, which was held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on July 13, 2010.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Rob Raplinger to the Public Utilities Commission for the unexpired term ending February 1, 2011 Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to allow Sherry Wiitala to continue with the reduced work hours of 30 hours per week for an additional six months. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo stated he and Mayor Peterson met with representatives of AFSCME Local Union No. 454 to resolve a grievance and settle the agreement for the period ending December 31, 2010.

Moved by Russo and supported to ratify the contract with AFSCME Local Union No. 454 for the period ending December 31, 2010. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding with AFSCME Local Union No. 454 regarding outsourcing of bargaining unit jobs and layoffs that would affect AFSCME bargaining unit positions. Councillor Baribeau expressed concern on setting a precedent with the Memorandum of Understanding. Mayor Peterson replied that the MOU will terminate on December 31, 2010 and will be revisited during negotiations.

Moved by Russo and supported waive the requirement for a written resolution for the following motion. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10100, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between AFSCME Local Union No. 454 and the City of Virginia regarding outsourcing of bargaining unit jobs and layoffs. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston stated the Virginia Hockey Association has been asked to the host the State Bantam Hockey Tournament.

Moved by Ralston and supported to support the Virginia Hockey Association in hosting the State Bantam Hockey Tournament on March 18, 19 and 20, 2011. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting and stated the Department of Public Utilities will be hiring the firm of EMS to manage the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) and offering rebates to customers to offset energy improvements. Councillor Baribeau stated the City Council previously passed a motion to utilize the CIP funding for the City buildings and requested that the issue be researched.

Mayor Peterson stated Fire Chief Darrell Knapper retired on June 30th and recognized the Fire Chief for his accomplishments to the department.

See 2010 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 10095 – 10100 and Finance Resolution No. 10014.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, August 11, 2010.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk