

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 11, 2011

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 Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held December 14, 2010.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 11001 – Schedule of Bills
3. Approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for Virginia Band Boosters, Inc.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 11025, approving Premises Permit Application for the Climb Theatre, Inc., at the Coates Plaza Hotel, 502 Chestnut Street.
5. Approve 2011 Massage License for:
 - A. Laurentian Divide Salon & Spa.
 - B. Mesabi Therapeutic Massage.
6. Approve 2011 Solid Waste Haulers License for Waste Management.
7. Approve 2011 Tobacco License for the Newsette.
8. Approve 2011 Kennel License for the Northwynd Canine Center.
9. Approve 2011 Secondhand Goods Dealers License for Goodwill Industries.
10. Adopt Resolution No. 11026 designated depositories for 2011.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Discussion was held on the proposals received for the official newspaper for the year 2011. Councillor Sipola stated the City of Mt. Iron has discontinued printing their Council minutes in the newspaper and makes them available through their City website and by mailing them to citizens, by request.

Chris Knight, Mesabi Daily News, explained the difference between a six column format versus a nine column format would be a fraction of an inch. Mr. Knight also stated their

proposal for legal printing has been reduced by 37% and will save the City approximately \$2,200 for printing legal ads in 2011. Scott Asbach, Hometown Focus, stated their proposal could save the City approximately \$15,000 in printing costs for 2011.

City Attorney Butorac stated the City is required to print ordinances, call for bids, public hearing notices, commission openings and election information. The City would have to publish the required information in the official newspaper and the department heads could publish the other ads in either newspaper.

Moved by Baribeau to table the designation of the Official Newspaper for 2011.

Motion died for lack of support.

Moved by Ralston to designate Mesabi Daily News as the Official Newspaper for 2011.

Motion died for lack of support.

Moved by Sipola and supported to designate the Mesabi Daily News as the Official Newspaper for 2011 and to only publish the information that is required by City Charter and State Statute.

Ayes: Councillors Littlewolf Baribeau Sipola - 3

Nays: Councillors Cuffe, Ralston, Russo Peterson - 4

Motion failed.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11027, designating the Mesabi Daily News as the Official Newspaper for 2011. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported to review the advertising costs for 2011 at the next Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the travel request for Thomas Butorac, City Attorney, to attend the Minnesota City Attorney's Educational Conference to be held February 11-12, 2011, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to approve the travel request for Mel Claviter, Public Works Department, to attend the MPCA Operator Course to be held January 26-28, 2011, in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to approve the travel request for Bill Cole, Engineering Department, to attend the Building Code Institute to be held February 7-11, 2011, in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee held on December 16, 2010.

The Buildings/Grounds Committee was updated on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, with the neighborhood east of 2nd Avenue, from 12th Street South to 4th Street North, designated as the area to revitalize. A meeting will be scheduled in February to determine a plan of action. Councillor Ralston stated the City must sign an agreement with St. Louis County to access information for the program that is available through their Geographic Information System.

Moved by Ralston and supported to approve the agreement with St. Louis County for the use of the Geographic Information System. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11028, accepting the amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with DSGW Architects, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$75,000, for architect, engineering and other developments costs for Phase 3 of the Miners Memorial Renovation Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize the City Operations Director to send a letter to St. Louis County regarding the tax forfeited lands:

- 1) Add the following parcels to the St. Louis County demolition list: 120 South 7th Street, 602 North 15th Street.

- 2) City intends to acquire the three parcels on North 16th Street (including the parcel in Russo Addition). Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on January 4, 2011.

Discussion was held on the request from the Hospital Commission that the City fund Phases 1 and 2 of the contract with the Merger/Acquisition Specialist, which is estimated at cost \$30,000, plus out of pocket expenses. Finance Director Erickson expressed concern that the proposed cost estimate may increase to \$150,000 and recommended that the Virginia Regional Medical Center fund the contract through their line of credit. Finance Director Erickson also stated that the Virginia Regional Medical Center currently owes the City \$140,000 for the hospital bond payment that is due on February 1, 2011.

Moved by Sipola and supported to approve the City funding Phases 1 and 2 of the contract with the Merger/Acquisition Specialist, as a loan, with the Virginia Regional Medical Center to repay the loan at the best interest rate available.

Ayes: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Baribeau, Sipola, Russo, Mayor Peterson – 6

Nays: Councillor Ralston – 1

Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11029, accepting the proposal from Wipfli, Merger/Acquisition Specialist, at a cost of \$30,000, plus out of pocket expenses, for Phases 1 and 2 of their proposal. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to send a letter to the Virginia Regional Medical Center stating the City is beginning the process to transfer the ambulance license to the City by June 1, 2011.

Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to request Advantage Billing and the Virginia Regional Medical Center to submit a proposal for the January 18th Finance Committee meeting on assisting with the listing of items that must be considered prior to the transfer of the ambulance licenses, as submitted by EMS Coordinator Dickinson. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11030, accepting the revised proposal from Northeast Technical Services, in the amount of \$8,399.35, for a pre-demolition asbestos inspection and hazardous materials survey for the Virginia Wastewater Treatment Plant. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to refer the travel request from Rob Raplinger, Virginia Sustainability Task Force and Public Utilities Commission, to attend the CERTS 2011 Clean Energy Conference on February 2 & 3, 2011, in St. Cloud, Minnesota, back to the Public Utilities Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to accept the quote from Mesabi Sign, in the total amount of \$961.89, for three new signs for the Iron Range Veteran's Memorial. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to request the City Attorney and Finance Director to review the delinquent accounts for the Heating Conversion/Energy Loans and make a recommendation to the City Council. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on January 7, 2011.

Moved by Russo and supported to appoint Dan L'Allier as the Temporary Fire Chief for a period of six months, contingent upon the salary being approved at the January 18th Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the Finance/Human Resources Director to internally post the Blight Officer and Heavy Equipment Operator positions. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to begin the process to compile an eligibility list for the firefighter/paramedic position. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on January 10, 2011, and stated the Park/Recreation Director will provide options to staff the Northside and Ridgewood skating rinks at the January 18th Personnel Committee meeting.

City Operations Director Tourville requested approval to purchase the parcel of property, located adjacent to the Super One North on 4th Street North, for \$170,000, with 80 percent of the purchase price to be funded through a grant.

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

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11031, approving the purchase of Parcel No. 90-180-308, at a cost not to exceed \$170,000. Resolution adopted unanimously.

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

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11032, approving the Pay Equity Compliance Plan effective December 31, 2010. Resolution adopted unanimously.

See 2011 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 11025 – 11031 and Finance Resolution No. 11001.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk