

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, APRIL 12, 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, Mayor Peterson - 6

Absent: Councillor Russo - 1

Mayor Peterson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Wade, Program Director for the Virginia Indian Center, was present to thank the City of Virginia for the outpouring support that was received in opening the new center at 112 2nd Avenue South. Mr. Wade reviewed the programs that are available at the Indian Center and further stated that a grand opening and fundraiser will be held from 12:00 Noon until 9:00 PM on Friday, April 29th.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 22, 2011.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 11-007 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Transient Merchant/Solicitor License for THR & Associates, Inc., d/b/a Treasure Hunters Roadshow.
4. Approve transfer of On-Sale Liquor License for Wink's Place, Inc., due to changes in the corporation.
5. Approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for Mesabi Humane Society.
6. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Range Mental Health Center.

Motion carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson stated the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization will be held from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon on Tuesday, April 19, 2011. Councillors Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola and Mayor Peterson agreed to attend the Board of Review.

City Operations Director Tourville requested approval of a resolution to submit an application for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant, which is due by April 15, 2011, for continued funding of a revolving loan fund to assist businesses.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11077, authorizing the submittal of a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) Application. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the agreement with Wapiti Medical Group-Lyfjaberg, LLC, for Dr. John Baga to continue to provide Medical Director services for the Virginia Ambulance Service, at the current rate of \$700 per month.

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11078, approving an agreement with Wapiti Medical Group-Lyfjaberg, LLC, for Dr. John Baga to provide Medical Director services for the Virginia Ambulance Service, for a one year period effective April 1, 2011. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on April 5, 2011.

Mayor Peterson reviewed a letter from the downtown business owners stating concern about issuing any additional on-sale liquor licenses at this time, due to the current economic situation.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to table the issuance of an on-sale liquor license for the former Magic Bar until an Ad Hoc Committee is formed to further discuss the City's liquor ordinance and policy.

Ayes: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Mayor Peterson – 5

Nays: Councillor Sipola – 1

Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson recommended that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to review the City's liquor ordinance, with the owners of liquor establishments included in the discussions.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to form an Ad Hoc Committee, consisting of three City Councillors and representatives of the downtown liquor establishments, to review the City's liquor ordinance/policy and to bring a recommendation to the City Council. Motion carried.

Councillors Cuffe, Baribeau and Ralston were appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee, with Councillor Cuffe chairing the committee.

Mayor Peterson stated the recommendation from the Finance Committee to hold On-Sale Liquor License No. 21 will be referred to the Ad Hoc Liquor Committee.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to approve the travel requests for Dennis Benz, Police Department, and Roger Scott, Fire Department, to attend the Advanced Arson Investigation Class, to be held April 18-22, 2011, in Mankato, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to authorize six employees of the Virginia Fire Department to participate in fire pump training with the Mt. Iron Fire Department, at an estimated cost of \$2,200.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to set a budget of \$7,500 for the 2011 Fourth of July fireworks display and to request Terry Hartikka to spearhead the requests for donations from the area businesses. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to hold the fireworks display on Monday, July 4, 2011. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to approve the request from Popper's Bar to block off the 100 block of Chestnut Street on June 18, 2011, immediately following the Land of the Loon parade, to hold a beanbag tournament. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for the Blue Devils Golf Boosters, Inc. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley and Public Safety Committee meeting held on April 5, 2011.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11079, approving a Fire Department Automatic Aid Agreement between the City of Mountain Iron, City of Virginia and the St. Louis County 911 Dispatch Center. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to designate eight parking spaces for “T Square Patron Parking Only” in the westerly row of the City parking lot located in the 200 block of 1st Street South, beginning with the first parking space next to the alley. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to remove the handicapped parking space located adjacent to the east entrance of T Square and to install a 20 minute loading zone north of the alley on 3rd Avenue. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau asked the City Council to consider designating parking spaces for T-Square tenants in the City parking lot located on 4th Avenue and 2nd Street South and in the City parking lot located in the 200 block of 1st Street North.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the changes to the calendar parking, effective May 1, 2011:

Beginning at 6:00 P.M. on May 1st and continuing through October 31st of each calendar year, vehicles shall park as follows, except when otherwise posted:

- The 1st day of the month through the 16th day of the month, vehicles shall park on the odd side of the street, with a changeover time of 6:00 P.M. on the 16th day of the month.
- The 17th day of the month through the last day of the calendar month, vehicles shall park on the even side of the street, with a changeover time of 6:00 P.M. on the 1st day of the month.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the Engineering Department and the Public Works Coordinator to determine a plan and budget to repair the 1300 block of 18th Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the Engineering Department to obtain quotes to perform soil borings on City property. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on April 7, 2011, which was held to develop guidelines and set goals for the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The neighborhood that is being targeted for the revitalization is the 100 block, from 4th Street North to 12th Street South.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to move forward with Neighborhood Revitalization Program and to contact a printing company to prepare an advertising/marketing flyer. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on April 12, 2011.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize Arrowhead DARE to use City property in the 600 and 700 blocks on 4th Street North for public parking as a fundraiser during the Land of the Loon Festival. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize the Cornerstone Church to use a portion of the City parking lot located in the 400 block of 1st Street for a fundraising event from 12:00 Noon on May 21, 2011, until 9 A.M. on May 22, 2011, with the Lead Engineer to work out the details on the area to be used and the Public Works Department to provide barricades for the event. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf recognized Susan Lalli for her years of service at the Department of Public Utilities and wished her the best in her retirement.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to request the City Attorney to enforce the blight ordinance and authorize the Building Inspector to inspect the tax forfeited properties before they are placed on the public auction. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola stated many volunteers are willing to assist with community service jobs and requested that the necessary steps be taken to allow them to participate in City projects.

Moved by Sipola and supported to place volunteerism on the agenda for the next Personnel Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe stated many citizens are expressing their opinion through the newspaper blogs and some of the information is inaccurate. The Councillors encouraged citizens to contact the City Council or City staff for accurate information on City projects.

Mayor Peterson reported on the following items:

- Attended the Chicagami Children's Development Center on April 11th to participate in events to celebrate the "Week of the Young Child".
- Proclaimed the week of April 10, 2011, as the "Week of the Young Child".
- Received a letter from a former resident commending Detective Tim Koivunen for going above and beyond as a police officer in assisting their child with serious issues.
- Stated a fundraiser and events will be held on May 7th at the Veteran's Memorial site to raise funds for the memorial. Donations for the memorial can be sent to the Virginia Servicemen's Club or the Virginia City Clerk.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to place letter of commendation in Detective Tim Koivunen's file for going above and beyond in assisting a family with issues involving their child. Motion carried.

See 2011 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 11077 – 11079 and Finance Resolution No. 11007.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 26, 2011.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk