

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 23, 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 August 9, 2011.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 11-015 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Quad Cities Rotary Club to hold raffle on October 13, 2011.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Sipola reviewed the communication from the Virginia Charter Commission, referring the following amendment to City Charter 3.01 – Advisory Boards and Commissions to the City Council to amend by ordinance:

“All commission members must be qualified electors and residents of the city for at least one (1) year, except one (1) at large-member of each commission may be appointed by council, irrespective of residence.”

Councillor Sipola stated there is a formal process and time line to follow when requesting the Council to amend the City Charter by ordinance and the next step would be to set a public hearing.

It was the consensus of the City Council that the amendment to the City Charter regarding commission appointments be tabled at this time, in order to concentrate on the question that will be on the General Election ballot regarding the Virginia Regional Medical Center.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to table the communication from the Virginia Charter Commission regarding an amendment to City Charter, Section 3.01 – Advisory Boards and Commissions. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to approve the polling places and election judges for the General Election to be held on November 8, 2011. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11137, authorizing execution of a Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for traffic safety enforcement projects. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11138, to approve the extension of the Facilities Use Agreement with Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, for lease of the Quad Cities Tennis for All Facility. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Attorney Butorac reviewed three resolutions that are required to vacate three parcels of City owned property, in order to allow the development of the retail business by Menard's. The vacations must be recorded with St. Louis County, prior to recording the Menard's Plat.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11139, approving vacating that portion of 18th Street South beginning at the easterly limits of 16th Avenue West and continuing to the westerly line of Lot 4, Block 3 and vacating that portion of 15th Avenue West beginning at the southerly limits of 18th Street South continuing south to the easterly extension of the east south line of

Lot 2, Block 2 to the centerline of 15th Avenue West and to the westerly extension of the south line of Lot 3, Block 3 to the centerline of 15th Avenue West, all located within the Pearsall Industrial Park division of Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11140, approving vacating part of that portion of 14th Avenue West beginning at the easterly extension of the southerly line of Lot 2, Block 3 of Pearsall Industrial Park division continuing northerly to the south line of Lot 8, Block 2, of Nelson's Addition to Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11141, approving vacating that portion of 18th Street South beginning at the easterly line of Lot 4, Block 3, Pearsall Industrial Park division of Virginia continuing easterly to the northerly extension of the easterly line of Lot 8, Block 2 of Nelson's Addition to the centerline of 18th Street South, as well as to the southerly extension of the easterly line of Lot 7, Block 2, of Nelson's Addition to Virginia to the centerline of 18th Street South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 18, 2011.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11142, accepting the bid from Rice Lake Construction Group, in the amount of \$15,221,000, for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Renovation Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11143, accepting the proposal from Q3 Contracting, Inc., in the amount of \$118,362.50, for the P & H Gas Distribution System Improvements. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11144, hiring Ryan Dethloff for the Blight Officer position, subject to a ninety day probation period and the terms of the AFSCME, AFL-CIO, Local No. 454 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to accept the resignation from Sarah Lovik, Library Clerk, effective August 16, 2011. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the travel request for Joseph Baker, Mikell Ruedebusch, Robert Olivanti of the Fire Department to attend the Essential of Tactical EMS Program, to be held September 25-30, 2011, in Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to move forward with the hiring of one police officer at the next Finance Committee meeting and authorize staff to proceed with the background investigation to hire a second police officer. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 11145, accepting the quote from Crysteel Truck Equipment, in the amount of \$5,298.45, for an 8' dump body, with City staff to install the new box and to authorize the donation of the truck to the Calvary Cemetery. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the Public Works Department to sell surplus City equipment. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on August 23, 2011.

Moved by Ralston and supported to encourage the Little League Association to apply for a Minnesota Twins Grant for renovating the Little League baseball fields in Olcott Park. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston stated the Buildings/Grounds Committee recommending replacing the words "motor boat" with "watercraft" throughout the ordinance amending Chapter 8, Section 8.07, Subd. 4 and 5 of the City Code of the City of Virginia entitled "Rules and Regulations for the Operation of Boats and Watercraft on Silver Lake and Virginia (Bailey's) Lake.

Moved by Ralston and supported to approve the first reading of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Section 8.07, Subd. 4 and 5 of the City Code of the City of Virginia entitled

“Rules and Regulations for the Operation of Boats and Watercraft on Silver Lake and Virginia (Bailey’s) Lake, as amended. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize the Engineering Department to obtain quotes for the hazardous waste assessment and abatement for 529 Chestnut Street and 103 North 5th Avenue. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize City staff to obtain quotes for a registered land survey for the hospital properties. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to hire “Up North Yard Care” to maintain the blighted private properties for 2011. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to remove the barricades on the road in Olcott Park by the playground equipment to allow through traffic and to authorize the installation of one speed bump, as recommended by Architectural Resources, Inc. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to direct the City employees to trim all the American Arborvitae trees in Olcott Park during the fall of 2011, when time allows and weather permits, per the landscape specifications provided by Architectural Resources, Inc. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize the Public Works Department to place signage in Olcott Park along the road adjacent to the playground equipment to direct people to park on the playground side only. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Hospital Commission meeting and stated the entire commission supported the proposed language change in the City Charter regarding the hospital, which will be on the ballot for the November 8th General Election.

Councillor Cuffe stated the proposed changes to the liquor ordinance will be discussed at the September 6th Finance Committee meeting and the liquor establishments will be sent copies of the proposed changes to review.

Councillor Ralston reported that the Range Recreation Civic Center will be reducing their budget for the curling club by ten percent for 2012.

Moved by Russo and supported to nominate Larry Cuffe for the St. Louis County Citizens' Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the ballot question to amend Section 3.05 of the City Charter regarding the hospital. Mayor Peterson stated public meetings will be held to educate the public on the charter change. The meetings will be videotaped and replayed on the public access channel. Other information and "frequently asked questions" will be developed and published in the newspaper and posted on the City and Virginia Regional Medical Center's websites.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 13, 2011.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk