

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 9, 2012

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Acting Mayor Cuffe at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Russo, Acting Mayor Cuffe - 6

Absent: None

Acting Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 25, 2012.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 12-019 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approval Application for Exempt Permit for Ducks Unlimited Mesabi Chapter to hold raffle on November 15, 2012.

Motion carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Russo to approve the following variance for Kyle Lamppa, 5 Taconite Drive, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- A 10.2 foot variance to the required 15 foot setback on the East property line, in order to construct an addition 4.8 feet from the East property line.

Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the following variance for Phyllis Hokkanen, 704 8th Avenue South, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- A 10.2 foot variance to the required 15 foot setback on the East property line, in order to construct an additional 4.8 feet from the East property line, contingent upon the Utility Obstruction Agreement being submitted.

Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Russo to approve the following variance for Phyllis Hokkanen, 704 8th Street South, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- A 2.6 foot variance to the required 20 foot setback on the West property line, in order to construct a 28' x 28' garage, 17.4 feet from the West property line, contingent upon the Utility Obstruction Agreement being submitted.

Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to approve the following variance for Phyllis Hokkanen, 704 8th Street South, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- A 76 square foot variance to the maximum 30 percent rear yard coverage (708 square feet), in order to construct a 28' x 28' garage, contingent upon the Utility Obstruction Agreement being submitted.

Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Baribeau to approve the following variance for Overland Engineering, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- A 182.1 square foot variance to the maximum of 64 square foot allowable, in order to install signs with a 246.1 total square footage at the new Dollar General store to be located at 521 9th Street North.

Motion carried.

Acting Mayor Cuffe reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on October 2, 2012.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Russo to approve to increase the Washington Manor rents by a flat rate of \$15 per month, effective January 1, 2013.

Councillor Littlewolf recommended raising the Washington Manor rent by a percentage increase to make it fairer to the residents.

Tony Mazzeo, Washington Manor resident, stated he is currently paying over \$1,000 per month for the rent, including parking, and noted that the residents are on fixed incomes. Mr. Maseo questioned the necessity to raise the rent every year and felt there could be more vacancies due to the increased rent.

Bob Pulkinen, Washington Manor resident, asked the Council to reconsider the increased rent, as many residents are living with disabilities and on fixed incomes.

Debbie Perslin, Washington Manor resident, stated it was disconcerting to hear about the rent increase shortly after moving in and asked the City Council to not price them out.

Christine Springhetti, Washington Manor resident, requested that the Council raise the rent by the flat \$15 per month, if they were going to increase the rent.

The residents were told that the increased rent would fund the repainting and carpet replacement in nine apartments, as well as replacement of the appliances. There are also plans to replace the carpet in the hallway on one floor in the Washington Manor. It was noted that the City of Virginia has been subsidizing the Washington Manor on an annual basis. Concern was expressed on increasing the rent too high that it jeopardizes the occupancy.

Councillors Baribeau and Russo rescinded the previous motion.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve a 1.5 percent increase in the Washington Manor rent, effective January 1, 2013.

Ayes: Councillors Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Russo - 5

Nays: Acting Mayor Cuffe – 1

Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Russo to approve the proposed 2013 budget for the Washington Manor, contingent upon revising the rent to include a one and one-half percent increase and calculating a four percent increase in the steam budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Sipola to authorize the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to utilize one apartment for guests of the Washington Manor, and up to two apartments for use by hospital patients' family members. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to accept the preliminary 2013 budget for the City Assessor, contingent upon review of the entire budget. Councillors Ralston and Littlewolf withdrew their motion and support.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to table all of the preliminary 2013 budgets for the City Assessor, Police Department, Fire Department, Park/Recreation Department, until all budgets are reviewed and the final budget is determined.

Ayes: Councillors Baribeau, Sipola – 2

Nays: Councillors Russo, Littlewolf, Ralston, Acting Mayor Cuffe - 4

Motion failed.

Moved by Russo and supported by Littlewolf to approve the preliminary budgets for the City Assessor, Police Department, Fire Department and Park/Recreation Department in one motion, after the Acting Mayor reads through the itemized budgets for each department. Motion carried.

Acting Mayor Cuffe read the proposed 2013 budgets for the following departments:

1.	City Assessor	\$ 223,755.00
2.	Police Department	\$2,262,965.00
3.	Fire Department	\$ 902,368.00
4.	Ambulance	\$2,038,590.00
5.	Fire Hall Building	\$ 10,200.00
6.	Emergency Management	\$ 38,000.00
7.	Library	\$ 872,694.00
8.	Recreation Department	\$ 559,845.00
9.	Park Department	\$ 733,553.00

Moved by Russo and supported by Littlewolf to accept the preliminary budgets for the departments, as listed above, contingent upon final review of the entire budget.

Ayes: Councillors Littlewolf, Ralston, Sipola, Russo, Acting Mayor Cuffe – 5

Nays: Councillor Baribeau - `

Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to accept the bid from Joe Sopp, in the amount of \$6,150.00, to purchase the 1990 Komatsu Loader. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to sell the following surplus equipment through an alternative bid/auction process:

- 1990 International 2554 - 4 x 2 truck chassis
- 1991 International 4099 - 4 x 2 truck chassis
- 8 foot Falls grader dozer blade, front mount
- 1996 Ford F-350 4-door crew cab, with lift gate and fiberglass topper

Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Baribeau to approve the travel request for Steve Estey and Joe Broneak, Police Department, to attend the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety Seminar, to be held October 21-23, 2012, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Motion carried.

City Attorney Butorac reviewed the options to fill the vacant Mayor position. The City Council must declare the vacancy and, within thirty days, appoint a person to fill the unexpired term or set a date to hold a special election. City Attorney Butorac also stated a Primary Election is not required for a Special Election.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the City Council should not have the power to appoint someone to the Mayor position.

Councillor Sipola disagreed with the City Attorney on the interpretation of the City Charter and stated special elections are not held to fill vacancies for the Mayor or City Council. Councillor Sipola also stated the City Council has thirty days to appoint someone, once the vacancy is declared by the City Council, and recommended that the vacancy be declared at the October 23rd meeting.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to table the vacant Mayor position until the October 23, 2012, City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston noted a correction in the first variance that was approved for Phyllis Hokkanen.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to approve the corrected variance for Phyllis Hokkanen:

- A 3.4 foot variance to the required 8 foot setback on the East property line, in order to construct a 28' x 28' garage, 4.6 feet from the East property line, contingent upon the Utility Obstruction

Agreement being submitted.

Motion carried.

Acting Mayor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Dedication of the Children's Memorial Park will be held at 2:30 P.M. on Sunday, October 21st.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Care Partners have received a \$75,000 grant to provide financial relief to families that are faced with breast cancer.
- Three public meetings will be held at 6:30 P.M. at the Miners Memorial Building to obtain input on the future of Virginia's parks and trails:
 1. Northern third of City Tuesday, October 16th
 2. Central third of City Thursday, October 18th
 3. Southern third of City Tuesday, October 23rd
- Applications for commission openings will be accepted through November 15th for the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority, Municipal Cable Commission, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Park/Recreation Commission and Human Rights Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 23, 2012.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE
Acting Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk