

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JULY 24, 2012**

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 by Baribeau to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes:
  - a. Regular Meeting held June 26, 2012.
  - b. Special Meeting held July 11, 2012.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 12-014 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve renewal of 2 AM Optional Liquor for the Iron Range Corporation, d/b/a The Mirage, 509 Chestnut Street.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 12145, authorizing execution of Amendment to Surface Lease 13497 with RGGGS Land & Minerals, Ltd. to operate and maintain a water drainage ditch.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 12146, approving Premises Permit Application for the Pratt Volden Mickleson Anderson American Legion Post 239 at the Magic Bar

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Mitch Okerstrom, CEO, Fergus Pump, was present and noted their bid included lime stabilization. Their bid could possibly be reduced if the lime is not required. Mayor Peterson reviewed the email from Susan Danzl, SEH, Inc., which stated the issue should be addressed at a later time as it is a separate issue.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 12147, accepting the bid from A-1 Services, Inc., in the amount of \$.185 per gallon, for sludge removal services from the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12148, authorizing submission of an application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for a Redevelopment Grant for the former Staver Foundry site. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson stated Brian Palokangas was present regarding his request for variances and stated the item was not on the agenda because a letter had not been received from the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to approve the following variances for Brian Palokangas to construct a garage at 1228 20<sup>th</sup> Street South, contingent upon approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- 5.4 foot variance to the required 20 foot front yard setback, in order to construct a new front entry 14.6 feet from the North (street) property line.
- Variance from City Code Section 11.30, A.5, to allow for a second accessory structure (private garage) in a residential district.
- 4 foot variance to the required 8 foot side yard setback on the West property line, in order to construct a private garage.

- 200 square foot variance to the maximum 1,000 square foot allowable for accessory structures, in order to have a total of 1,200 square feet of accessory structures.

Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the minutes from the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting that was held on July 11, 2012, to discuss the proposed Affiliation and Lease Agreement with Essentia Health and stated the City Council should be voting on the issue in August.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to approve the minutes from the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on July 11, 2012. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on July 17, 2012.

Moved Baribeau and supported by Ralston to change the wording on the loading zone sign currently located at 315 Chestnut Street to “10 minute parking – Monday through Friday”, relocate the sign in front of the flower planter and send a letter to the businesses to explain the need for the signage. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to table the request from Aszendrops Coffee Shop for a ten minute parking sign in the 100 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North until the establishment is open. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Public Works Department will review the excess water issue in the Midway Gardens Addition and make a recommendation to the Street/Alley Committee to alleviate the issue.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Russo to authorize Nikki LaCoursiere and Carolyn Renn to hold a Pro-Life March on Chestnut Street on Saturday, October 20, 2012, beginning at 10:00 A.M., contingent upon them coordinating the barricades with the Public Works Department without incurring overtime. Motion carried.

City Operations Director Tourville stated SEH Engineering will provide the preliminary work, at no cost to the City, to relocate the utilities along the Highway 53 corridor between Eveleth and Virginia.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee will continue to explore options to alleviate the feral cat issue.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to request the City Attorney to review the memorandum from a former Fire Chief to use the Uniform Fire Code criteria for recreational fires within the City and provide a recommendation on creating a City ordinance for the next Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Public Works Department has been requested to provide a recommendation to make the path in the area of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South and 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue (near the Cedars Condos) less accessible to four wheelers.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on July 17, 2012.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to internally post the Records Management Technician position for the Police Department. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on expanding the hours of the Information Window from 8:00 A.M. until at least 5:00 P.M.

Councillor Russo stated the Fire Chief was directed to contact the neighboring cities and move forward with a combined Fire Marshall position, contingent upon the feasibility of funding the position.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to refer the replacement of the civil defense sirens to the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on July 17, 2012.

Moved by Russo and supported by Baribeau to request Springsted to submit a proposal and scope of work to provide a long range financial plan for the City of Virginia. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to accept the revised quote from Tech Sales Co., in the amount of \$4,402.18, for the purchase of a weather station, including training, shipping and tax. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to authorize the Engineering Department to obtain at least two quotes to investigate the petroleum related tank basins associated with the former Troy Building, as required by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to adopt Resolution No. 12149, approving Change Order No. 1 to increase the contract with Hibbing Excavating, Inc., by the amount of \$31,640.00, and approving Final Pay Request #3, in the amount of \$18,112.25, for C.P. 6-11 - Recycled Materials Crushing Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 122150, approving Change Order No. 2 to increase the contract with Rice Lake Construction, in the amount of \$7,671.00, for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12151, approving a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Babbitt Ambulance Service for the period ending December 31, 2013, which will be renewable on an annual basis. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12152, approving a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Babbitt Ambulance Service for the period ending December 31, 2013, which will be renewable on an annual basis. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 12153, accepting the proposal from Custom Fire Apparatus, Inc., in the amount of \$410,724.00, to build a custom fire truck body, through the HGAC purchasing contract. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 12154, accepting the quote from Lundgren Motors, in the amount of \$27,303.92, to purchase a 2013 Ford Police Interceptor. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Baribeau to move forward with the purchase of a new computer server for the Police Department. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Operations Director to request the St. Louis County Land Department to address the blight situation with the tax forfeited property legally described as Lot 5 and north 21 feet of Lot 6, Block 11, Original Addition. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Baribeau to send two representatives from the City of Virginia to attend a trade show, in Las Vegas, Nevada, to be held January 15-18, 2013, to promote economic development, as requested by the IRRRB. Motion carried, with Mayor Peterson abstaining.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 12155, accepting the proposal from Time Clock Plus, in the amount of \$10,135.35, for a time clock system for the Fire Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12156, accepting proposal from Springsted, Inc., to prepare a Fire and Emergency Medical Services Analysis, at a cost of \$14,250.00, plus out-of-pocket expenses. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 12157, to designate the City of Virginia's December 31, 2012, General Fund Balances. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on July 24, 2012.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to authorize the City Operations Director to begin the process to seek State bonding funds to complete the Miners Memorial Renovation Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Ralston to move forward with Solar Power Projects Options 1, 2C and 3B, as provided by Silicon Energy, and request a scope of work and summary of energy savings. The projects would utilize the \$250,000 IRRRB grant that was received for the greenhouse. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Ralston to work with the Department of Public Utilities to determine a fee structure for photovoltaic rebates. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to authorize Rice Lake Construction to proceed with the increased piping size for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, with the formal change order presented at a future meeting. Motion carried.

The City Operations Director was directed to review the sewer rates once the improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant have been completed.

Councillor Cuffe gave an update on the status of the Veterans Memorial and stated the memorial will arrive at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Cuffe thanked Badger Transportation for donating the transportation to deliver the statute, Lakehead Constructors for donating the labor to install the statute and Lenci Enterprises for donating the equipment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, August 16, 2012.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk