

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 28, 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, Baribeau, Sipola, Russo, Mayor Peterson - 6

Absent: Councillor Ralston - 1

Mayor Peterson 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 August 16, 2012.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 12-016 – Schedule of Bills.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Dan Lubahn appeared in place of Paul Maki to represent the Northwoods TEA Party to request permission to hold an outdoor town meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Park from 12:00 Noon until 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, October 20, 2012. The meeting would be an open forum, hosted by the Northwoods TEA Party, and open to political candidates, inspirational speakers and musical acts.

Councillor Ralston entered the meeting at 6:34 P.M.

Mr. Lubahn stated the Northwoods TEA Party desires to strengthen the constitution by monitoring actions of public officials.

Mayor Peterson expressed concern on utilizing the Veterans Memorial Park as an arena for a political rally and recommended that Olcott Park be utilized for the town meeting.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12167, authorizing the submission and acceptance of an Iron Range Resources Grant for the infrastructure and site work for the expansion of Sundell Eye Associates and infrastructure to 4th Street North for two proposed developments. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the request from Carly Gobats, owner of The 218, to hold a fundraiser for Bill's House on September 29, 2012, at the City property located at 220 Chestnut Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Sipola to approve the Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Holy Spirit Church for September 29, 2012. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Ralston to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for the Holy Spirit Church for the Marquette Catholic School for a bingo on September 29, 2012. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 21, 2012.

Moved by Russo and supported by Ralston to table the insurance for the memorial parks until further information is obtained by the City Operations Director, City Clerk and Insurance Agent of Record regarding valuations and estimated costs to insure. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to authorize Service Solutions to place an order with the telephone carrier to move the three telephone lines to the Department of Public Utilities telephone bill. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to authorize Service Solutions to request the City's current telephone carrier to tag the five unidentified phone lines and direct DCR Communications to determine their use while installing the new telephone system. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Russo to adopt Resolution No. 12168, accepting the proposal from DCR Communications, Inc., to replace the existing telephone system with the Avaya IP Office system, at a cost of \$24,997.74, and to service the telephone system. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 12169, accepting the proposal from Enventis Telecom to provide telephone service for the City of Virginia offices. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to table the invoice from SEH Engineering, Inc., for the ALTA survey for the P & H Site, until further information is received from the engineering firm. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to table the Resolution to purchase of tax forfeited land until additional information is obtained from St. Louis County. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to approve the travel request for Dawn Heisel, Library, to attend the MN Library Association Conference, to be held October 3-5, 2012, in St. Paul, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Russo to approve the travel request for Bill Hennis, Lead Engineer, to attend the Asbestos Inspector Refresher Course, to be held October 4-5, 2012, in White Bear Lake, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported by Sipola to approve the travel request for approve Sue Lien, Police Department, to attend the BCA Criminal Justice Conference, to be held September 10-12, 2012, in St. Cloud, MN. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on August 21, 2012.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to authorize the Engineering Department to determine the specifications to reduce the cul-de-sac radius on 18th Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Russo to approve transferring the City owned parcel of the former Staver Foundry property to Tritec. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Russo to authorize the City Attorney to determine the ownership and title for the abandoned railroad right-of-way that runs through the remaining four parcels of former Staver Foundry property. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to request City staff to formulate a cost estimate to prepare a conceptual design for the area adjacent to the P & H Minepro site. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on August 21, 2012.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to begin the process to hire two additional police officers, in addition to the two officers that were previously approved. Motion carried.

The Human Resource Director was directed to maintain a seniority roster for the Police Department to assist with the budget process with future retirements.

Moved by Russo and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 12170, appointing Dennis Benz to the Police Chief position, effective August 27, 2012, with the annual salary set at step eight of the salary matrix, subject to a six month probationary period and the terms and conditions as outlined in the agreement with the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12171, expanding the confidential Data Entry/HR Generalist Assistant to a full time position, effective October 1, 2012, and approving a salary increase from \$16.00/hour to \$20.25/hour, with a review after a ninety day probationary period. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Russo stated the Personnel Committee agreed to provide the City Attorney, City Operations Director and Finance/HR Director with salary increases effective January 1st of each year, as follows: 2012 - 2%; 2013 - 2.5%; 2014 – 2.5%.

Moved by Russo and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 12172, approving 2012, 2013 and 2014 salary increases for the City Attorney, City Operations Director and Finance/Human Resource/Safety Director. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Russo stated the Personnel Committee heard a class action grievance from AFSCME Local 454, claiming the employer negotiated with an individual employee and offered benefits that exceed the contract. The Personnel Committee evaluated the grievance and agreed to concede AFSCME's position on the grievance. AFSCME was also notified that the Confidential Police Administrative Assistant position will be expanded and re-evaluated to become a confidential position.

Councillor Cuffe thanked everyone involved in the dedication of the Veterans Memorial and for their commitment to the Veterans Memorial project.

Councillor Littlewolf gave an update on the summer reading program at the Virginia Public Library and reported that forty-six percent of the Parkview and James Madison students participated in the program. The annual book/bake sale will be held at the Library on September 19th.

Mayor Peterson stated a Special Council Meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, to consider the reissuance of the outstanding Hospital bonds and to vote on the Affiliation and Lease Agreement with St. Mary's Duluth Clinic Health System, d/b/a Essential Health East and EH-Virginia. Mayor Peterson recommended holding off on advertising for the vacancy on the Hospital Commission until after the Special Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 11, 2012.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk