

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, NOVEMBER 26, 2013**

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

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Russo - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Russo opened the public hearing at 6:30 PM. City Administrator Tourville stated the purpose of the public hearing was to consider applying for Community Development Block Grant, in the amount of \$200,000, for the proposed demolition of the former Staver Foundry. The project meets the slum, blight and safety grant criteria. Councillor Sipola stated the land would be available for repurposing, once the building is cleaned up. City Administrator Tourville stated the land could be used for an additional industrial area. Councillor Cuffe stated the next step would be for the City to make a presentation to the CDBG board in January of 2014.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 13140, authorizing submission of an application for a Community Development Block Grant for the proposed demolition of the former Staver Foundry. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to approve the Consent Agenda, as

follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held November 12, 2013.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 13-021 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Mesabi Range Student Advocates for Human Services for raffle to be held on February 4, 2014.
4. Approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for Virginia Band Boosters for bingo to be held on February 3, 2014.

Motions carried and Resolution adopted unanimously.

Dave Lislegard, Aurora City Council, stated he is requesting the cities of the Iron Range to support the Jobs for Minnesotans, which is a third party that speaks and educates the public on the potential of the copper nicking mining industry. Mr. Lislegard presented a resolution that was adopted by the City of Aurora and requested the Virginia City Council to adopt the same resolution, as it would benefit the region, state and country.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 13141, supporting the emerging strategic metals mining industry in Northeastern Minnesota and Jobs for Minnesotans. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 13142, approving the transfer of property located at 312 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to Habitat for Humanity. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 13143, adopting budget for year 2014. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 13144, setting the final tax levy for 2013, payable in 2014. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on November 19, 2013.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to refer the proposal from St. Louis County to provide assessor services to a Personnel Committee-of-the-Whole meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to table the request from the Heart of the Continent Partnership to contribute funding for the National Geographic Geotourism Initiative for further review. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt an Ordinance, including addendum with exhibits, granting a franchise to Mediacom Minnesota, LLC, to construct, operate and maintain a cable communications system in the City of Virginia; setting forth conditions accompanying the grant of franchise; providing for regulation and use of the system; and prescribing penalties for the violation of its provisions. Ordinance adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to request the Cable Commission to attend the Finance Committee meeting to be held on December 3, 2013, to discuss the PEG (Public, Educational and Governmental) fees, as part of the Cable Communications Franchise Ordinance with Mediacom. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Steve Estey, Police Department, to attend the Standardized Field Sobriety Testing, which will be held January 26-30, 2014, in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve utilizing the Homestead

Property Tax Excess Funds for the following two projects:

- Reconstruction of Fourth Street North.
- Site improvements for the Northern Heights Industrial Park.

Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to approve the travel request for Bill Cole, Engineering Department, to attend the International Code Council, which will be held February 3-7, 2014, in Chaska, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the renewal of the liquor licenses for the year 2014, contingent upon meeting the licensing requirements. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported that the Public Works Department removed the time capsule from the Library and no additional action is necessary.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on November 19, 2013, to discuss the staffing options for the Fire/Ambulance Department.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to set a Personnel Committee meeting for Tuesday, December 3, 2013, immediately following the Finance Committee, to continue discussions on the staffing options for the Fire/Ambulance Department. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe stated he attended the Public Utilities Commission meetings on November 25, 2013 and reported on the following items:

- Budget was set for 2014.
- No increase in utility rates is planned for 2014 at this time, but the issue will be revisited if necessary.
- No action was taken on the request to reduce the demand charge for the American Legion. Representative Metsa is working on obtaining funding from the Federal level or IRRRB to assist in keeping the American Legion open. Public Utilities employees will also determine if they could help the American Legion lower their electrical costs.

- Jeff Lytle, Supervisor of Customer Relations, resigned and Mary Johnson was promoted to the position.
- The Public Utilities is currently utilizing both the wood and coal boilers.

Councillor Cuffe congratulated Lt. Dan Hanson and Detective Bruce Hedstrom on their recent retirements from the Police Department.

City Administrator Tourville stated he and Mayor Russo attended an MPCA meeting regarding the imposed requirements for phosphorus and sulfate standards. The MPCA is working hard to make sure grant funds are available to meet the required mandates.

Mayor Russo reported on the following issues:

- Residents are thankful for the tree trimming around Bailey's and Silver Lakes and stated the employees deserved to be commended for the efforts.
- Angel of Hope Committee will hold a candlelight service at 6:30 P.M. on December 6, 2013, at the Methodist Church.
- Library will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on December 5, 2013, at the Holy Spirit Church.
- Thanked Rick Puhek for his service as City Assessor and congratulated him on his upcoming retirement.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

LOUIS J. RUSSO  
Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk