

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, SEPTEMBER 10, 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 read a letter from Dennis Benz, Police Chief, documenting the action taken by Cindy Forseen and her granddaughter, Lauren Devich, when they noticed a residential fire on August 16, 2013, and the actions taken by Lieutenant Nickila and Officers Estey and Thomsen upon their arrival at the scene of the fire. Chief Benz recommended that all parties involved be recognized for their heroic action.

Mayor Russo read a Proclamation recognizing Cindy Forseen and her granddaughter, Lauren Devich, as citizen heroes for taking the appropriate quick action on August 16, 2013, to rescue three citizens from a residential fire.

Mayor Russo presented Officer Eric Thomsen, Officer Steve Estey and Lieutenant Chad Nickila with medals of valor for their efforts taken in rescuing three people from a residential fire in the City of Virginia on August 16, 2013.

Police Chief Benz stressed the importance of citizens calling 911 to help others and thanked Cindy Forseen, Lauren Devich, Officer Thomsen, Officer Estey, Lieutenant Nickila and the entire Fire Department for their assistance with the residential fire.

Bea Schmidt appeared and thanked the Buildings and Grounds Committee for inviting Shawn McGovern to give a presentation on the Duluth rental and crime issues. Ms. Schmidt stated Virginia needs to preserve the character of our neighborhoods and deal with the rundown neighborhoods by holding the landlords more accountable. Ms. Schmidt felt Virginia has a lot to offer with the beautiful memorial sites and hopes that something can be done to make Virginia the “Queen City” again.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held August 27, 2013.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 13-016 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Holy Spirit Church for September 28, 2013.
4. Approve renewal of 2 AM Liquor License for QCSP, Inc., d/b/a Queen City Sports Palace, 523 Chestnut Street.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Gary Ulman, Manager, Eveleth-Virginia Airport, was present and stated the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority received a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, in the amount of \$2,073,696, to rehabilitate Runway 9/27, construct Taxiways A, B and C and rehabilitate Runway 14/32. Mr. Ulman stated the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority has funds in reserves to cover their share of the grant.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Ralston to adopt Resolution No. 13118, authorizing the execution of the Grant Agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, for the Eveleth-Virginia Municipal Airport to rehabilitate Runway 9/27, construct Taxiways A, B and C, and rehabilitate Runway 14/32. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Ralston to accept the resignation from Connie Christenson from the Virginia Economic Development Association and send a letter of thanks. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve the request from Carly Gobats, The 218, to use the City owned property located at 216 Chestnut Street on September 28, 2013, for their annual barbeque fundraiser. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve a 280 square foot variance to the required 1,000 square feet for an accessory building to allow Craig Aluni, 1216 20th Street South, to build a new 1,280 square foot garage, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole held on September 3, 2013.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to allow the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce to open the gates to the Mineview-in-the-Sky, contingent upon communicating the hours with the Police Department. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Dan L'Allier, Fire Chief, to attend the Minnesota State Fire Chief's Annual Conference on October 16-19, 2013, in Rochester, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve the travel request for Matt Kelley, Police Department, to attend FTO Basic Certification on October 7-11, 2013, in Roseville Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to deny the travel request for Cheryl Weappa to attend the Minnesota Assessment Administration, October 6-10, 2013 in Plymouth, Minnesota, due to the certification not being required until the year 2019. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to remove the revisions to the Virginia-Eveleth Economic Development Authority's joint powers agreement from the Finance Committee agenda until the City of Eveleth provides additional information. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to table the Professional Service Agreement for a Tennis Pro until a candidate is selected. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the travel request for Dawn Heisel, Library, to attend the Minnesota Library Association Conference on October 9-11, 2013, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Susan Hoppe, Library, to attend the Minnesota Library Association Conference on October 9-11, 2013, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 3, 2013.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to direct the City Attorney to modify the City of Proctor's ordinance regarding the Sale, Possession, Transfer, Manufacture of Synthetic or Alternative Drugs to suit the City of Virginia and submit to the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee for further review at the meeting scheduled for September 17, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to refer the Chestnut Street parking issue to a future Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting and request the Public Works Department to submit a recommendation on solving the problem. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 4, 2013.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to address loitering, soliciting and panhandling and submit to the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee for further review at the meeting scheduled for September 17, 2013. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf stated she will report at the next City Council meeting on the discussion that took place on the proposed rental house code at the Buildings and Grounds Committee that was held on September 10, 2013.

Councillor Baribeau reported the westerly option to relocate Highway 53 has been removed from the draft Environmental Impact Study and the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be considering five routes.

Mayor Russo appointed Kim Culbert-Blaeser to the Virginia Economic Development Authority for the unexpired term ending December 31, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to authorize the City Clerk to advertise for the openings on the City Commissions. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12 P.M. with the next regular meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk