

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, SEPTEMBER 24, 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

Virginia/Britt Boy Scout Troup #129 presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli 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. 13-017 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve renewal of 2 AM Liquor License for Flaimer’s, Inc., d/b/a Flaimer’s, 127 Chestnut Street.

Motion carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Frank Peterson was present to discuss the blighted tax forfeit property located at 602 15th Street North, which adjoins his property, and stated the house has been vacant for numerous years and falls under blight. Issues include broken windows, leaking steam, collapsed sheet rock and plaster, mold and siding that is falling off the house. Mr. Peterson expressed concern regarding the health problems associated with mold and further stated the electricity is still on and all the neighbors are

afraid of a fire. Mr. Peterson asked the City to get involved with St. Louis County and demolish the house. City Administrator Tourville stated he will be meeting with representatives of the St. Louis County Land Department on September 25th and invited the neighbors to attend the meeting. Mayor Russo asked Councillor Cuffe to contact the Department of Public Utilities and verify that the electricity and steam have been shut off to the property.

Dean Lindberg was also present and owns the property on the other side of the blighted tax forfeit property. Mr. Lindberg stated the County Commissioner promised that the house would be torn down by June 15th, but nothing has been done. He has also called the Police Department numerous times because a former renter was breaking into the house. Mr. Lindberg stated he can smell the mold and expressed concern for his three children. Both of the adjoining property owners stated they would be interested in purchasing and splitting the property.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a purchase agreement with the owners of the properties that adjoin the blighted property located at 602 15th Street North. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 13119, approving the transfer of City property to Sundell Eye Properties, LLC, for the development of a surgery center. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to refer the revised Emergency Operations Plan to the City Council meeting scheduled for October 8, 2013, to allow additional time for review and comment. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on September 10, 2013, and highlighted some items that were included in the presentation on the Duluth Rental Code and Crime-Free Multi-Housing Program.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on September 17, 2013.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to increase the budget appropriation from \$7,500 to \$9,000 for the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority for the year 2014, contingent upon the City of Eveleth approving an increase as required by the Joint Powers Agreement. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to table the transfer of the property located at 312 5th Avenue North until further discussions are held with St. Louis County and Habitat for Humanity. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 13120, accepting the proposal from Fergus Power and Pump, for a maximum amount of \$25,370, to load, haul and land apply up to 1,000 wet tons of biosolids at the MPCA permitted U-Tac Mine site. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 13121, accepting the grant from the State of Minnesota, through the Department of Natural Resources, for a 2014 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to approve the membership dues with the League of Minnesota Cities, in the amount of \$7,737, for the year beginning September 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 13122, accepting the proposal from Skubic Brothers, Inc., through the State Contact, in the amount of \$99,029.90, to purchase one 2014 International Cab and Chassis for a new recycling truck. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 13123, accepting the proposal from MacQueen Equipment, Inc., through the National Joint Powers Alliance, in the amount of \$124,361.20, to purchase one Heil body for a new recycling truck.. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to donate the seven obsolete light standards to the Flying Lead Saddle Club, contingent upon the City Attorney preparing an agreement to release the City from any liability. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 13124, accepting the quote from E.H. Lawrence Co., Inc., in the amount of \$26,740, to repair the East side of the Library roof. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Public Works Department to sell the 1988 International 8 c.y. tandem dump truck, with sludge body. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 13125, accepting the Network Services Agreement with the Northeast Service Cooperative for a period of sixty months, effective November 1, 2013, including a one-time upfront payment for the first five years and an option to extend for an additional five year period. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to establish an Enterprise Fund for the Ambulance Service as of January 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 17, 2013

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to place the proposed Ordinance banning the sale, possession, transfer or manufacture of synthetic or alternative drugs on the City Council desks and accept as the first reading. Motion carried.

City Attorney recommended that a new committee be formed to deal with the administrative penalties for violation of the ordinance. A lengthy discussion was held on the fines and enforcement of the penalties included in the proposed ordinance to ban the sale of synthetic or alternative drugs. City Attorney Butorac recommended that the proposed ordinance be further reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for October 1st.

City Attorney Butorac reviewed the proposed ordinance to address public nuisances within the City of Virginia and recommended that the ordinance be reviewed further at the next Finance Committee meeting. City Attorney Butorac also stated he will prepare a separate ordinance to delete the sections of the City Code that are duplicated in the public nuisance ordinance.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to place the proposed Ordinance Creating Chapter 10, Section 10.37 of the City Code entitled “Public Nuisances within the City of Virginia, Minnesota” on the City Council desks and accept as the first reading. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting and stated the utility staff prepared maps to show the options to reroute Highway 53, which will be used in the presentations during the legislative bonding tour.

Councillor Sipola stated the Ad Hoc Ambulance Committee has reviewed the draft HIPPA manual and referred it to the Public Safety Committee for a recommendation.

Councillor Littlewolf invited the Council and public to attend the Community Dialogue on Synthetic Drugs, which has been scheduled at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 25th, at the Iron Range Rehab Auditorium.

City Administrator Tourville requested permission to submit a 2014 bonding proposal, in the amount of \$1.1 million, for the Northern Heights Industrial Park.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 13126, authorizing submission of a request to the State of Minnesota for a 2014 Capital Appropriation for the Northern Heights Industrial Park. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Russo thanked the Virginia/Britt Boy Scout Troup #129 for performing the flag ceremony and attending the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 8, 2013.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk