

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, NOVEMBER 25, 2014**

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.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to open the public hearing to review the projects for the 2015 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Motion carried.

Mayor Russo reviewed the CDBG application to demolish ten properties within the City limits to address blight and deteriorating structures that impact community and economic development. The City is applying for \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds to help partially offset the demolition costs. There were no comments from the public.

Mayor Russo reviewed the CDBG application for infrastructure improvements on Second Street South, from Third Avenue to Fifth Avenue. Improvements include replacement of water, sanitary and storm sewers and associated street reconstruction. The City is applying for \$250,000 in CDBG funds. There were no comments from the public.

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

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14261, authorizing submission of an application for a Community Development Block Grant for the proposed demolition of ten properties. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Ralston to adopt Resolution No. 14262, authorizing submission of an application for a Community Development Block Grant for infrastructure improvements on Second Street South, from Third Avenue to Fifth Avenue. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston removed Item 7 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 7.

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held November 12, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-021 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 14263, ordering the razing of a hazardous building-garage located at 610 6<sup>th</sup> Street South.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 14264, ordering the razing of a hazardous building-garage located at 302 11<sup>th</sup> Street South.
5. Approve renewal of Optional 2 AM Liquor License for Flaimer's, Inc., d/b/a Flaimer's, located at 127 Chestnut Street.
6. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Whitetails Unlimited, Minnesota Northeast Deer Camp to hold raffle on March 7, 2015.
7. Approve Pay Estimate #2 to Lenci Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$21,869, for the City Hall step repair project.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 7 on the Consent Agenda, it was moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve Pay Estimate #2 to Lenci Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$21,869, for the City Hall step repair project. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14265, instructing the District Judge to reappoint Larry Cuffe, Jr., to the Charter Commission. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to set the reorganizational meeting for 5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 2, 2015. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on November 18, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 14266, accepting the proposal from Nortrax, through the State Cooperative Purchasing Program, in the amount of \$237,803, less a \$9,500 deduction if a tier 3 engine is available. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Bill Hennis, Lead Engineer, to attend the Institute for Building Officials, which will be held January 12-16, 2015, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to invite Brandon Larson, St. Louis County Tax Manager, to the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for 9:00 A.M. on December 2, 2014, to discuss the Fiscal Disparity Program. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to invite Paul Steinman of Springsted, Inc., to the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for December 2, 2014, to discuss debt service and tax abatement. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14267, to enter into an Employee Assistance Agreement with The Sand Creek Group, Ltd., at a cost of \$20 per employee. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Administrator to draft a Development Agreement with Tritec for an expansion project, including the conveyance of a portion of the former Staver Foundry property and contingent upon holding the City harmless for any environmental corrections. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Administrator to draft a purchase agreement with Dr. Miskovich for three City lots adjacent to his dental practice on Fourth Street South for an expansion project. The agreement would require a \$5,000 non-refundable down payment and the City holding the property for a two year period, with a one year extension, if necessary. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 14268, authorizing the Mayor and City Administrator to execute the contract with the Mesabi Humane Society for animal control services for the year 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Clerk to process the liquor license applications, contingent upon meeting the licensing requirements. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to add a ten percent late fee in 2015 for the liquor license applications that are not received by the designated due date. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the Fire Department staff to participate in the "Stuff the Ambulance" fundraising event scheduled for November 28, 29 and 30, 2014. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee of the Whole meeting held on November 25, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Attorney and City Administrator to offer Jim Glowacki a right of first refusal for the City property located between the

union hall and dental practice on Fourth Street North for the development of a professional office building, contingent upon a 90 day response time if another proposal is received and confirmation of the property description and construction timeline. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Public Works Department to advertise the sale of two 1988 dump trucks. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on November 25, 2014.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14269, approving and authorizing City Attorney Thomas Butorac to enter into the PERA Phased Retirement Option (PRO) Program, authorized by Minnesota Statutes, Section 353.371, Subd. 1. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to authorize the Finance/HR Director to modify the Hiring Policy, as noted in the Personnel Committee minutes, and review at the next Personnel Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the items that were reviewed at the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on November 24, 2014:

- No rate increases are predicted for 2015.
- Water conservation plan will be in place by January 1, 2015.
- Options are being considered to provide utilities to the Midway area due to the realignment of Highway 53.
- Working on compliance of the mercury limits.
- Main line boiler turbine is expected to be on line by the end of January.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Park/Recreation Commission meeting held on November 19, 2014 and stated volunteers are needed as skating rink attendants at the Ridgewood, Jefferson and Midway rinks.

City Clerk Roskoski stated applications will be received until 4:30 P.M., November 26, 2014, for the Eveleth/Virginia Airport Authority, Virginia Economic Development Authority, Cable Commission, Human Rights Commission and Park/Recreation Commission. Applications are also being received for the Charter Commission until 4:30 P.M., December 8, 2014.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Public Safety Committee will be reviewing new criteria for the Neighborhood Watch Program. Councillor Littlewolf also encouraged the neighborhood groups to meet with the Police Chief.

Stephanie Strand was present and expressed concerns regarding the lack of communication with the Police Department and the drug use in the community. Councillor Cuffe replied that the Police Department can only provide a limited amount of information if there is an active investigation. Once a case is closed, all the police reports are public information, unless it is blocked by court order.

Mayor Russo reported on the following items:

- “Stuff the Ambulance Toy Drive Fundraising Event” will be at McDonald’s from 8 A.M to 10 P.M., November 28-30, 2014.
- Angel of Hope 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Candlelight Service will be held at 6:30 P.M. on December 6, 2014, at the United Methodist Church.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M. with the next meeting scheduled for 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 16, 2014.

LOUIS J. RUSSO

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

City Clerk