

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 26, 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 Baranzelli to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held August 11, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-015 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, District Eight, to hold a raffle.
4. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for the Quad Cities Rotary Club to hold a raffle.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 14217, approving Premises Permit Application for Chicagami at Uncle Eric's, located at 218 Chestnut Street.

Motion carried and resolutions adopted unanimously.

The following organizations presented donations to the City of Virginia to be used towards the construction of a walking trail around Silver Lake:

- Don Sipola, Virginia Community and Lakes Committee Meeting - \$5,000.
- Dan, Milbridge, Essentia Health ó \$5,000.
- Brian Keute, Linda Scipioni, VRMC Foundation - \$5,000.
- Mike Perala, Virginia Community Foundation - \$5,000.

Steve Johnson, Vice Chairperson, Park/Recreation Commission, was present to review their goals and priorities for the projects within the Park/Recreation Department.

- Seeking grants to repair the Olcott Park fountain.
- Seeking estimates and donations to recreate the Olcott Park archway sign to the park entrance.
- Clean up the trees and brush that are hiding the original stonework and wrought iron gates at Olcott Park.
- Restore and maintain the rock walls at Olcott Park and Golf Course.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14218, approving the terms of Governmental Housing Refunding Notes, Series 2014 (City of Virginia, Minnesota General Obligation). Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to approve the request from the Sportspage Bar for an off-premise permit to serve liquor at the Miners Memorial Buildings for the St. Michael's Chili Feed Fundraiser from 4:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on September 18, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14219, accepting the bid from Lenci Enterprises, in the amount of \$74,700.00, for the Virginia City Hall Exterior Stair Repair Project, south stairs. Resolution adopted, with Councillor Ralston abstaining.

Councillor Baribeau requested that the repair of the City Hall west stairway be included in the 2015 budget process.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Cuffe to reschedule the first City Council meeting in November to Wednesday, November 12, 2014, due to the Veterans Day holiday. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 19, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14220, accepting the proposal from Northern States Basement Systems, in the total amount of \$2,380.00, to install drain tile and commercial grade motor into existing sump pit at the Library. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14221, approving Change Order No. 1, to increase the contract with E.H. Lawrence Co., Inc., by \$2,557.60, to repair the roof at the Library. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 14222, accepting the bid from Alliance Steel Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$23,990.00, to demolish the former canine center on Ninth Avenue West. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 14223, accepting the low bid from Ulland Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$311,614.41, for the TH 135 Utility Extension Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14224, approving the Change Order to increase the contract with Graybar Electric Company, Inc., by the amount of \$9,650, for the surveillance camera system. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14225, approving the Mutual Aid Agreement with the Orr Ambulance Service. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14226, approving the Letter of Intercept Agreement with the Orr Ambulance Service. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14227, authorizing submission of an application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for a Park Legacy and/or Regional Park Grant for the Olcott Park fountain. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to obtain a quote to purchase a new mower for the Park Department, prior to the 2015 rate increase. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on August 19, 2014.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to authorize the HRA to obtain a scope of work to rebuild the streets within Pine Mill Court and forward to the Finance Committee to include in the 2015 budget process. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to credit Dr. Tietz and Dr. Sulentich for the outstanding charges for the parking permits for their twelve patient parking spaces in the Northland Parking Lot and designate the spaces as two hour parking for public use. Motion carried. The doctors will continue to pay for the parking spaces in the Northland Parking Lot for their staff.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to reduce the price for the parking permits for the Northland Parking Lot from \$25/month to \$20/month, effective September 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to table the request from St. Louis County to share in the replacement of the sidewalk on the east side of the new County Motor Pool facility and include in the 2015 budget process for the Public Works Department. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to approve the request from the Women of Steel, Local 6115, to hold a 5K Walk/Run in the Park for Breast and Prostate Cancer on September 14, 2014, contingent upon coordinating the event with the Public Works and Police Departments. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve the request from the Arthritis National Research Foundation to hold a Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis 5K Run on June 5, 2015, contingent upon coordinating the event with the Public Works and Police Departments. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to advertise the requirement to install a key lock box on the exterior of structures of commercial and multi-unit residential properties for public safety purposes, with the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee to revisit the lock box issue after January 1, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to accept the grant, in the amount of \$1,000, from the Active Transportation Coalition to be used for the purchase of the rapid flashing beacons that will be installed on Sixth Avenue North at the bike and walking trail crossing. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to table the request from Dawn Cole for residential parking permits until the next Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on August 19, 2014, and reviewed the list of suggestions to reduce blight in the City.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to request the Finance Committee to establish an appropriate fine for businesses if City crews have to clean up debris left on City sidewalks on Chestnut Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to request the Police Chief and Blight Officer to review the City Code that addresses abandoned vehicles and determine if a change is necessary to include a number of vehicles allowed on a property. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to place the policy regarding long grass and blight notifications on the Buildings/Grounds Committee agenda for future review. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Attorney to move forward with condemnation proceedings for the building located at 111 12<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Attorney to move forward with condemnation proceedings for the garage located at 610 6<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Attorney to move forward with condemnation proceedings for the house with the collapsed foundation located at 520 5<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to request the Building Inspector to inspect the property located at 408 7<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Attorney to move forward with condemnation proceedings for the building located at 218 4<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to authorize the City Administrator, Park/Recreation Director, Police Chief and Fire Chief to internally approve requests to hold public events on City property, with the City Council notified of the events. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf reviewed the list of eight buildings that have been demolished by the Public Works Department and commended them for their efforts. Councillor Littlewolf reviewed the list of six buildings that have been prioritized for future demolitions.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to waive the requirement for a written resolution for the following motion. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to approve the sale of the City property that is located adjacent to 1701 Cottage Lane, where a private garage was built, plus an additional five feet, to Steve Leinonen, for a purchase price of one dollar, contingent upon the purchaser paying for the survey and fees to transfer the property. Motion carried. The resolution will be considered for adoption at the next City Council meeting.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to institute a policy that includes a specified completion date for projects in the City contracts, or a completion date in the bidding documents. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to authorize the Mural Committee to use the City Hall Clubroom at 5:30 P.M. on August 27, 2014. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on August 25, 2014, and highlighted the major issues:

- A major breakdown occurred in August that caused significant damage to the turbines. Staff was commended for following the emergency procedures, which reduced additional damage.
- Congratulated Greig Bergman and Jerry Creighton on their retirements.
- Water tower project has been completed, at a cost of \$800,000.
- A one year contract for coal has been negotiated, at a reduced rate.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Park/Recreation Commission meeting held on August 21, 2014 and stated they are working on renovating the entrance and fountain in Olcott Park, and updating the North room at the Miners Memorial Building.

Councillor Baranzelli stated the annual Wellness Fair for City employees will be held on October 22, 2014, at the Miners Memorial Building.

Councillor Sipola stated the Eveleth-Virginia Airport has been closed for two weeks to complete the reconstruction project and will reopen tomorrow.

Discussion was held on the request from the Communities of Distinction program to interview the City of Virginia for their television program, at a cost of \$19,800. The program would be five minutes in length and aired nineteen times.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve the \$19,800 expenditure for the Communities of Distinction television program. The motion and support were withdrawn.

After further discussion, it was moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to authorize the Mayor and City Administrator to further pursue the Communities of Distinction venue and submit a recommendation to the Finance Committee.

Ayes: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Baranzelli, Mayor Russo ó 6

Nays: Councillor Sipola - 1

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 9, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk