

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Sipola and supported by Baribeau to open the public hearing to consider a levy for the benefit of the Virginia Economic Development Authority. Motion carried.

Mayor Russo stated the City Council is proposing a levy, in the amount equal to the lesser of a levy at a rate of 0.01813 percent of taxable market value in the City, or \$64,074 with respect to taxes payable in the calendar year 2015, as allowed in Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.107. The proposed 2015 budget for the Virginia Economic Development Authority was distributed to the City Council. If, after the public hearing, the City Council authorizes the proposed increase, a resolution authorizing the increase shall be published in the official newspaper of the City. If a petition requesting a referendum on the resolution, signed by voters equaling five percent of the votes cast in the last general election, is filed with the City Clerk within 30 days of publication of the resolution, the resolution would not be effective. It was noted that no written comments were received.

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

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 14228, approving a special levy for the Virginia Economic Development Authority for the taxes payable in 2015.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau removed Item 3 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 3, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held August 26, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-016 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Adopt Resolution approving revised Change Order No. 1 to increase the contract with E.H. Lawrence Co., Inc., for the roof repairs at the Virginia Public Library.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 3, Councillor Ralston explained the original change order, in the amount of \$2,557.60, did not include the copper flashing. The revised Change Order No. 1 was increased to \$5,053.60, including in the copper flashing. Councillor Littlewolf stated one half of the Library roof will be completely new and the Library Director will be submitting a request to the Finance Committee to reroof the remaining half in 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14229, approving revised Change Order No. 1 to increase the contract with E.H. Lawrence Co., Inc., by the amount of \$5,053.60, for the roof repairs at the Virginia Public Library and rescinding Resolution No. 14221, adopted on August 26, 2014. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 14230, authorizing the sale of City property that adjoins 1701 Cottage Lane to Steven M. Leinonen, Pamela M. Leinonen, Deborah A. Keating-Babbini, Stephen M. Babbini, Richard A. Leinonen and Carol Ann Leinonen. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 14231, approving the transfer of City property located on Fourth Street North to the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters. Resolution adopted unanimously, with Ralston abstaining.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to approve an 8.84 foot side yard variance to the required 25 foot setback adjacent to the residential use requirement to allow Thrifty White to construct a building at 122 1<sup>st</sup> Street South for commercial use. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Cuffe to approve the variances for John Bouska to construct a building at 101 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South:

1. Approve 20 foot front yard variance from the required 30 foot front yard setback requirement to construct a building 10 feet from the South (2<sup>nd</sup> Street South) property line.
2. Approve a 10 foot rear yard variance to the required 20 foot rear yard setback requirement to construct a building 10 feet from the rear (alley) property line.
3. Approve a 15 foot side yard variance to the required 25 foot setback adjacent to the residential use requirement to construct a building 10 feet from the West property line.

Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14232, approving the extension of Facilities Use Agreement with Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, for the Quad Cities Tennis for All Facility, in the amount of \$6,000, for the period July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on September 2, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Chad Nickila, Police Department, to attend the CLEO and Command Academy, to be held December 1-5, 2014, in Camp Ripley, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Attorney's office to obtain a credit card, with a credit limit of \$500, to pay fees related to property transactions. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14233, accepting the quote from MTI Distributing, in the amount of \$54,058.88 for a Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D for the Park Department, with payment made in 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 14234, accepting quotes from MTI Distributing for the following equipment for the Park Department, with the payment made in 2015:

- Toro Groundsmaster, 3280-D 4WD - \$22,407.54
- Toro Proforce Blower, Model 44538 - \$ 6,677.50

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to take possession of the former trap club building, accept ownership of the utilities and notify the Kline-Cuppoletti Trap Club of these actions. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to work diligently to help the members of Kline Cuppoletti Trap Club find property to relocate their facility and send a letter recommending that they meet with the City Administrator. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14235, setting the proposed 2014 tax levy, collectible in 2015, at \$4,176,395. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Personnel Committee Chair to meet with the City Administrator, Finance/HR Director and Deputy Assessor to determine a solution to resolve the workload issue in the City Assessor's office. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the travel request for Cheryl Weappa, Deputy Assessor, to attend the National Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice Course, which will be offered October 21 and 22, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to request the Blight Officer and City Attorney to follow the blight process for the businesses that leave debris on the City sidewalks on Chestnut Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to allow the Fire Department to participate in the AEOA Community Fair at the Thunderbird Mall. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 2, 2014. City Attorney Butorac reported a letter has been sent to the Virginia School District to notify them the City will not be moving forward with the title search for the properties around the Parkview Learning Center and suggesting they involve Consolidated Title and Abstract in the property ownership issue.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on September 2, 2014, to continue to work on the proposed Housing, Property Maintenance and Rental Code. The final changes will be made to the proposed ordinance and distributed to the City Council, including the fee structure. The Buildings/Grounds Committee will meet at 1:00 P.M. on September 30, 2014, to review the proposed ordinance with interested City Councillors and City staff and revealed to the public at a meeting held at 6:00 P.M. that evening.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on September 9, 2014, to continue discussions on the preliminary 2015 budget. The City Assessor's office will provide projections on how the City portion of the 2015 property taxes would be affected with a levy increase of 1, 2, 3 or 5 percent.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on September 9, 2014.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to establish a blended rate of pay for Chris Clark for the permanent Fire Marshall position, based on a fifty percent split of duties for **the** Firefighter 2 and Fire Marshal positions and 106 hours per pay period. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14236, approving the hiring of Kenneth Holkko for a Skilled Laborer position in the Public Works Department, with a starting date on or after September 24, 2014, contingent upon successfully passing the pre-employment physical, and subject to a ninety day shift probation period and the terms of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 454 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14237, approving the hiring of Andrew Judnick for the Utility/Ice Plant position in the Park/Recreation Department, with a starting date on or after September 24, 2014, contingent upon successfully passing the background check and pre-employment physical, and subject to a ninety day shift probation period and the terms of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 454 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously

Councillor Cuffe reported that he was wearing a ribbon that was obtained by Ben Strukel, a Virginia student, who attended a session on City government at the State Fair and received a Mayor of the Day ribbon. A letter will be sent to Ben Strukel stated his "Mayor of the Day" presided at a Virginia City Council meeting held on September 9, 2014.

Councillor Littlewolf provided an update on the events at the Virginia Public Library:

- Friends of the Library will be hosting a display of the time capsule items from 1912 on September 30, 2014.
- Summer reading program had a total of 1,191 participants in 2014.
- Book sale will be held on September 17, 2014.

Councillor Baribeau gave an update on the following issues:

- The Highway 53 realignment project has been reassigned to Pat Houston of MnDOT. Work continues on the drilling and geotechnical issues, as well as the environmental impact study. A Highway 53 Impact Committee will be held at 7:30 A.M. on September 17, 2014, at The Shop. The next MnDOT Coffee and Conversation meetings will be held at 10:00 A.M. on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> at the MnDOT headquarters in Virginia.
- A lift station was added to the Fourth Street North project. The fencing was a requirement and the City will landscape the area in the future.
- RAMS will be holding a Mining Forum on October 6, 2014, at the Coates Hotel.

Mayor Russo stated St. Louis County will be opening a time capsule on September 10<sup>th</sup> and he will bring items from the City to include in the new time capsule that will be buried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 23, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk