

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 14, 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.

Mayor Russo removed Item 6 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 5.

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held December 17, 2013.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 014-001 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve 2014 Massage License for Leebø Salon, Inc., d/b/a Plaza Salon & Spa, 618 9<sup>th</sup> Street North.
4. Approve 2014 Solid Waste Haulerø License for Waste Management.
5. Approve 2014 Secondhand Good Dealers License for Consigning Women, 103 Chestnut Street.

Motions carried and Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Administrator Tourville reviewed the agreement with the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board for the Residential Redevelopment Grant Program, which included the demolition of three residential properties in Virginia.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14025, authorizing the submission of an application to and accepting funds from the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for the demolition of the following properties located in the City of Virginia: 1) 116 7<sup>th</sup> Street South; 2) 120 7<sup>th</sup> Street South and 3) 105 3<sup>rd</sup> Street South. Resolution carried unanimously.

Frank Scherf, Office of Traffic Safety, Minnesota Department of Public Safety, appeared as liaison for the "Towards Zero Deaths" Program. Mr. Scherf explained the "Towards Zero Deaths" Program, which is an improved version of the "Safe and Sober" Program that incorporates education, engineering, EMS and enforcement into the program. Mr. Scherf reviewed the statistics and reduced number of deaths and serious injuries that resulted from speed, drunk driving and distracted driving since the changes were made to the TZD Program in 2003. Mr. Scherf stated he selected the Virginia Police Department to receive a piece of equipment because of their timeliness in reporting, ticketing and involvement in the community with the TZD Program. Police Chief Benz accepted the radar equipment and thanked the City Council for allowing the Police Department to participate in the TZD Program.

Mayor Russo reviewed the letter from Kevin Pietrini, Board Chairman, Essentia Health-Virginia, recommending the reappointment of Don Sipola to the Essentia Health East Board for a three year term, effective January 1, 2014.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Cuffe to reappoint Don Sipola to the Essentia Health East Board for a three year term, effective January 1, 2014. Motion carried.

Mayor Russo reviewed the proposals that were submitted by the Hometown Focus and Mesabi Daily News for designation as the Official Newspaper for the year 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 14026, designating the Mesabi Daily News as the Official Newspaper for 2014. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the travel request for Mel Claviter, Sewer Department, to attend the MPCA Operator's Conference, which will be held January 29-31, 2014, in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota. Motion carried.

City Administrator Tourville requested permission to submit an application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for \$200,000 in grant funds to be used for the reconstruction of Fourth Street North. If the City is successful in receiving the grant, the project to rebuild Fourth Street North would be fully funded through grants. City Administrator Tourville stated up to fifty percent of the grant could be used for land acquisition.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to adopt Resolution No. 14027, authorizing submission and acceptance of a Redevelopment Grant through the Department of Employment and Economic Development for the reconstruction of Fourth Street North, between Sixth Avenue West and Ninth Avenue West. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program was referred to the Virginia Sustainability Task Force in 2010, but they have not met for a year or taken any action on the program. As part of the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program, the City of Virginia currently has an opportunity to obtain an intern through the University of Minnesota Duluth. Councillor Littlewolf reviewed the sample resolution that was included in the Council packet.

Bill Mittlefehldt, Northeast CERTs Coordinator, was present and strongly

recommended adoption of the resolution to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program and provided the following information regarding the program:

- Funds has been secured by Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) to employ six interns in the State of Minnesota, with three interns placed in the Northeastern area for fourteen weeks. Bill Mittlefehldt would train the interns, who would be paid by CERTS.
- There is no financial obligation for the City to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program.
- Fifty-nine communities have joined the Minnesota GreenStep Cities Program to date.
- To join the GreenStep Cities Program, the City would adopt a GreenStep participation resolution that identifies a contact person for the City.
- The intern would work with the contact person to create a profile of Virginia's vision and action on sustainability, which would be posted on the GreenStep website to attract entrepreneurs.
- After the intern leaves, the City would work with local community members to prepare the City's priorities for the remaining best practices for the GreenStep process.
- The cities of Duluth, Grand Marais, Silver Bay, Ely and Hibbing will be getting interns.

The City Councillors expressed their concern regarding the following information that was included in the sample resolution:

- City must work with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to establish a policy that meets the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals
- City would establish an energy policy goal that reduces the use of fossil fuel
- City would establish an energy policy goal that 25 percent of electricity used must be derived from renewable energy resources.
- Virginia does not want to be locked into any policies with State agencies.
- Virginia has already taken significant steps in green energy.

Mr. Mittlefehldt stated the resolution could be rewritten to fit Virginia's needs. Mayor Russo recommended that a committee be formed to draft a resolution to participate in the Minnesota GreenStep City Program.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to authorize the City Administrator to meet with Public Utilities General Manager Greg French and any City Council members that are interested in drafting a resolution to become a GreenStep City, with the draft resolution reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the following items:

- Attended the Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting on January 13, 2014. Agendas will be provided to the City Council prior to any future meetings.
- Attended the CIRI/Brownfield Coalition meeting on January 14, 2014. Virginia will receive an additional \$50,000 in funds for the Phase 1 and 2 for the Highway 53 North Project.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Virginia submitted a request for Community Development Block Grant funds for the former Staver Foundry site.
- The City of Eveleth has hired a consultant to determine if they want to continue with the Virginia/Eveleth Economic Development Authority for Progress Park. This item will be discussed with City staff, prior to further discussion at the committee level.
- The Personnel Committee will meet as a Committee-of-the-Whole at 11:00 A.M. on January 21, 2014, to interview applicants for City Commissions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 11, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk