

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 13, 2015**

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Cuffe at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, Jorgensen, Sipola, Mayor Cuffe - 5

Absent: Councillor Baranzelli – 1

Jacob Littler read a letter from Tom Cvar, on behalf of the Iron Range Labor Assembly, encouraging the Mayor and City Council to appoint Mary McReynolds-Pellinen to fill the City Council seat vacated by Larry Cuffe. The letter stated the Iron Range Labor Assembly members had endorsed Mary McReynolds-Pellinen prior to the election and felt it was the best way to fill the vacated position with a person who had the broad support of the voters.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes:
 - a. Regular Meeting held December 16, 2014.
 - b. Reorganizational Meeting held January 2, 2015.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-001– Schedule of Bills:
 - a. Report dates: 12/17/2014 – 12/31/2014.
 - b. Report dates: 1/1/2015 – 1/8/2015.
3. Approve 2015 Tobacco Licenses:
 - a. Jarve Brothers, Inc., d/b/a Falkowski’s Market.
 - b. DG Retail, LLC, d/b/a Dollar General Store #13970.
4. Approve 2015 Secondhand Goods Dealers Licenses:
 - a. Power Play Sports, 1012 8th Street South.
 - b. Virginia Charity Thrift, 329 Chestnut Street.
 - c. Virginia Thrift Outlet, 118 Chestnut Street.
 - d. Goodwill Industries, 522 Chestnut Street.
5. Approve the variance for Rockstep, Virginia, LLC, d/b/a Thunderbird Mall, 1401 South 12th Avenue West, for an additional 75 sq. ft. of signage to the 1,680 sq. ft. approved variance in October, 2014, for a total of 1,755 sq. ft. of signage to the exterior of the building.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15027, approving the transfer of City property to Ulland Brothers, Inc. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to approve the “Policy for Naming City-Owned Public Buildings, Properties, Parks and Park Facilities, contingent upon removing the stipulation that a person must be deceased for a period of at least one year. Motion carried.

Finance Director Erickson reviewed the reimbursement resolution that is required to refinance the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Bond.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15028, making a declaration of official intent under U.S. Treasury Regulations. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to accept the resignation from Zella Ellshoff from the Library Commission and send a letter of appreciation for her service. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to table the Agreement with St. Louis County for the collection of residential and commercial recyclable materials for the period January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2020, until further information is obtained at the Finance Committee meeting on January 20, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 15029, approving signatories for the City of Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 15030, designating the depositories for 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Council members to attend the League of Minnesota 2015 Leadership Conferences for Newly and Experienced Elected Officials. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to authorize City Council to attend the Legislative Action Day to be held on January 28, 2015, in St. Paul. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on January 13, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to approve a two percent increase in the Washington Manor rent, effective April 1, 2015, with one percent utilized for capital improvements.

Ayes: Councillors Baribeau, Jorgensen, Sipola – 3

Nays: Councillor Littlewolf, Mayor Cuffe – 2

Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to accept the following bids for surplus equipment:

1. Dave Dincau, in the amount of \$4,200.00, to purchase the 1988 International 6 yard Dump Truck.
2. Cory Winger, in the amount of \$2,345.67, to purchase the 1988 Ford F600 Flatbed-Dump Body.
3. Tom Nemanich, in the amount of \$6,550.55, to purchase the 2004 Chevrolet 3500 Silverado Extended Cab with service body.

Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15031, approving an agreement with DSGW Architects, in the amount of \$29,768, to provide services for the Miners Memorial Arena, Locker Renovation Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15032, approving Change Order No. 1, to decrease the contract with Alliance Steel Construction, by the amount of \$2,398.00, for the Canine Center Demolition Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15033, approving Change Order No. 2, to decrease the contract with Alliance Steel Construction, by the amount of \$1,079.60, for the Canine Center Demolition Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15034, approving Change Order No. 4, increasing the contract with Hammerlund Construction, Inc., by the amount of \$137,000.00, for the Fourth Street North Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15035, approving Change Order No. 5, increasing the contract with Hammerlund Construction, Inc., by the amount of \$4,684.24, for the Fourth Street North Improvement Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15036, approving Change Order No. 2, decreasing the contract with Rachel Contracting, Inc., by the amount of \$9,783.00, for the demolition of the former East Range Clinic Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to table the contract with Short, Elliott, Hendrickson Engineering and refer to the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for January 20, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15037, approving the construction, reconstruction or improvement of County State-Aid Highway 103 within the limits of the City of Virginia. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15038, designating the Mesabi Daily News as the Official Newspaper for 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to approve the sale and transfer of City property, known as the Northland Parking Lot, to St. Louis County, for a price of \$200,000, with the final resolution considered at the City Council meeting to be held on January 27, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to authorize the City Administrator and City Attorney to negotiate with St. Louis County on the sale of a portion of the City parking lot located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and First Street South, plus the adjacent City-owned property. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15039, authorizing the City of Virginia to make application and accept funds from the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program, for the following properties: 113 8th Street South; 1108 17th Street South and 906 4th Avenue South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15040, authorizing the acceptance of a St. Louis County Grant from the Economic Development Fund, in the amount of \$114,173.97, for the demolition and site preparation at the former East Range Clinic site. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to approve the transfer of four City parcels, known as the former Staver Foundry property, to Tritec, with the final resolution considered at a future City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to authorize the Finance Department to formulate a dedicated fund for cable access expenditures. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15042, releasing the condition to the deed against property that was sold to Jack W. Williams Jr., requiring buyer to commence work on a residential structure within three years of the deed. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Personnel Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on January 13, 2015.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 15041, approving the contract with Local 390, International Association of Firefighters for the period January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2016. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to approve the “Settlement Agreement and Release” regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act that affects eighteen Fire Department employees and to release the compensation to the employees once the waivers are signed. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to approve the promotion of Scott Fredrickson to the Captain position. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to authorize Chris Clark to receive the Fire Marshal salary, as listed in the Fire Union contract, with back pay to the date of the promotion. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe stated a letter was received from Mike Ralston indicating his willingness to serve on the City Council and fill the vacant position.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15043, appointing Mary McReynolds-Pellinen, the fourth highest vote getter from the General Election held on November 4, 2014, to the vacant City Council position with a term ending December 31, 2016.

Ayes: Councillor Littlewolf, Jorgensen, Sipola, Mayor Cuffe – 4

Nays: Councillor Baribeau - 1

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Jorgensen reported the Range Recreational Civic Center will host the National Senior Championship from January 29th through February 1st and encouraged the public to attend.

Councillor Sipola thanked Jim Rhude for donating the entire Eveleth sea plane base and landing strip to the cities of Virginia and Eveleth. The donation includes a stipulation that both cities must operate it as a sea plane base for fifty years, or the property would revert back to the Jim Rhude family.

Councillor Baribeau stated the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools is undergoing a complete reorganization.

Mayor Cuffe stated the Minnesota Department of Transportation will hold an open house from 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on January 22, 2015, at the Mt. Iron Community Center to present the findings of the draft environmental impact statement and review the next steps of the process to realign Highway 53.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 27, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk