

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, FEBRUARY 24, 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, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli,  
Mayor Cuffe - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the pledge of allegiance.

Don Kunnari was present, along with his family, to express their appreciation to the City of Virginia for the assistance in building their restaurant and farmers market. Mr. Kunnari stated all the City departments far exceeded their expectations during the project. Special thanks were given to City Administrator Tourville and the IRRRB for the infrastructure grant.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held February 10, 2015.
  2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-004 – Schedule of Bills.
  3. Approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for the Roosevelt Elementary PTSA for a bingo on April 23, 2015.
  4. Approve Optional 2 AM Liquor License for the Mirage, LLC, d/b/a Mirage, 509 Chestnut Street.
  5. Approve Secondhand Good Dealers License for Consigning Women, 103 Chestnut Street East.
- Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole held on February 17, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola stating the City's intent to move forward with St. Louis County providing the assessor services for the City of Virginia, with the transition to begin on March 1, 2015, and completed by May 1, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15055, approving the renewal of the lease with Independent School District No. 706 for the Miners Memorial building and other City-owned recreational facilities for years 2015-2018. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to consider the purchase of a new sidewalk plow during the 2016 budget process. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15056, accepting the quote from Snyder Industries, Inc., in the amount of \$22,488.00, to purchase fifty 300-gallon garbage, extra lids and hardware kits for the Public Works Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15057, approving a contract with St. Louis County for the 2015 Street Striping Maintenance Program, at a total cost of \$5,225. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to approve the travel request for Dawn Heisel, Library, to attend the Spotlight on Books to be held April 10-11, 2015, in Walker, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to approve travel request for Chris Clark, Fire Department, to attend the MN IAAI Fire Investigator Conference to be held March 24-27, 2015, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve travel requests for Matt Kelley, Eric Thomsen, Katie Saumer, Police Department, to attend the Informant Development Training to be held March 17-19, 2015, St. Paul, Minnesota, at a cost of \$474 per employee. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to approve travel request for Matt Kelley, Police Department, to attend the Developing Gang and Narcotics Cases Training to be held February 24-26, 2015, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to authorize staff to develop a public purpose checklist for organizations to complete when submitting a donation request. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to reschedule the public hearing for the final layout for the Trunk Highway 53 Relocation Project to 6:00 PM on March 24, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 15058, in support of the restroom at the Olcott Park Greenhouse. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to receive and file the request from SWOP for a donation. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to accept the Cell Phone Policy, as written by City staff. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to not offer a reimbursement for cell phone usage for elected officials. Motion carried.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on February 17, 2015.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Baribeau to request the City Attorney to meet with the appropriate individuals to discuss the sale of the parking lot adjacent to Dental Associates, located in the 200 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Street North. Motion carried.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Sipola to make a recommendation to the Finance Committee to forgive the invoice due the Housing and Redevelopment Authority, in the amount of \$840, for Pine Mill Court road repairs. Motion carried.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Sipola to send a letter to the Laurentian Harley Owners Group, Chapter 2393, in support of the annual Minnesota Harley Owners Group motorcycle rally to be held on the Iron Range in the summer of 2016. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on February 24, 2015.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15059, stating the City's intent to move forward with St. Louis County providing the assessor services for the City of Virginia by closing the City Assessor Department on March 1, 2015, with the transition to begin on March 1, 2015, and completed by May 1, 2015, and the City shall eliminate or abolish the City Assessing Department no later than May 1, 2015. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to not award the Library Clerk posting, until further notice.

Ayes: Councillors Baribeau, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe – 6  
Nays: Councillor Littlewolf – 1  
Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf stated she will not support the motion because the Library Commission is against keeping the Library Clerk position vacant. The Library Clerk position is currently vacant as the employee has retired.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15060, appointing Mr. Allen Lewis as Fire Chief, contingent upon successfully passing a pre-employment physical, and occupational therapy assessment, with a starting date on or after March 30, 2015, subject to a six (6) month probation period and the terms of the Minnesota Association of Professional labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to authorize the Finance/HR Director to post for five Firefighter/Paramedic positions. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to notify the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority their legal issues should be handled internally and the City of Virginia City Attorney will not be involved. Motion carried.

Councillor Jorgensen reported on the Park/Recreation Commission meeting held on February 18, 2015:

- Bids will be accepted in March, 2015, for the locker room renovation project at the Miners Memorial Building.
- Bids were obtained to repair the stone work: Olcott Park wall and fountain-\$132,750; Golf Course wall -\$540,000. The commission discussed utilizing volunteers to repair the stone work.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the successful 2015 Northern National Youth Snowmobile Ice Oval Race held on February 14-15, 2015, on Bailey's Lake. The final race for the 2015 season will be held in Virginia on March 7, 2015.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on February 23, 2015:

- Citizens are encouraged to check the water temperature, as there have been seven water breaks this winter, with five of them occurring in the last week.
- The turbine has been repaired and is back in operation.
- The Residential CIP Program will be available for forty homes.
- Citizens are encouraged to attend the public hearing at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 24, 2015, in the City Hall Council Chambers to discuss the final layout design for the Highway 53 Realignment Project.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Library Commission meeting held on February 24, 2015, and reviewed the various statistics for the Library.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Highway 53 Visual Quality Committee and stated they are looking at the different elements for the two bridges that will be built within the Virginia city limits. The committee will be involved in the railing design, rock cut, public art and bridge naming. A plaza is being considered on both sides of the bridge where the walking/snowmobiling trails enters and exits. A full recommendation from the committee will be forthcoming.

Councillor Baribeau attended the Virginia School Board meeting held on February 23, 2015, and the noted the school must change the design of the swimming pool. The school is also participating in a pilot program for four year olds.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Reviewed various events, sponsored by the Lyric Center for the Arts, which will be held in February and March. A complete schedule of events is available at [www.lyriccenteronline.org](http://www.lyriccenteronline.org).
- The Class of 1965 has requested permission to place a banner on Chestnut Street regarding their reunion. The item was referred to the Buildings/Grounds Committee for consideration.
- The Finance Committee will consider proposals to redesign the City of Virginia website.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation will hold an open house from 5-7 PM on March 5, 2015, at the MnDOT office in Virginia, to obtain input on the proposed noise walls near Second Avenue and Midway.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk