

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, March 28, 2017

The regular meeting of the City Council the City of Virginia, Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councillor Baribeau, Littlewolf, Paulsen, Jorgensen, Johnson, Baranzelli,
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness for the Month for April 2017.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 14, 2017.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-006 schedule of bills.
3. Approve training for Gavin Nichols, VPD to attend the Crisis Intervention Training April 17-20, 2017 in Duluth, MN at a cost of \$536.00.
4. Approve training for Erickson, Cerise, Metsa, VFD to attend the ERT Training on March 29-30, 2017 in Annandale, MN cost of \$105.00.
5. Approve training for Erik Jonassen, VFD to attend the ICS Training on April 22-23, 2017 in Hinkley, MN cost of \$214.00.
6. Approve training for Judnick, Ruedebusch, Erickson, Clark, VFD to attend the Image Trend Connect Conference July 18-21, 2017 in St. Paul, MN cost of \$3,819.39.
7. Approve the Temporary Liquor Permit for Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability at Natural Harvest May 20, 2017 from 11 AM to 4 PM.
8. Approve the Temporary Liquor Permit for the American Legion Post 239, at 229 Chestnut Street, April 16, 2017.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Rick Pierce was present to discuss a complex to facilitate the Quad Cities Area. The preliminary design was presented to the Eveleth City Council and they suggested having more discussion and set up a meeting with the City of Virginia. The complex would consist of two levels. The first level consists of twelve varsity lockers rooms for (6) men and (6) women. The main arena would facilitate the hockey rinks, as well as volleyball and basketball courts. There are six educational conference rooms on the first level and the second level has the capabilities to host larger events. Councillor Littlewolf discussed the plan and noted that the City is

committed to renovating the Miner's Memorial Building and has been for quite some time. Councillor Paulsen asked what schools would be using the facility, and where it would be located. Mr. Pierce said that it may be in the Progress Park area as it is centrally located between Eveleth and Virginia. They would still have to schedule discussions with area schools. Councillor Baribeau requested a cost analysis for the construction and the upkeep on the facility. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. thanked Mr. Pierce for presenting the information and to keep the Council apprised of any updates.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to waive the fee for the Lion's Building and the Miner's Memorial Building for the Dustin Damm Memorial Walk at Olcott Park on May 18, 2017. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17051 appointing Mr. Bob Henderson to the Virginia Charter Commission for a four year term ending March 28, 2021. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Paulsen to send a letter of support to the City of Duluth for the 2017 Comprehensive Opioid Project. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole Meeting March 21, 2017:

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the Land of the Loon Street Dance to be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017 contingent upon Ms. Martinich working with the City Administrator to present a written plan to the Council for approval. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17052 approving the Professional Services Agreement with SEH for the 2017 Road Recondition Project in the amount of \$25,440 for South 12th Avenue from approximately 450 feet south of 3rd Street South to West Chestnut Street and 13th Street South from South 7th Avenue to South 6th Avenue. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Johnson to amend the current City Ordinance Chapter 5, Sec. 5.32 and 5.44 to comply with proposed State Statute section 340A,504 subdivision 6

regarding Off-Sale Liquor Sales.

Aye: Councillor Littlewolf, Johnson, Baranzelli, Paulsen, Jorgensen, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Nay: Councillor Baribeau

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to appoint the City Blight Officer, Mr. Ryan Dethloff, as the Assistant Weed Inspector for 2017. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17053 approving the Downtown Revitalization Fund Agreement with the Revive Virginia Committee Donor(s) and the Virginia Community Foundation. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the sale of property located at 1st Street South (090-0010-05120) in “as is” condition for \$5,000 to Engineering Resource Leasing, LLC. and allow the City Administrator to draft a purchase agreement with the Resolution considered at the April 11, 2017 Council meeting. Motion Carried.

The first reading of the sale of property will be held at the April 11, 2017 Council meeting.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolutions 17054 and 17055 approving the hire of Ms. Hanna Watts and Mr. James Hipple as two (2) Single Role EMT’s for the Virginia Fire/Ambulance Department effective on or after March 31, 2017. Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve a refund of the total City garbage fee for the property at 306-308 Chestnut Street from May 2016 to February 2017 in the amount of \$370.30 contingent upon the owner completing the required vacancy form. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the VEDA By-Laws with the identified changes to Article II, Section 1 and 7, Article III, Section 2. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow the Finance/HR Director to post for the Permanent Repair Crew Foreman position for one week and if no applications are received to post externally for the position. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the Employment Agreement for the Administrative Assistant Position in the Police Department.

Aye: Councillor Baranzelli, Paulsen, Littlewolf, Baribeau, Johnson, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (6)

Nay: Councillor Jorgensen (1)

Motion Carried.

Councillor Jorgensen noted the employee is a fine individual, but he has a problem with one of the provisions in the contract.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve the increase in City striping expenditure to St. Louis County from \$10,000.00 up to \$13,000.00. Motion Carried.

Committee of the Whole Meeting March 24, 2017:

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the purchase of lighting for pedestrian rest areas on the Hwy 53 bridge at a cost of \$15,472.96. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes noted that this expenditure would be coming from the regular City funds.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

City Administrator Britt-See-Benes noted that the COW Personnel Committee will be making a counter offer to local LELS regarding the contract negotiations and will schedule a meeting for further discussions.

Councillor Baribeau attended the VPUC meeting. The Commission conducted an election of officers for 2017. President, Rob Raplinger; Vice President Rick Marwick; Secretary, Bill Culbert. They discussed an MPCA issue from 2013. The fines were extremely reduced, to \$28,000. There haven't been any violations since the new system has been installed. Mr. Greg French updated the commission on the Hwy 53 project. There was only one injury report at the VPUC.

Councillor Littlewolf noted that the Human Rights Commission met today at 5 PM. They asked an announcement be made for Transgender Day of Visibility which will be held on March 31, 2017 at the Messiah Lutheran Church at 4:30 PM on the SE corner of Hwy 169 and Emerald Avenue in Mt. Iron.

Councillor Jorgensen updated on the Olcott Fountain Project fund. To date \$226,000 has been received in private contributions, the goal is \$400,000. A matching grant is available if they reach the \$400,000 mark by July 1, 2017. The total renovation was estimated to be \$900,000. Phase 1 was estimated at \$400,000 but will be less than what was anticipated and Phase II is \$500,000. They are hoping to have the fountain operating by August 17, the original date the fountain opened.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. updated on the following items:

- August 16, 2017 may possibly be the fountain opening as well as the 50th anniversary of the time capsule which was put in place in 1967. The City is working on ideas to plan something with the Olcott Fountain, the grand opening of the Hwy 53 bridge and the 50th Anniversary of the time capsule.
- The City met with Superintendent Schmidt and discussed placing a liaison officer in the High School.
- The City held a meeting regarding Predatory Offender Registration. An open dialogue discussion was held. There are 40 predatory offenders living in Virginia. They are a level 1, 2 and 3. There hasn't been any occurrences from the ones that have been identified. Every predatory offender has to be registered and checking in on a daily and weekly basis with probation officers.
- The Green Envy Celebration was held on March 18, 2017 and they gave educational tips on the plants and also provided entertainment during the day, it was a nice community event.
- April 6, 2017 at 6:00 PM there will be a meeting regarding Midway Park to be held at the Emmanuel Baptist Church to discuss new playground equipment for the Midway area.
- The Ridgewood area park is being upgraded. \$20,000 will be put into the park.
- Virginia Carefree Living will be hosting an open house on April 13, 2017 from 11-1 PM at the new facility located at 421 10th Street South. They have installed a GEO Thermal system in the building. The new facility is a good addition to the City.

Councilor Baranzelli wished a Happy Birthday to Leonard Yougman, he was 106 years old yesterday.

Adjourned at 7:35 p.m. to Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.