

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, April 11, 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, Baranzelli, Johnson, Jorgensen
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Proclamation for the March of Dimes “March for Babies” and announced the March of Dimes walk will be held on April 30, 2017 at 2:00 PM at the Mesaba Range College.

The Virginia High School students and Iron Range Engineering students gave a presentation on the Silver Lake Restoration Project. Mrs. Rudstrom, Environmental Science teacher at the High School, updated the Council on how the project came to fruition. They have been working in conjunction with the DNR, City Staff and the Lakes Beautification Committee on the project. Chris Lustig introduced the engineering students and they updated the Council on the plants they would like to place on the Silver Lake shoreline. An Earth Day event will be held on April 22, 2017 at the Mt. Iron Community Center and they will be presenting posters to the public to educate the community on feeding the ducks and swimmers itch. They would like to finish the Silver Lake project in the beginning in May. They are looking for about 200’ of lakeshore to do their planting. Councillor Jorgensen discussed his concern on the events that are held at the Lake if they will be able to continue the events because of the planting on the shoreline. City Administrator See-Benes noted that they have discussed the issue in the early stages of the planning of this project. There is a grant available that would need to be completed by the land owner that would help with the project costs. City Administrator See-Benes will work with Mrs. Rudstrom to apply for the grant.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the Silver Lake Restoration Project around Silver Lake for the Virginia High School and the Iron Range Engineering class

and to continue to work with the City and the Lakes Beautification Committee. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the Consent agenda:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 28, 2017
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-007 schedule of Bills.
3. Approve any Mayor, Councillor, or Department Head to attend the Annual LMC Conference in Rochester MN June 14-16, 2017 cost of \$400/attendee or \$150/1st time attendee, plus lodging.
4. Approve Finance/HR Director Sherry Erickson to attend the CGMC Labor & Employee Relations conference in Brainerd MN, June 1, 2017, cost of \$216.94.
5. Allow City employees to attend the Safety and Loss Control Workshop on April 25, 2017 in Cohasset, cost of \$20.00 per person plus mileage. One from each department will be attending.

Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

City Administrator See-Benes discussed the property to be purchased, it is on the parking lot on the corner of 6th Avenue and 1st Street South. Northeast Technical Services is interested in purchasing the parking lot in “as is” condition. There will be a purchase agreement in place before the next meeting.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the sale and transfer of City property to Engineering Resource Leasing, LLC with the final Resolution to be considered at the April 25, 2017 Council meeting. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, 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. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 17056 in support of increasing Local Government Aid in the 2017 Legislative Session. Resolution adopted unanimously. Councillor Baribeau would like information sent to surrounding Cities so they can also approve a Resolution.

City Administrator See-Benes updated the Council on the minutes of Planning and Zoning. There was

an appeal for a violation of property maintenance code, the Commission agreed to uphold the violation and the property owner has 30 days to come back to Council as the final authority if they so choose.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve minutes of the Planning and Zoning meeting held on April 3, 2017. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the request from Selah Reid, The “Shop” Coffeehouse/218 Taphouse to block off the portion of Third Avenue the evenings of May 25, June 15, July 20, and August 17, 2017, from 3:30 PM to 11:00 PM for a musical event and to allow Artisan Vendor Tables on the sidewalk. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole Meeting April 4, 2017

The Council agreed to authorize City staff to work on an extension off Midway drive and to begin negotiations with the property owners. This is not including the State of Minnesota at this time.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Paulsen to allow City staff to work with Bridgeview Development, LLC on the proposed extension of Midway Drive. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a development agreement with Range Foot and Ankle, PLC for the property located at 6th Avenue and Southern Drive. Motion Carried.

The negotiations with VCCU are complete and are ready to move forward with the purchase of the property located at 4th Street North adjacent to their current location.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize the City Administrator to continue with the development agreement with the VCCU Board to purchase 60’ of City property adjacent to the current VCCU location on 4th Street North. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to authorize the City Administrator to negotiate a purchase agreement and price with Bob Henderson for the remaining 40’ of City owned land

adjacent to the privately owned property at 710 9th Avenue North. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17057 for transfers to Special Revenue, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Enterprise and General Funds, effective for year ending December 31, 2016, as part of the normal year end closing procedure. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the Olcott Fountain 5K and waive the fees for use of the facilities on May 20, 2017. Motion Carried.

Councillor Jorgensen noted that this will be the first event of many to help in the maintenance of the Olcott Fountain in the future.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to direct City staff to create a policy for demolition of blighted properties. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize staff to proceed with the bid process for Rockstep Phase I demolition, as per the IRRRB Grant. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the Fuzzy Night Cruise Night/Car Show August 18-19, 2017; and to approve a \$75.00 one day Transient Merchant License fee for this event and require all necessary documentation for a City Transient Merchants License. Motion Carried.

City Administrator updated the Council on the Regional Safety Group and noted that to date there are seven cities to join and it will have definite cost savings for training in the City.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17058 for the City to enter into an agreement for the formation of a Regional Safety Group for Regional Training. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution 17059 authorizing the City of Virginia to act as the Fiscal Agent for Mesabi Regional Safety Group. Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Baribeau attended the coffee and conversation on the Hwy 53 project and gave an update on

the project. There will be 8,000 yards of concrete placed on the bridge beginning in May. The main bridge should last up to 100 years. The cost of the project is about \$240 million with a 2% over run. There have been 377,000 man hours with no lost time accidents. The goal to open the bridge for traffic is August 17, 2017. More information can be found on the MN Department of Transportation website. There will be intermittent lane closures while under construction beginning in April. The Council would like everyone to drive safe in the construction zones.

City Administrator See-Benes attended the public meeting regarding the Midway playground on April 6, 2017. There was plenty of good feedback from residents. The City would like more information from the public and ask that they complete the survey regarding the playground on the City website,

www.virginiamn.us. The budget for the playground is approximately \$90,000 for 2018

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. updated on the following:

- On April 20, 2017 there will be a face to face meeting with MN DOT and the Iron Range Tourism Bureau to discuss the celebration for the bridge opening. There are several events to coordinate in August, the 125th anniversary of the City, opening of a 50 year time capsule, and the completion of the Olcott Park Fountain as well as the opening of the Hwy 53 Bridge.
- Carefree Living open house will be held from 11 AM to 1 PM on April 13, 2017 at 10th Street South in Virginia.
- Congressman Nolan will be at Virginia City Hall from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 for a question and answer session with the public.
- The teal ribbons hanging on the tress and poles in the City denotes Sexual Assault month for April.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Adjourned at 7:34 to Tuesday, to Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.in the Council Chambers.