

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, APRIL 28, 2015

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Cuffe Jr. 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.

The following people spoke as part of the Public Forum portion of the meeting:

1. Jim Marcucci discussed the proposed International Property Maintenance Code that is being considering for adoption and stated there must be a better way to get people to comply with codes, instead of with penalties.
2. Dale Seppa stated the City of Virginia used to provide a spring and fall cleanup, which addressed the blight and garbage issues.
3. Zeb Stevens expressed his opposition to the proposed International Property Maintenance Code and felt the code does not make Virginia an attractive City to live.
4. Susan Marcucci stated the City Council is elected by the citizens to honor the wishes of the citizens and questioned if the public will be able to vote on the proposed ordinance.
5. Bruce Kingsley stated the International Property Maintenance Code is being customized to Virginia to address our needs.
6. Craig Maki stated the Mesabi Daily News had a poll question in the paper regarding the IPMC, with 78% voting against the IPMC and less than 15 % in favor of the code.

Councillor Baribeau removed Item 4 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows, with the exception of Item 4:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held April 14, 2015.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-008 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Essentia Health Foundation to hold a raffle on November 21, 2015.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 15084, approving the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for demolition of the properties located at 230 7th Street South, 408 7th Street South, 520 5th Street South and 222 10th Street South.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 15085, approving the Grant Agreement with the IRRRB for the demolition and removal of the commercial building located at 202 2nd Avenue South.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Sipola to adopt the Consent Agenda, with exception of Item 4. Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Consent Agenda, Item 4, Councillor Baribeau removed the item to notify the public of the demolition program that is available through the IRRRB for residential properties.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15084, approving the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for demolition of the properties located at 230 7th Street South, 408 7th Street South, 520 5th Street South and 222 10th Street South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Cuffe issued the Oath of Office to Allen Lewis for his position as Fire Chief of the City of Virginia.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 15086, approving the transfer of City-owned property located at 218 12th Street South to the North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Cuffe stated the Minnesota Department of Transportation has requested a change to the Resolution approving the final design layout for the Trunk Highway 53 Relocation Project. MnDOT would like the language revised to make Virginia's design changes listed as recommendations, rather than contingencies. MnDOT has agreed to eliminate the new full access at Midway Drive and install a southbound left turn lane onto Vermillion Drive, as requested the City of Virginia. MnDOT cannot agree to maintain the current design at Cuyuna Drive, as it is a safety issue.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Sipola to rescind Resolution No. 15083, adopted on April 14, 2015, and adopting revised Resolution No. 15087, approving the final design layout for the Trunk Highway 53 Relocation Project, State Project 6817-80, with recommended changes to the design as follows:

- Eliminate the new south full access at Midway Drive between Merritt Drive and More Drive.
 - Install a southbound left turn lane off Highway 53 onto Vermillion Drive, as shown on Exhibit A.
 - Eliminate the right in/right out design at Cuyuna Drive and continue to maintain the access as currently constructed, in order to allow traffic to travel both north and south from this location.
- Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15088, instructing the District Judge to reappoint Earl Heisel to the Charter Commission for an additional four year term. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve the request from Selah Reid, d/b/a The "Shop" Coffeehouse/218 Taphouse, to block off Third Avenue North, from Chestnut Street to the alley, for a musical event to be held from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 21, 2015. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on April 21, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 15089, accepting the quote from Northeast Technical Services, in the amount of \$22,290, to obtain additional soil borings and prepare a Response Action Plan for the former East Range Clinic site, contingent upon grant funding from the IRRRB, which will be determined on May 15, 2015. In the absence of IRRRB approval, City funds would be authorized to pay for these services. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to table the environmental issue on the former Staver Foundry site until Tritec identifies a site for the new building and authorize the City Administrator to continue to search for funding sources. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to approve the \$750 expenditure to obtain data through Creative Minnesota on the economic impact that non-profit arts and culture organizations have on the City of Virginia, as requested by the Lyric Center for the Arts. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to authorize the City Attorney to draft a letter to commit \$60,000 in 2016 to the Virginia Coop Credit Union for the construction of a new building. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolutions accepting the low bids for the commodities for the Public Works Department and Wastewater Treatment Plant for the period May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016, as follows:

- Resolution No. 15090 Bituminous Cold Mix: Mesabi Bituminous, \$98.00/ton (furnish and deliver) and \$92.00/ton (furnish only).
- Resolution No. 15091 Crushed Rock Salt: Compass Minerals, \$79.67/ton.
- Resolution No. 15092 Ferric Chloride: Hawkins, Inc., \$665.00/dry ton.
- Resolution No. 15093 Gravel – Class 5 Aggregate: Mesabi Bituminous, \$7.75/ton (furnished and delivered) and \$5.75/ton (furnish only).
- Resolution No. 15094 Granular Material: Forest Concrete Products, \$8.00/c.y. (furnished and delivered) and \$5.75/c.y. (furnish only).

- Resolution No. 15095 Assorted Nuts, Bolts, Washers, Hoses and Other Fittings: Fastenal Company, \$29,000.
- Resolution No. 15096 Lubricants and Fluids: Tri-Mark Industrial, lubricants - \$7,263.20, fluids - \$883.85.
- Resolution No. 15097 Asphaltic Concrete Surface Maintenance Services: Northwest Asphalt Maintenance, \$.70/ft.

Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15098, authorizing the City of Virginia to submit an application and accept funds from the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for the demolition of the house located at 122 1st Street South.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15099, approving the Agency Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Commissioner of Transportation, for Steel Procurement for the new bridge under State Project Number 6918-69129 on Trunk Highway 53.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15100, accepting the quote from Five Seasons Sports, in the amount of \$16,018.21, for two 2015 John Deere Gator utility vehicles. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15101, authorizing increases in sewer rates.

Ayes: Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe - 6

Nays: Councillor Jorgensen – 1

Resolution adopted.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on April 21, 2015.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to refer the request from Tony Yeley for a Conditional Use Permit to construct and operate an indoor shooting range at 1511 Southern Drive to the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to draft a letter in support of the Lyric Center for the Arts project to reconstruct the storefront on the Lyric Center, located at 510-514 Chestnut Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to request the Finance Committee to establish the rental fee for City Hall office space. Motion carried.

A Buildings/Grounds Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 5, 2015, to hear a presentation from Richard Hauffe on the International Code Council and the different codes they oversee.

Councillor Littlewolf summarized the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting that was held on April 21, 2015, to review the current process to enforce the property maintenance codes.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to request staff to develop a flow chart for the current process used for property maintenance complaints. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on April 27, 2015:

- The Fifth Avenue light standards will be sandblasted and painted this year.
- A new coal contract has been negotiated, which will result in savings.
- Turbine No. 6 was back on-line as of April 20, 2015.
- Turbine No. 5 will be shut down in the near future for annual maintenance.
- Repairs are being made to the natural gas burners to reduce emissions.
- Wood burner will start up in early May.
- The commission is considering a face lift on the west of the utility buildings on Silver Lake.
- The Residential Conservation Improvement Program will begin in May.

Councillor Baranzelli reported that Greg Gilness, Park/Recreation Commissioner, is inviting the public to attend a meeting at 6:30 P.M. on April 29, 2015, at the Miners Memorial Building, to discuss the renovations to the Olcott Park fountain.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the following items:

- Memorial tiles purchased by May 15, 2015, for the Angel of Hope, Children's Memorial Park are guaranteed for installation this year.
- The Highway 53 Visual Review Committee continues to meet to discuss the design elements for the new bridge. The committee also reviewed designs of the noise walls and felt the residents did not receive adequate information prior to voting on the noise barriers.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- AARP has identified Virginia's south side neighborhood as the 7th most livable in the nation.
- Recognized and thanked the Firefighter/Paramedics that were present in the audience.
- As of May 1, 2015, the City Assessor's Department will be closed and St. Louis County will provide Virginia's assessing services.
- Congratulated Cheryl Weappa, Deputy Assessor, on her retirement.
- The St. Louis County Sheriff and Virginia Police Chief are facilitating a Heroin Community Forum at 7 PM on April 30, 2015, at the Miners Memorial Building.
- The First Stage Gallery in the Lyric Center for the Arts will be holding a reception for the artists in the 9th Annual Open Water Exhibit at 6:30 P.M. on April 30, 2015.
- The Virginia Coop Credit Union will hold a groundbreaking ceremony at 5:30 P.M. on April 29, 2015, at their new location on 9th Avenue.
- May 7, 2015, has been proclaimed as "National Day of Prayer". A ceremony will be held at noon at the St. Louis County Courthouse.
- The annual "March for Babies" event will be held at 9 AM on May 2, 2015, at the Mesabi College.
- The public was encouraged to call the City Engineering Department to report any issues with blighted properties.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 12, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk