

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, May 23, 2017**

The 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.

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

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

A presentation was made by Dr. Reggie Engebritson and Principal Rachel Lehman regarding their request for the proposed Chicken Science Project at the Northland Learning Center. Principal Lehman discussed that the chickens will be raised from egg to full grown and will be housed entirely inside their complex. Principal Lehman discussed various studies that highlight the therapeutic qualities of chickens when working with autistic children.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the request from the Northland Learning Center for the 2017-2018 Chicken Science Project at the Northland Learning Center located at 1201 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. Motion carried.

Jamison Dixon appeared before the council requesting additional lighting and street signs to direct traffic on the 600 block of 8 ½ Street South. Recently a vehicle drove through his fence into his yard and Mr. Dixon feels that additional lighting and street signs will direct traffic to make it safe. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. stated he was aware of the incident along with the Chief of Police and will direct City staff to inspect the area and make a recommendation on what should be done.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held May 9, 2017 and the Local Board of Appeals meeting held April 26th and May 9, 2017.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-010 schedule of bills.
3. Approve Chris Clark to attend the National Fire Academy July 30 to August 5, 2017 at Little Falls, MN at a cost of \$559.48.
4. Approve the Exempt Permit for St Michaels Foundation to hold a raffle September 21, 2017 at the Miner's Memorial Building.
5. Approve the Transient Merchant License to Oleila Jonas D/B/A First Philippina Food Stand.
6. Approve the Transient Merchant License to Virginia Daniel D/B/A TNT Fireworks.
7. Approve the Application for a Temporary Liquor License for the Lyric Center of the Arts on June 16, 2017.

Motion carried.

#### APPEARANCES

Mr. Tony Mancuso, St. Louis County Property Manager and Ms. Julie Spearing from DSGW Architects presented the concept plan that was approved by the St. Louis County Board for the proposed County Health and Human Services Building in Virginia. Mr. Mancuso gave an overview of the project and the County's transparency by listing all the informational meetings that were held with the public and the City over the course of the last 18 months. Ms. Spearing presented three concept plans for the proposed project, two of which did not serve the needs of St. Louis County.

St. Louis County staff has worked with City staff to form a concept that could work for both the County and the City; these concepts are now being brought to the City Council for their comment. The concept plan that is preferred by St. Louis County will require the closure of the 300 block of First Street South in order to accommodate the entrance to the facility and parking behind the complex. The Council informed Mr.

Mancuso that an appropriate hearing will need to be held in order to vacate a street. Council members also voiced concerns regarding the City Hall HVAC system and the beams that run through the police garage during the demolition. Mr. Mancuso assured the Council that this issue has already been taken into consideration and will be resolved during construction of the project at the expense of the County. Discussion was held regarding parking and flow of traffic once the project is complete. Although the project includes employee, public and customer parking, the Mayor suggested the City and County work on a partnership to in order to share the City's parking lot on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 1<sup>st</sup> Street South. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. also informed the County they may have the ability to further purchase privately owned property to expand their current parking lot.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Councillor Jorgensen to proceed with St. Louis County's Option One, as presented by St. Louis County, contingent upon the appropriate public hearing to be held as soon as time allows, as required by City ordinance, for closure of the 300 block of First Street and that all other contingencies are met that will be required for this project.

Ayes- Councillor Baribeau, Jorgensen, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe Jr. (4)

Nays- Councillor Littlewolf, Paulsen, Johnson (3)

Motion carried.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to authorize City staff to work with Virginia Amateur Hockey Association (VAHA) to extend the concession stand lease agreement for the Miner's concessions for a five-year term and return to the Council with a recommendation.

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize City staff to develop a purchase agreement with Range Wood for the purchase of property located at Southern Drive, Parcel No. 090-0190-00140 and to return to the Council for approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Paulsen to adopt Resolution No. 17079 approving the St. Louis County ATV Permit application and to allow the use of all-terrain vehicles on the right-hand shoulder or extreme right-hand side of County Roads within the City limits on the following designated county roads within the city limits of Virginia: Hoover Road from Highway 169 to 9th Street North and Southern Drive from Highway 7 to a point 200' east of the Railroad Tracks. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Johnson to direct City staff to modify the City ordinance for ATV use in the City in accordance with the proper mapping of the routes. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Johnson to approve placing a crosswalk at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue North.

Ayes- Councillor Littlewolf, Paulsen, Jorgensen, Johnson, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (5)

Nays- Councillor Baribeau, Baranzelli(2)

Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to delay the Midway area sewer project for Bridgeview until there is potential development in the area. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Jorgensen to amend the Park & Recreation Rental Policy to offer half price rental fee to non-profits who rent a city facility for more than one day. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the charge of \$137.50 for the rental of the Ridgewood Rink Skating shack for the Daily Vacation Bible School for the dates of June 12-16, 2017. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baribeau to allow Lead Engineer, Bill Hennis to seek two quotes for the Wastewater Treatment Facility filter trough supports. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the quote from DSGW Architects for the 2017 Capital Outlay project for the Virginia Public Library for steps and ADA compliant ramp to the elevator. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 17080 to accept funds from IRRRB for the Residential Redevelopment Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2018. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve Resolution 17082 approving Amendment #2 to Agreement Number 1001136 between the State of Minnesota and the City of Virginia to revise the payment schedule for the Highway 53 Project to accommodate the City's cash flow; allowing for a May 2017 payment of \$1.5 Million and a June 2017 payment of \$1.4 Million. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve hiring for the vacant Skilled Labor Position. Motion carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 17081 approving the non-precedent setting Memorandum of Understanding between AFSCME Local 454 and the City to allow temporary employees to post for the vacant position of shift specific Utilityman in the Park and Recreation Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

#### COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Johnson stated that he had requested the City contact Kiewit to request additional signage further down 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to show that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue exit is closed. Kiewit stated they had ordered additional signage and it will be placed shortly.

Councillor Baribeau asked that City Administrator See-Benes request that MN Dot provide a new sign in Gilbert on Hwy 135 stating that there is a detour for Hwy 53 South but Hwy 53 North is still open.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. announced the retirement of John Aro from the Public Works Department after 20 years of service and thanked him for doing an outstanding job for the City.

Moved by Councillor Johnson and supported by Councillor Baranzelli to set the July 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting and the Regular City Council meeting to be held on July 11, 2017. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. Commented on the following:

- The Angel of Hope has plaques available to honor the memory of your loved one. Contact Cheryl Weappa for more details.
- There are pavers available at the Veteran's Memorial to honor a vet. Contact Gary Pernu for more details.
- The Virginia Farmers Market located in Market Square will be open beginning on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will continue each Thursday through October.
- Revive Virginia will hold the 2nd Annual Marty Memorial Grand Slam Clean Up Event on Thursday, June 1st from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The group will meet at the east end of Chestnut Street at Affordable Cleaners parking lot to begin cleaning all the way down to the Northern State Bank. Bring your own brooms and gloves.
- The State Legislature has not passed a Bonding Bill at this time thus there will need to be a special session.
- Mayor Cuffe, Jr. stated that funds for the Miner's Memorial Building and the Hwy 53 funding gap were not included in the Bonding Bill. He assured everyone that our lobbyist is working hard on our behalf of the City for these funds.

Councillor Jorgensen announced that the Olcott Fountain Fund Raising received an anonymous \$50,000 donation earlier this month. Councillor Jorgensen stated another \$50,000 donation has recently come in that is a matching donation. Currently they are only \$50,000 away from their \$400,000 goal. Once this goal has been reached it will open the doors for additional grant funding.

Adjourned at 8:17 to Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.