

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, May 9, 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, Baranzelli, Johnson, Jorgensen, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held April 25, 2017.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-009 schedule of Bills.
3. Approve the 2 AM renewal application for Martini Inc., d/b/a Tommy's Rainy Lake Saloon & Deli.

Motion Carried.

APPEARANCES

Ms. Amy Martinich was present to discuss the Land of the Loon street dance which will be held June 17, 2017 from 8 PM to 12 AM. The bandstand will be placed in the center of the 200 block. Martinich is requesting to close off the 100 and 200 blocks of Chestnut Street to through traffic. Martinich will provide proof of insurance for the event and will also pay for half of the cost of the Police Officer wages.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the Land of the Loon Street Dance on June 17, 2017 from 8 PM to 12 AM on the 100-200 Blocks of Chestnut Street which would be closed to through traffic, reimbursement of half of the Police Officer wages, and to provide a Certificate of Insurance for the event. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 17070 approving the purchase and transfer of City property to Engineering Resource Leasing, LLC parcels #090-0010-05090 and

#090-010-05120 in the amount of \$5,000. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Administrator See-Benes noted that the property is located at 6th Ave and 1st Street South. NTS is using the property, it is being purchased by Engineering Resource Leasing, LLC.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the Purchase Agreement between the City of Virginia and Engineering Resources Leasing, LLC for the sale of parcels #090-0010-05090 and #090-010-05120 in the amount of \$5,000. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Land of the Loon Festival – June 17 & 18, 2017:

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 17071 to approve the agreement for the Land of the Loon Arts & Crafts Festival, Inc. to use Olcott Park Friday June, 16, 2017 to Sunday, June 18, 2017 and to provide an indemnification agreement and waiver of liability for the event. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve a parade permit for Saturday, June 17, 2017 for the Land of the Loon Parade. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow D.A.R.E. to use the land located on the 600-700 blocks of 4th Street North, for public parking during the Land of the Loon Festival on June 17-18, 2017. Motion Carried.

City Administrator Britt See-Benes discussed the LELS contact. The Council has to determine how they would like to proceed. LELS has made their final offers and the Council needs to decide if the Council will accept their offer or move to arbitration/mediation. Councillor Jorgensen noted there is an estimated \$200,000 increase in the first year of the contract (2017) and cannot vote to accept the contract while the City has a dwindling tax base.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councilor Baribeau to approve the three year LELS contract for the 2017-2019 years.

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

Nay-Councillor Jorgensen (1)

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to award the bid for the demolition and reconstruction of the Thunderbird Mall to Max Gray Construction per the recommendation by DSGW in the amount of \$1,687,000. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes noted that the City is the fiscal agent for the project and called for bids on the project. There is an IRRRB Grant for the project of \$350,000.

Ms. Jody Vest attended the meeting and expressed her gratitude to the City for helping with the project and acting as the fiscal agent. Rockstep is excited to begin the project beginning with the demolition of the Kmart building.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole Meeting May 2, 2017

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the request from the Finland 100 Traveling Sauna to allow setup and display of a traveling sauna on June 4, 2017 at Olcott Park and to provide indemnification and liability insurance. Motion Carried.

Ms. Jenni Smith requested blocking off Chestnut Street to have an art show in August.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the Art Show/ Craft Fair to be held on Thursday, August 17, 2017 and to block the 300 block of Chestnut Street from 7 AM to 7 PM for the event and to allow parking for vendors at any of the City parking lots that aren't marked as reserved. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the sale of one acre of land, Parcel 090-0180-01615 to the First Apostolic Lutheran Congregation to use for a parking lot and to allow City staff to negotiate a purchase agreement for the property. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to allow City Administrator See-Benes to work with the property owner at 815 13th Street North to create a plan for demolition of the home.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 17072 to approve the hire of Mr. Samuel Pogorels as Library Clerk to fill one of two vacant positions created by a retirement.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Johnson adopt Resolution 17073 to approve the hire of Mr. Ethan Bexel as Library Clerk to fill a second open position created from retirement.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to allow St Louis County to complete the testing of candidates for the Police Department in order to create an eligibility list for potential hiring.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17074 Revoking Municipal State Aid Street in the City of Virginia in order to get the streets within the correct mileage in the City. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to request City staff to make a recommendation to the Council concerning the parking issues along 4th Street North. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Johnson to receive and file the information received from St Louis County on the classification of tax forfeited land. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the Right of Way easement request from Lake Country Power. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize advertising for bids for the 2017 Road Recondition Project with bid opening on June 1, 2017. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17075 for the proposal from NTS for bituminous testing and inspection services for the 2017 Road Recondition Project in the amount of \$5,210. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 17076 for the

Residential Redevelopment Grant Program. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 17077 for the Commercial Redevelopment Grant Program for the property located at 519 2nd Ave S, former One Hour Photo. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to adopt Resolution 17078 to approve the Facilities Use Agreement with ISD #2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, for the Quad Cities Tennis for All facility. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to authorize staff to obtain quotes to resurface the indoor courts at the Quad Cities Tennis for All facility. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the request to purchase Chemical RE300 for the pilot study for phosphorus removal at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at a cost of \$32,000. Motion Carried.

The Council has discussed at length the potential sale of the hospital and the agreement of the council to proceed. A letter will be sent to the Charter Commission to make a recommendation to the Council to change the Charter. If that is recommended then the Council can take the next step in the process.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve to sending a letter from the City Council to the Charter Commission requesting them to make a recommendation to change the City Charter in order for the City to proceed with the sale of the hospital. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to allow City Administrator See-Benes to submit the grant application to the Super Bowl Legacy Grant for the Midway playground. Motion Carried.

Councillor Paulsen thanked City staff for implementing the survey for the Midway playground.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Littlewolf informed the public of the library's summer reading program. Reading by Design begins on May 22, 2017. Registration is available online or at the library. There are several activities during the

summer program that involves design.

Councillor Littlewolf gave recognition to Alley Kingsley and Melissa Peterson who were recognized by the Iron Range Youth and Action Board. Councillor Littlewolf also thanked the Mayor, Council and staff, for being flexible while attending college at UMD. Littlewolf graduated from UMD and was asked to give the speech for the School of Fine Arts at the graduation.

Finance Director Sherry Erickson noted that the City audit is finished the auditor will be coming to a future Committee meeting to present the 2016 audit.

Administrator See-Benes received a request from MnDOT that if the City would like to have a plaque and time capsule placed at the bridge it needs to be ordered. The total for both will be under \$2,000.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the purchase of a plaque and time capsule approximately \$2,000 to be placed at the bridge site during the opening. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes informed the public about the 5k to be held on May 20, 2017 at Olcott Park as a fundraiser for the Olcott Fountain. A registration application is on the City website.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. updated the Council on an employee of the City that was transmitted to St Mary's hospital in Duluth because of an allergic reaction to a product and went into anaphylactic shock. They should be released from the hospital soon.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. commented on the following:

- A Habitat for Humanity home was dedicated to Mr. Michael Bane and his family on Friday, May 5, 2017. The lot was donated by the City and is located at 218 12th Ave North.
- Public works employee John Aro will be retiring. On Thursday, May 18, there will be a luncheon at the Miners in honor of Mr. Aro.
- May 4th was the National Day of Prayer. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Proclamation in honor of the day of prayer.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Resolution that was passed by St Louis County regarding support for Biomass Production and Utilization. The County has 800,000 acres of Balsam trees available to help in the biomass project. St Louis County has authorized a \$4 million grant application to help offset the cost with relation to biomass. The grant would help Hibbing and Virginia Utilities in the project.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli allow to send a letter of support for the resolution of the \$4 million dollar grant application for the Biomass Productions and Utilization. Motion Carried.

Adjourned at 7:36 PM to Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.in the Council Chambers