

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, MAY 12, 2015**

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

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held April 28, 2015.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-009 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approved Secondhand Good Dealers License to Hollum Silcox, d/b/a Twice Is Nice, 426 Chestnut Street.
4. Approved Transient Merchant/Solicitor License with Ofelia Jonas, d/b/a First Pilipina Stand.
5. Approved Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Friends of the Greenhouse for an event to be held at the Olcott Park Greenhouse on June 10, 2015.
6. Adopted Resolution No. 15102, approving Joint Powers Agreement with State of Minnesota to utilize the criminal justice data communications network.
7. Adopted Resolution No. 15103, approving Master Subscriber Agreement for Minnesota Court Data Services.
8. Adopted Resolution No. 15104, approving Amendment to Surface Lease 13272 with RGGSLand and Minerals, Ltd., for the Mineview in the Sky.

Motions carried and resolutions adopted unanimously.

Darin Alto, Real Estate Broker, was present to resolve the issue regarding the fire damaged house at 922 14<sup>th</sup> Street North. Mr. Alto stated he was not representing his client, Rhonda Duesler, through his current brokerage firm. The City Attorney has notified the property owner that the City will proceed to demolish the house if there is not an agreement to repair the house by May 29, 2015. The City of Virginia has enacted a policy to retain 25 percent of insurance proceeds in an

escrow account following a fire. The funds are released to a contractor upon repair or demolition of the property. Mr. Alto reviewed a proposal to donate the property located at 922 14<sup>th</sup> Street North to Habitat for Humanity and requested that the City release the insurance funds being held in an escrow fund to Ms. Duesler, once the property is conveyed. Mr. Alto stated the Habitat for Humanity Board will be meeting on May 14, 2015, to decide if they would accept the house for renovation.

City Attorney Butorac suggested that the issue be referred to the Buildings/Grounds Committee for further discussion and invite Habitat for Humanity to determine if they will accept the responsibility for the fire damaged property.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to extend the City demolition date of May 29, 2015, for an additional 30 days (June 29, 2015) for the property located at 922 14<sup>th</sup> Street North and refer to the Buildings/Grounds Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by McReynolds and supported by Baranzelli to approve a Conditional Use Permit for Tony Yeley to construct an indoor shooting range at 1511 Southern Drive, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Baribeau to approve the following variances for William Saari to construct an addition to an existing garage at 1524 10<sup>th</sup> Street South, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

1. 200 square foot variance to the maximum 1,000 square feet allowable for accessory structures.
2. 345 square foot variance to the maximum 30 percent rear yard (855 square feet) coverage to bring accessory structure total to 1,200 square feet.

Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to approve the request from Jeff Peterson, Popper's Bar, to block off the 100 block of Chestnut Street from 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 20, 2015, to hold a bean bag tournament. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe reviewed the request from Bob Norri to waive the special assessments for blight for the tax forfeited property, Parcel No. 90-10-12240. The tax forfeit property has been placed on the St. Louis County, Adjoining Owner Auction set for May 28, 2015.

Bob Norri was present and was notified by St. Louis County on the Adjoining Owner auction. Following a lengthy discussion, the request from Mr. Norri was referred to the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting that will be held on May 19, 2015.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Council and administrative staff to attend the 2015 League of Minnesota Cities Annual Conference, which will be held June 24-26, 2015, in Duluth, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by McReynolds to set the dates for the July meetings as follows: July 14, 2015 - Committee meetings; July 21, 2015 - City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe appointed Dr. Michael Miskovich to the Virginia Economic Development Authority for unexpired term ending December 31, 2015.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15105, transferring the donations that have been received by the City, in the total amount of \$1,876, to the Virginia Foundation for the Olcott Park Fountain Restoration Project Fund. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15106, approving the payment to Short, Elliott, Hendrickson, Inc., in the amount of \$16,408, for engineering design services for relocation of the utilities for the Trunk Highway 53 Relocation Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to authorize the City Administrator to obtain a hotel feasibility study. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Administrator to prepare a development agreement with Tritec for their expansion project. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to table the request from Michael Ralston, R & H Properties of Virginia, LLC, until the City Administrator obtains additional information. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to approve the travel request for Erik Jonassen, Fire Department, to attend the “Crude by Rail Emergency Response” training, to be held October 14-16, 2015, in Pueblo, Colorado. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15107, accepting the quote from Braun Intertec, in the amount of \$6,485, to complete a soil boring, rock core and laboratory testing for the proposed lift station in the Midway area. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to have City staff determine the equivalent market rental rate for City Hall office space, on a square foot basis. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to rescind Resolution No. 15100, accepting the quote from Five Seasons Sports, in the total amount of \$16,018.21, to purchase two John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution accepting quote from MN Toro. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15108, accepting the quote from Minnesota Toro, in the amount of \$14,258, plus tax, to purchase two Workman MD Mid-Duty Utility Vehicles. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to authorize the hiring of two additional student workers during the 2015 summer to perform various jobs, including painting the light standards. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to authorize the Public Works Department to hold a surplus equipment sale. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to authorize the Public Works Department to obtain quotes to purchase a hot water pressure washer. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on May 5, 2015.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to table the request from DARE to hold a parking fundraiser during the Land of the Loon Festival on June 20 and 21, 2015, until a representative is available to review the request. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf stated Rick Hauffe, International Code Council, was present at the May 5<sup>th</sup> Buildings/Grounds Committee to provide information on their organization. The meeting was televised and will be replayed on the public access channel. Mr. Hauffe's power point presentation is also available on the City website.

Councillor Jorgensen reported on a meeting held by Greg Gilness to discuss the restoration of the Olcott Park fountain. The goal is to raise \$275,000 in private donations to restore the fountain and the Virginia Community Foundation has created a separate fund for the project. The next meeting will be held on May 27, 2015, and the public is welcome to attend. A fundraising event is also being planned in August at Olcott Park.

Councillor Littlewolf stated she attended the Partners Board meeting on May 7, 2015, and gave an update on the activities of the Iron Range Youth in Action.

Councillor Littlewolf also reported that she attended the American Lung Association Clear Way lobby trip, along students, to lobby elected officials on e-cigarettes. She reported the St. Louis County Board voted to include e-cigarettes in the smoking ban in public places.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Highway 53 Coffee and Conversation meeting held on May 7, 2015. The final environment impact statement and record of decision will be completed this fall, prior to the construction stage. MnDOT is working on easement for private properties and testing for the bridge. The final vote for noise walls is not complete. Discussions continue with RGGGS Land and Minerals to determine the value of the minerals rights for the Highway 53 right-of-way. The bridge design will be completed by September, 2015, and the road design finalized by November, 2015. Their next meeting is scheduled for 10 A.M. on June 4, 2015, at the MnDOT headquarters.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Attended the March of Dimes, March for Babies campaign that was held on May 2, 2015.
- Thanked US Steel Union 1938 for donating the granite wall at the Veterans Memorial that explains every piece of the sculpture.
- The Public Works Department will make an effort to rehab the Chestnut Street, which will include sandblasting and painting of the traffic light standards.
- Attended the National Day of Prayer that was held on May 7, 2015.
- The Mineview in the Sky is currently open on the weekends.
- Encouraged the public to contact the City Engineering Department at 749-3564 or 749-3565 to report blight issues.
- “Raids Online” is the new public crime mapping system. Information is available on the site for crimes that occur in Virginia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk