

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, MAY 26, 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 Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe - 6

Absent: Councillor Baribeau - 1

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes:
  - a. Regular Meeting held May 12, 2015.
  - b. Special Meeting held May 12, 2015.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-010 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approved Application for Exempt Permit for St. Michael’s Foundation to hold a raffle on September 17, 2015, at the Miners Memorial Building.
4. Approved 2 AM Liquor License for Martini, Inc., d/b/a Tommy’s Rainy Lake Saloon & Deli, 207 Chestnut Street.

Motions carried and Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to approve a one-day Temporary Liquor License for the Laurentian Arts and Culture Alliance, Inc. for June 18, 2015. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Personnel Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on May 19, 2015,

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15109, approving the Memorandum of Understanding with the International Association of Firefighters Local 390 to change the following titles for the Fire Department:

- Assistant Chief to Battalion Chief
- Fire Equipment Operator to Engineer

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Jorgensen to appoint Micah Beukema to the Library Commission for the unexpired term ending February 1, 2017. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on May 19, 2015.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Sipola to request the City Attorney to attend the meeting with the business owner to discuss the illegal discharge into the sewer system to determine if there should be punitive actions for repetitive occurrences. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by McReynolds to authorize DSGW Architects to provide architectural drawings for the construction of a restroom at the Olcott Park Greenhouse and obtain bids for the project. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15110, accepting the quote from Progressive Microtechnology, Inc., in the total amount of \$7,409, to purchase a PMI Evidence Tracker MAX system, to be funded through the forfeiture fund. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15111, accepting the quote from Wisconsin Steam Cleaner, in the amount of \$8,337.75, to purchase a natural gas hot water pressure washer. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15112, accepting the quote from Lundgren Motors, in the amount of \$31,891.16, plus tax and license fees, to purchase a 2015 Ford Transit 250 (3/4 ton) van. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by McReynolds to approve the travel request for Dan Cerise, Adam Metsa and Ross Gramling, Fire Department, to attend a rope rescue technical class on May 22-24, and June 12-14, 2015, in Brainerd, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Littlewolf to approve the travel request for Allen Lewis, Fire Chief, to attend year one of the Executive Fire Officer Program, to be held December 7-18, 2015, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, contingent upon acceptance into the four year program. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Administrator to obtain appraisals for the remaining former Staver Foundry parcels. Motion carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 15113, authorizing the submission and acceptance of funding from Enbridge, Inc., through the Eco Footprint Grant Program to dredge Silver Creek. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to approve the submission of a preliminary application for 2016 State bonding funds (due June 12, 2015) for the electrical and mechanical renovations to the Miners Memorial Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15114, reappointing James Podpeskar, Podpeskar Agency of Virginia, Minnesota, as the Agent of Record for the property and liability insurance for the City of Virginia and Department of Public Utilities, for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2018, at a fee of \$3,810 per year. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 15115, approving the hiring of James Falkowski for the Library Maintenance/Clerk position, contingent upon passing the pre-employment physical, background check, with a starting date on or after June 1, 2015, and subject to the terms of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 454 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on May 19, 2015.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to approve the request from DARE Program to utilize City property located on the 600 and 700 blocks of 4<sup>th</sup> Street North for a parking fundraiser during the Land of the Loon Festival on June 20 and 21, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to waive the unpaid special assessments for blight on tax forfeited Parcel No. 090-010-12240, contingent upon the property being purchased by Bob Norri through the St. Louis County adjoining owner auction. Motion carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by McReynolds to waive the unpaid special assessments for blight on tax forfeited Parcel No. 090-150-02790, contingent upon the property being purchased by Frank Peterson through the St. Louis County adjoining owner auction. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by McReynolds to request the City Attorney to draft a policy on unpaid blight special assessments for unbuildable tax forfeited properties, to be reviewed by the Buildings/Grounds Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15116, approving an agreement between the City of Virginia and Virginia Independent School District No. 706 to utilize City facilities in case of a school evacuation. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to release the funds held in escrow by the City, for the fire damaged property located at 922 14<sup>th</sup> Street North, to Rhonda Duesler, once the property is transferred to Habitat for Humanity and the recorded deed is presented to the City of Virginia. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Jorgensen to move forward with the demolition of the property located at 211 4<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to request the City Attorney to draft an administrative fine process for building code violations and submit to the Buildings/Grounds Committee within 30 to 90 days. Motion carried.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on May 19, 2015.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Jorgensen to request the Engineering Department and Police Department to identify permanent handicapped parking spaces for the Sacred Heart Church. Motion carried.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Sipola to move forward with the proposed plan for the Mesabi Trail, as recommended by SEH Engineering, and consider 10<sup>th</sup> Street South as a location for the trailhead. Motion carried.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported by Littlewolf to request the Lead Engineer and Public Works Team Coordinator to determine a temporary repair for 18<sup>th</sup> Street South. Motion carried.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Park/Recreation Commission meeting held May 20, 2015, and stated the summer hockey program will be held June 8 through 26, 2015.

Councillor Jorgensen gave an update on the following items that were also discussed at the Park/Recreation Commission meeting:

- Park/Recreation Commission unanimously approved the nomination to name the Miners Memorial back hockey as “James F. Padgett Arena”. This issue has been referred to the Buildings/Grounds Committee.
- The revenues for Michael’s restaurant are above average.
- New playground equipment is in the process of being installed.
- The public is welcome to attend the meetings regarding the restoration of the fountain at Olcott Park. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 P.M., Wednesday, May 27, 2015.
- Solar panels have been repaired at the tennis facility.
- Bid requests will be sent out for the Olcott Park Greenhouse restroom.
- The installation of a surveillance camera at the Olcott Park fountain has been referred to the Buildings/Grounds Committee.
- The City Attorney will research liability issues to utilize volunteer labor for the restoration of the Olcott Park fountain.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Lake Beautification Committee meeting:

- The Silver Lake beach annual cleanup will be held from 9 AM until noon on Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The connection of the Silver Lake and Bailey’s Lake walking trails has been referred to the Buildings/Grounds Committee.
- Sections of Bailey’s Lake are available for the “Adopt a Shoreline Program”.
- One planter is available through the “Adopt a Planter Program”.

Councillor Littlewolf reported that the Library Commission has partnered with Arrowhead Transit to allow children to ride free on the Arrowhead Transit bus from May 26 through September 6, 2015. Children can sign up for a free wristband at the Library.

Councillor Littlewolf stated the Virginia Public Library will hold the Summer Reading Program from June 1 through August 7, 2015.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Recognized and congratulated the following employees that received the 911 Lifesaver Award: Jeff Cielocha, Tiffany Larson, Joe Baker, Buddy Mell, Joel Martinson, Chris Clark.
- The request to hold a Midway neighborhood reunion on August 8, 2015, at the former Midway School site will be forwarded to the Buildings/Grounds Committee.
- Attended the Dustin Damm Memorial Walk and thanked Range Mental Health for providing awareness on physical and mental health issues.
- Represented the City of Virginia at the Memorial Day celebration and thanked the military honor guards, Virginia High School band and VFW for their participation.
- Will meet with the City Attorney to foster an agreement between the City and ad hoc group for the Olcott Park fountain project.
- The former gun club building on Silver Lake has been renovated and is available for rent through the Park/Recreation Department.
- Will participate in the Virginia School Board's strategic planning sessions that begin this fall.

Councillor Jorgensen expressed his concern for the workers that are losing their jobs in the mining industry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, June 9, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
City Clerk