

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, June 27, 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, Paulsen, Littlewolf, Baranzelli, Jorgensen, Johnson,
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held June 13, 2017.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-012 schedule of Bills.
3. Approve temporary liquor application for the Lyric Center for August 17, 2017.

Motion Carried.

APPEARANCES

Dr. Noel Schmidt, Superintendent ISD #706, and Stacy Sundquist, Board Member ISD #706 were present to discuss the School Resource Officer (SRO) proposal for the Virginia High School. Mr. Schmidt gave an update on how the SRO works and his experience with having an SRO in the school. The reason an SRO is in the building is to help in building not only to help with disciplinary actions but to build relationships with the students and learn that the police are there to help. The SRO would be available to do the DARE program as well as help out with other demonstrations for the students. The school has budgeted up to \$30,000 for an SRO.

Ms. Sundquist is a prosecuting juvenile officer and noted that the presence in the school is very helpful for the children and a valuable resource for the students. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. commented on the situation for an SRO. The

City and school can work together as one common goal for the students, teachers and officers. It can be effective in communicating with children. The Council discussed their budgetary concerns. There are grants available for these positions to help to pay for part of the cost. The City has applied for the COPS grant to help offset the costs. The Council does support the proposal, but would like a good picture of the budget for next year. The City is within the time frame to make a decision for the approval of the SRO. An officer will be trained and fully prepared to step into the position if the City does approve.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the School Resource Officer proposal with the School District #706 contingent upon available funding options and to allow the City Administrator to seek grants for the School Resource Officer position. Motion Carried.

Mr. Bradley Peterson, Flaherty & Hood, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) gave an update on the legislative session. CGMC represents cities in the state of Minnesota and lobby's for them during the session. CGMC was an advocate for the LGA increase, proper annexations, and environmental issues. Mr. Peterson discussed the property tax impacts on businesses in the City. The Bonding bill has \$167M for water treatment improvements, \$12M for business development and public infrastructure. On the environmental regulatory side they are trying to hold the MPCA to transparency when developing standards. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. thanked Mr. Peterson for all of the work that has been done for LGA and for giving the City an update.

Mr. Matt Sipola, Eveleth Virginia Airport Authority and Mr. Matthew Jakubik of North Memorial Air Ambulance Service were both present to discuss a new business venture located in the Eveleth-Virginia Airport. North Memorial Air Ambulance Service will be set up in hanger five and will have a 24/ 7 medic staff ready. They hope to be ready by September of 2017. North Memorial is an Independent Level 1 Trauma Center in Brooklyn Center. The air service transports patients to higher care facilities for treatment. Inter facility transfers and partnerships are already established. Chief Lewis noted that we do have Lifelink and North Memorial in the area. Dispatch calls Lifelink to dispatch but don't have a coordinated system with St. Louis County to prioritize

the transportation of patients. We have two resources in the area but we don't have an appropriate procedure in dispatching the helicopters with St. Louis County. There has been communication with St. Louis County Sheriff's Department to correct the issues at hand.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau recommends to allow City staff work with St. Louis County to coordinate the dispatch system for the Lifelink and North Memorial helicopter services. Motion Carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve payment of accounts payable for second half of July, 2017. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole meeting held June 20, 2017

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopted Resolution 17089 for the City to serve as the Fiscal Agent for the IRRRB Laurentian Vision Partnership (LVP) Innovation Grant for the Mineland Reclamation Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to direct City staff to work with SEH on the administrative costs involved to administer the LVP Innovation Grant. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to support the Brew Fest to be held at Olcott Park on Saturday, August 19, 2017 which is sponsored by the Olcott Park Fountain Restoration Committee. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to Adopt Resolution 17090 to accept funds from the IRRRB Commercial Redevelopment Grant Program for the property located at 304 S 3rd Avenue. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the St. Louis County Land

Sale of Forfeited Lands within the City for Parcel Code Nos. PC 090-0060-03160, 090-0060-03490, 090-0110-02610). Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to authorize staff continue discussions with RGGGS regarding the placement of the ATV trail on RGGGS property in order to allow ATV traffic to exit the bridge into Virginia near 8th Street South, using the proposed route on Exhibit 2. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to uphold the Planning and Zoning determination to allow a 60 day extension for Amy Martinich regarding violations at 53 Midway Drive. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to adopt Resolution 17092 to approve entering into a five year agreement for a Weight Lifting Facility with ISD #706 and Virginia Area Hockey Association. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to authorize the City Administrator to draft a purchase agreement with the First Apostolic Lutheran Congregation for .970 acres of the Midway School lot. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt Resolution 17091 approving the renewal of the Master Partnership Contract #1028587 with MnDOT for Hwy 53 for 5- years.

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

Nay: Councillor Baribeau (1)

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the City of Virginia Social Media Policy as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the changes to the City of Virginia Computer Use Policy as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve the City of Virginia Donation of Surplus Equipment Policy as presented. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve amending the temporary easement with Kiewitt for access to the dumping area. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the recommendation from the Charter Commission to post for a public hearing to amend the City Charter, Section 3.05 by ordinance; Sale of Publicly Owned Health Care Facility. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to set the public hearing to discuss the proposed change of the City Charter for August 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. with a Special Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve an unpaid leave of absence for Michael Valento from Virginia Fire Department to complete his Paramedic Certification. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve offering a \$1,000 reward for the identification of the person who damaged the fountain area and for the conviction of this person and to publish in the newspaper. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve requesting quotes for the Bailey Lake Trail Project in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes updated the Council on the quote that was received for the electrical lighting and controls for the Olcott Fountain. There is not a need to seek additional quotes as per City Purchasing Policy as this is a specialized design.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17093 to approve the quote from Commercial Aquatic Engineering for the first phase of renovations on the Olcott Park Fountain for the electrical lighting and controls in the amount of \$28,875. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve an informational meeting on the proposed vacation of 327 1st Street South at the July 11, 2017 Council meeting at 5:30 PM and for the

meeting to be televised. Motion Carried.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Judge Terry Aronson was present and thanked the Council for the great job they do as the public servants.

Councillor Jorgensen noted that the Olcott Park Fountain has now been given National Historic status and that a crime committed would qualify as a felony. The Fountain Committee would like to apprehend the person(s) that did the damage to the fountain and noted that the consequences may be more severe than you think.

Councillor Littlewolf updated on the Library Commission meeting. Stephanie Wichalacz is doing a great job with the Summer Reading Program, 1,000 kids are enrolled. The library also has Swap Volunteers working with the reading program. There is new staff at the library and it seems to be changing the culture and the landscape of the library. An idea was brought forth to host a meet and greet for new employees hired. It was suggested the City staff think about this and bring back to a future meeting. There will be a coffee tasting held at the library Thursday, June 29, 2017 at 10:15 a.m. sponsored by The Shop.

Councillor Johnson noted that the Friends of the Greenhouse will be hosting the Laurentian Chamber Breakfast Connections on July 12, 2017 at 7:45 a.m. at the Olcott Park Greenhouse.

It was suggested to discuss the parking issues that may arise during the construction of the new St. Louis County building. The City and County have been working together on this issue. It will be placed on the next Committee of the Whole agenda for further discussion.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. updated on the following:

- Silent Movie Festival, July 14, 2017 at the Lyric Center 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- The Farmers Market is held on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. June to October. If a person uses their EBT benefits at the market, for \$10 used they would receive three \$10 vouchers to use at the stands.

- On July 4, 2017 there will be a parade, scavenger hunt, beverages and snacks beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Olcott Park with fireworks at Silver Lake at dusk.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.in the Council Chambers.