

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JUNE 28, 2016

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 Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Sipola, Jorgensen, Baranzelli
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Jeanne Maki spoke on behalf of the Historical Society regarding the Northland Building. She stated the Council is going to approve a permit for the demolition of the building but it is not on the agenda. The only requests she has regarding the building are the following items the City should request from the County:

- a. That the Board of Commissioners approve and endorse Commissioner Nelson's word of honor and promise that he gave to the Council on June 14 that the county will abandon its plan to demolish the Northland building if a responsible buyer is found who will put in place a new use that would add jobs to the local economy.
- b. That the Board of Commissioners grants the Virginia City Council the power to determine if a prospective buyer meets those requirements.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to approve the consent agenda as follows removing item number three for further discussion:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held on June 14, 2016.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 16-012 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve travel request for Ross Gramling, Allen Lewis and Mayor Cuffe, Jr. or Councillor to attend the Award Ceremony on July 21-22, 2016 for Ross Gramling at the American Legion in Rochester, MN at a cost of \$278.00.
4. Approve travel request for Nancy Maxwell to attend the Library Conference October 26-30, 2016 in Fargo ND at a cost of \$1,105.49.

5. Approve pay estimate #4 with Benchmark Engineering for the Waschke Site in the amount of \$56,971.50.
6. Approve Resolution 16118 for the purchase of a Personal Escape System for the Fire Department from Fire Safety USA at a cost of \$8,831.40

Motions made and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Councillor Jorgensen discussed item number three regarding the Aladtec software purchase, if it was indeed software or maintenance, Interim City Administrator noted that it software and it establishes the scheduling for both departments.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Baribeau to Resolution 16119 to approve the purchase of Aladtec software for the Police and Fire Departments for scheduling purposes at a cost of \$1,995.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

APPEARANCES:

Daniel Zebro and Lisa Wesby gave information on the 5K Walk to Remember. The walk starts and ends at the Miners Memorial Building and they will have professional speakers and vendors available. There will be a dance at the Sawmill later in the evening. The event takes place September 10, 2016.

Property Manager Tony Mancuso and Deputy Administrator Linnea Mirsch were present from St Louis County, to answer questions regarding the Northland Building. It was noted that there has been sufficient time given to the public time to come forward with their concerns regarding the demolition. The Council would have to vote on the demo process so the County can move forward with their budget and financial planning. Mayor Cuffe, Jr. asked if a decision could be made at the Council meeting in July if that is acceptable to the County. Tony Mancuso agreed to postpone the permit approval until the next meeting.

A motion was made by Councillor Baribeau and supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the demolition permit, but Councillor Jorgensen rescinded support to add language to the motion that the County has to meet all of the demolition requirements. Further discussion ensued regarding the Northland Building. Questions were asked regarding the SHPO process and the availability of reports regarding the building. There is history in the Northland Building, but not necessarily historical value, as there has been significant remodeling done that diminishes the historic value of the building. The County timeline for the new building is to issue bonds toward the end of 2017, begin construction the first part of 2018 and complete within 12 to 18 months after that. Some felt that a reasonable amount of time needs to be established if someone is interested in purchasing the building. There is time to gather additional information before the next meeting to see if there is funding available to preserve the building. The County discussed the acquisition of other taxable properties in the area if the building isn't removed. St Louis County did intend to make this into a Civic Center Area and they have already added the courthouse and motor pool additions. After the discussion Councillor Baribeau made the following motion.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 16120 stating that the Northland Building located at 307 1st Street South be issued a deconstruction permit from the City Engineering Department for St Louis County satisfactory to meeting all the requirements for demolition.

Aye: Councillor Baribeau, Jorgensen, Baranzelli, Sipola, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (5)

Nay: Councillor Littlewolf, McReynolds

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 16121 approving the sale and transfer of City property, Lots 9-13, Block 4, Anderson's Addition to Virginia and Lots 12-27, Block 5, Anderson's Second Addition to Virginia, to Virginia Carefree Living, LLC, at no cost. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McReynolds, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 16122 approving the sale and transfer of City property, Lot 10, Block 36, Virginia, to Natural Harvest at no cost. Resolution adopted unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen Communication from Pamela LaBine, City Clerk requesting approval of election judges for Primary on August 9, 2016 and the General Election on November 8, 2016, the Absentee Ballot Board and absentee voting at the health care facilities. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to change the August city Council meeting to Monday, August 8, 2016 due to the Primary Election. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve Resolution 16123 for the Hwy 53 sale of a Grant Anticipation Note. Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the change of the Capital Budget items for the Washington Manor from the proposed \$45,000.00 to \$76,010.00 for the budget for 2016 to 2017. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to table the purchase of E-Z go Textron Truckster/Transport Vehicles, further information is needed. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Baranzelli to table the Sysco review and allow Interim City Administrator Sherry Erickson contact Sysco to get the information that was to be presented to the Council. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to allow Interim City Administrator Sherry Erickson to authorize fair compensation for the additional staff time needed to help in doing the additional work in the Parks and Recreation Department. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Sipola to approve a VEDA question and answer session for the City Council and the VEDA Board, on July 14, 2016 at a cost of \$500 or less with Trenti Law Firm. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve Resolution 16124 for the quote from Hometown Electric for the Generator Backup system for City Hall in the amount of \$7,104.68. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to allow City Engineer Bill Hennis to pursue the plan with MNDOT and Kiewit for the bridge overlook site, on the north side of the bridge and east of the bike trail area. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to allow the Interim City Administrator to work together with Councillor Jorgensen and Mayor Cuffe, Jr. to pursue getting more information regarding the tourism aspect for the mine view site including a zip line across Rouchleau Pit. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to research signage for all five entrances into the City of Virginia with Mr. Halunen and to get quotes for the 2017 budget. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the development agreement with Tritec Land, LLC to use parcels 2-4 for a lay down area. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve Resolution 16125 for the VPD restructuring function chart and to move the four Sergeants into the Lieutenant positions and not fill the open sergeant positions. Resolution adopted unanimously.

The difference in salary between Sergeant and Lieutenant is a \$44.00 a month. There was more discussion regarding the process of how the restructuring will work.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve Resolution 16126 approving the Deputy Police Chief position for the VPD and to authorize the HR Department to post internally for the Deputy Chief Position in the MAPE Union. Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Councillor Baribeau updated on the VPUC meeting, they are currently working on a steam survey on dead ends lines. The commission approved the resolution for HWY 53. The wood boiler is running successfully, they had the conveyor belts cleaned and now have a bypass system and don't need to use the coal system. Gas lines for Midway area and the easements from Eveleth are approved and they are set to go.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve a bill run for July 12, 2016. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. expressed sympathy for the sudden loss of John Bachman the City's Parks and Recreation Director. The City will implement some emergency measures in regards to his position. Ed Alto will be taking over the park area which includes the Miners Memorial Building. Steve Fingeroos will be in charge of the Golf Course on a temporary basis and also the Tennis for All. Mary Rozier is taking care of the Recreation Department. There will be further discussion at a Personnel Committee meeting regarding the position.

The City is looking for volunteers to help with the festivities in the park on the 4th of July. The fireworks will be displayed on July 4th at dusk.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. updated on the Twin Metals Rally at the Veterans Park, Congressman Nolan was present and other Mayors and Councillors from other cities. They have expanded the comment period for people to speak on the project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m. to Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.