

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JUNE 8, 2010

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Peterson at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Sipola, Baribeau, Russo, Mayor Peterson -7

Absent: None

Mayor Peterson led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held May 25, 2010.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 10-012 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Transient Merchant/Solicitor License for Steven Elliott, d/b/a Becky's Oriental Foods.
4. Approve Transient Merchant/Solicitor License for TNT Fireworks.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 10083, instructing District Judge to reappoint Charter Commission member.
6. Approve Popper's Bar to sell beer off-premises for the Land of the Loon Softball Tournament, per Minnesota Statutes 340A.404 – Intoxicating Liquor, Subd. 4 – Special Provisions.

Motion carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Joe Leoni, Hospital Commission, gave an update on the Virginia Regional Medical Center and stated the new administration has been in place for three months.

Mr. Leoni reviewed the status of the recommendations that were outlined in the strategic plan that was provided by Leigh Hantho of Align Healthcare for the VRMC.

Quality of Care:

The Virginia Regional Medical Center will exceed any comparable hospital in regards to operating procedures.

Local Governance Participation:

A joint committee of the City Council, Hospital Commission and citizens was formed and they have been meeting regularly to obtain input on various issues regarding the Hospital. The Charter Commission has been requested to review the organization of the Hospital Commission.

Physician Development:

Three OB Gyn's, one Urologist, one Family Practitioner and two independent Neurologists have been recruited for the VRMC. Orthopaedic Associates is performing surgeries two days per week at the VRMC. Dr. Cowan, Neurologist, resigned from his practice.

Financials:

The Hospital Commission has authorized a study to determine the appropriate benchmark that is necessary to make a profit and to outline suggestions, which will be available in approximately five weeks.

Reimbursement has increased to ninety percent.

Accounts receivable is down to 42 days.

The VRMC is paying MedAssets approximately \$200,000 per month for the accounts receivable services, which was not expected.

Mr. Leoni anticipates the VRMC to be operating in the black by September.

Collaborations with Other Facilities:

VRMC will start collaborating with other facilities on sharing of services.

Mr. Leoni stated Steve Feltman, Interim CFO, is committed to the VRMC and will give a six month notice if he intends to leave. Kyle Hopstad, Interim CEO, has also agreed to give a six month notice if he intends to leave and the Hospital Commission will be reviewing the current financial contract for the position. Bill Smith has been hired as Interim Human Resources Director.

Mr. Leoni stated he will continue to give updates on the Virginia Regional Medical Center on a regular basis.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10084, approving transfer of Lots 20 and 21, Block 45, Original Plat, to Habitat for Humanity. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 of the City Code of the City of Virginia Entitled "Water Conservation and Water Emergency Plan".

Ayes: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Baribeau, Sipola, Russo, Mayor Peterson – 6

Nays: Councillor Ralston - 1

Ordinance adopted.

Councillor Ralston stated he is concerned with the monetary fines that are included in the ordinance and feels the criminal enforcement is not necessary.

Moved by Russo and supported to set the July committee meetings for Tuesday, July 13, 2010, and one City Council meeting on July 20, 2010. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported to authorize the Mayor to approve the payment of invoices and contracts for the period prior to the July 20th City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on June 1, 2010.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve travel request for William Hennis, Lead Engineer, to attend the Asbestos Inspector Refresher Course, which will be held July 15-16, 2010, in Eagan, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve the travel request for Tom Butorac, City Attorney, to attend the City Attorney's Legislative Update, which will be held on June 17, 2010, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to approve the travel request for Dana Waldron, Police Chief, to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, which will be held October 22-28, 2010, in Orlando, Florida, contingent upon the Police Chief paying the expenses to travel to and from Florida. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10085, accepting the bid from Hibbing Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$138,092.00, for C.P. 6-09, Former Seppi/Virginia Ready Mix Demolition Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10086, approving Change Order No. 3 and Pay Application No. 5 for Construction Services, Inc., in the total amount of \$17,972.95, for C.P. 3-08, Seppi Site Demolition Project, contingent upon receipt and completion of State Tax Form IC 134 and to send the payment to the bonding company. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10087, accepting the proposal from Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., in a lump sum of \$7,000.00, to provide professional services for the project financing for the Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project, contingent upon removal of the language in the quote regarding payment of additional costs due to a delay in the project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to reject the two bids for the storage and distribution of City garbage bags and provide the service with City staff as of July 1, 2010, with the bags to be securely stored at the Public Works Garage. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the City Attorney to draft language to amend the plan to utilize additional funds in the PERA Police Pension Trust Fund for the operations of the Police Department and to set a public hearing to amend the plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported to authorize the Engineering Department to request proposals for a Building/Home Inspector to inspect houses that are unsafe and considered as blight, and to provide a recommendation to the Buildings/Grounds Committee. Motion carried.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on June 1, 2010.

Moved by Ralston and supported to refer the funding for the preliminary design phase of the Wastewater Treatment Plant back to the Finance Committee for further discussion. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to receive and file the communication from St. Louis County on the proposed sale of State tax forfeited lands. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to request the City Assessor to place a value on the Parcel Code No. 90-194-170, located on Bourgin Road, and to offer the property to Jeanne and David Bombich, contingent upon a taxable home built on the property, with the plans to be submitted in 12 months, construction to begin in 18 months and the project to be completed in 36 months. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston recommended that the Building and Grounds Committee review the policy to sell City owned lots.

Moved by Sipola and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10088, accepting a proposal from Benchmark Engineering, Inc., in the amount of \$5,000.00, for professional services for Phase I, Preliminary Study, Assessment and Cost Estimates for the Virginia Olcott Park Greenhouse. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley Committee meeting held on June 1, 2010.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adhere to the street assessment for 901 South 6th Avenue for C.P. 1-09, Reconstruction of 6th Avenue West, from 13th Street South to 8th Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adhere to the street assessment for 521 South 8th Street for C.P. 1-08, Reconstruction of 6th Avenue West from 8th Street South to 3rd Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adhere to the street assessment for 517 South 6th Avenue for C.P. 1-08, Reconstruction of 6th Avenue West from 8th Street South to 3rd Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to table the request from Residential Services of Northeastern Minnesota for “Resident Only Parking” until the next Street/Alley Committee meeting when Councillor Cuffe can provide information on the availability of parking in the Elk’s Club parking lot. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to table the parking issues in the 1200 block of 17th Street South until the next Street and Alley Committee meeting and request the City Operations Director to discuss the use of the Menard’s property for parking by Iron Trail Motors employees and to unload transport vehicles. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to install 20 minute parking signs adjacent to the Post Office on 3rd Avenue and 1st Street South and to retain the handicapped parking space on 3rd Avenue/1st Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to table the social hosting ordinance until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the request from the Land of the Loon Committee to hold a parade on Saturday, June 19, 2010, beginning at 9:00 A.M., to ban parking on Chestnut Street from 7:00 A.M. until after the parade and to designate handicapped parking on Fifth Avenue by the High School. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson stated the AEOA is accepting nominations for four volunteer awards, with applications due by July 16, 2010.

See 2010 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 10083 – 10088 and Finance Resolution No. 10012.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 P.M., with the next regular City Council Meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk