

## VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

### COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, August 8, 2016**

The 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: Councillor Jorgensen, Sipola, McReynolds, Littlewolf, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (5)

Absent: Councillors Baribeau, Baranzelli (2)

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Oath of Office Ceremony for the Police Department to swear in for Officers Henry Trunk, Gavin Nichols, Samuel Canatsey and four Commendation Bar Awards to Officer Hughes, Mettler, Rengstorf, Brozek and Sargent Swenson.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to accept \$500 from the Richards family for the canine program for the police department. Motion Carried.

#### PUBLIC FORUM:

Mr. Andy Weiner of Rock Step Capital, of the Thunderbird Mall, and Jody Solomon head of field operations throughout the USA and based in Virginia were at the meeting to discuss the renovation of the Kmart portion of the mall.

Phase 1, 2017, to re-develop the Kmart area of the mall and demolish the front and bring in three or four restaurant and retailers with the potential of 55 to 70 new jobs.

Phase 2, 2018 take out interior corridor and remove half of the stores on the south, move the tenants in that area to a new space in the mall and make a storefront on that side and add two or three restaurants. The will look into accessing IRRRB funds and other incentives for the property.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held July 19, 2016  
Corrections: Move to deny the motion made for Joe Heitke to have 1.5' foot variance to the required 5' foot side yard setback in order to build a garage 3.5' feet from the east property line. Heitke voluntarily withdrew the request.  
Corrections: Move to add to the motion for Marileen Vananda that a porch is approved contingent upon having the steps built on the side and not toward the street.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 16-015 Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application and Permit for Temporary on Sale Liquor License for the Friends of the Greenhouse on August 20, 2016.
4. Allow Steve Gobats to attend the WWTT Conference in Brainerd on August 16-18, 2016 at a cost of \$452.28.

5. Approve Resolution 16635 to hire Mr. Mario Del Greco as a Single Role EMT on or after August 8, 2016.
6. Approve the HRA Levy for 2017 in the amount of \$59,000.00

Motion Carried and Resolutions approved unanimously.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution 16636 approving the sale and transfer of City property, Lot 0021, Block 024, to Residential Services Inc., in the amount of \$500.00, second reading. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Sipola to adopt Resolution 16637 approving the transfer of City property, to Range Family Dental second reading. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor McReynolds, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 16638 authorizing application and if awarded acceptance of the Mighty Ducks Ice Arena Matching Grant. Resolution adopted unanimously.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS

Moved by Councillor McReynolds, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve the Street Show Sessions for Aszendrops to have music from 6-10 p.m. on September 1, 2016. Motion Carried.

Communications from Planning and Zoning Commission submitting recommendations from meeting held on August 1, 2016:

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Sipola to approve the following variance request from Michael Olson to move in a garage at 431 15<sup>th</sup> Street North Virginia, MN:

Approve a 14 foot side yard variance to the required 20 foot side yard setback abutting public R/W (5<sup>th</sup> Ave) in order to place a moved in a garage 6 feet from the West side yard property line.

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 16639 to place a question for City sales tax of one-half (.05%) percent on the ballot for the November 8, 2016 election regarding the Miners Memorial Community Center. Resolution adopted unanimously.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COW Finance Meeting from August 2, 2016:

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the proposal for design services for the Olcott Park Fountain from DSGW Engineering not to exceed \$55,000 unless the scope of work changes. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to obtain an estimate to do a survey at Olcott Park Fountain area and work with DSGW in the process. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the WA Fisher Company invoice for 4,500 Olcott Park Restoration Flyers in the amount of \$275.00 from the Olcott Fountain Fund. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to waive the Kline Cuppoletti rental fee of \$125.00 for an ice cream social on August 18, 2016 for the Fountain Committee. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to allow Paul Steinman of Springsted to continue the process to develop a business subsidy agreement and application for the City of Virginia. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the purchase of three used squad cars from St Louis County for approximately \$15,000.00 and to auction the City owned squads. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve the matrix for the Deputy Police Chief Position. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve to post internally for the Deputy Police Chief Position. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve the MOU for the Natural Gas Line Project with the City of Eveleth. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to waive the Italian American Building rental fee for a "Welcome Back Students" picnic on August 21, 2016. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to adopt Resolution 16640 to allow Interim City Administrator Sherry Erickson to enter into a demolition grant application with IRRRB for the

Rock Step Capital developers. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to allow Interim City Administrator Sherry Erickson to enter into a development agreement with Rock Step Capital redevelopers. Motion Carried

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to request more information on the Apple Tree Learning Center property and what they would like to convey to the City and let them know we are interested. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to approve the Tennis Professional agreement with Jim Prittinen for the 2016 tennis season with the change to the minimum wage in paragraph E to \$9.50 as of August 1, 2016. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Sipola, supported by Councillor McReynolds to accept and file the paperwork authorizing the increase of \$54,000.00 for the water line project on Hwy 53. Motion Carried.

Street/Alley/Public Safety meeting from August 2, 2016:

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to deny the request for a curb cut at VCCU. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor Sipola to approve the proposed new curfew ordinance Sec. 10.14. and to remove the old language for the curfew ordinance. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Littlewolf, supported by Councillor McReynolds to table the request until the person who submitted the letter regarding the plastic bag ordinance comes forward with more information on the request. Motion Carried.

VEDA update regarding levy discussion from August 4, 2016:

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor McReynolds to approve Resolution 16641 for the EDA Levy for 2017 and call a Public Hearing for September 13, 2016. Motion Carried.

Councillor Sipola expressed his concerns regarding the Levy for the EDA and what the money is going to be used for. Councillor Jorgensen noted the levy is to be in to the County by September 15<sup>th</sup> and a public hearing is to be held prior to then. Councillor Jorgensen will add for discussion at the budget at the next Finance Meeting.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Finance Director Sherry Erickson noted the preliminary budget information for 2017 is in the printing process and the budget will be out tomorrow.

City Clerk Pamela LaBine updated on the primary election for Tuesday, August 8, 2016. The poles are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Councillor Jorgensen updated on the fundraising efforts for the Olcott Fountain, as of July 31, 2016 \$152,000 has been raised for the Olcott Fountain.

Mayor Cuffe announced on Thursday, August 11, Cliffs Natural Resources will host an Open House for the mustang pellet plant, at the Forbes Plant from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Discussed the estimate from Todd Hallonen for the signage for the entrances.

The new City Administrator Britt See Benes, was in the audience and was introduced and she is looking forward to working at the City of Virginia.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.