

**VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 11, 2015**

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

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Sipola, Baranzelli,

Mayor Cuffe - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Tamaro, member of the Virginia School Board, thanked the City Council for designating the 500 block of Fourth Street South as a one-way street.

Paul Metsa was present and stated he is working on the fundraising event for the Food Shelf that is scheduled for September 5, 2015, in Olcott Park.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes:
 - a. Regular Meeting held July 21, 2015.
 - b. Special Meeting held August 4, 2015.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 15-014 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application and Permit for a one day Temporary On-Sale Liquor License for the Iron Range Labor Assembly to hold a Labor Day picnic at Olcott Park on Monday, September 7, 2015.
4. Approve Off-Premise Permit for Flaimer’s Bar to sell liquor from 1:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 5, 2015, in Olcott Park for a fundraiser for the Food Shelf.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to approve the following variances for Paul and Melody Hejda, 125 East Chestnut Street, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- a. Variance from the Virginia City Code stating that accessory structures cannot be constructed in the front yard.
- b. Variance from the Virginia City Code stating that no more than one garage may be constructed per residential dwelling.
- c. 1,212 square foot variance to the maximum allowance of 1,000 square feet of accessory structures, in order to construct an additional 900 square foot garage, for a total of 2,212 square feet of accessory structures.
- d. 14 foot variance to the required 20 foot side yard setback abutting the City right-of-way, in order to construct a garage 6 feet from the East (2nd Avenue East) property line.
- e. 14 foot variance to the required 20 foot front yard setback requirement, in order to construct a garage 6 feet from the South (1st Street South) property line.

Motion carried.

Moved by Jorgensen and supported by Baribeau to approve the following variance for Bryan and Bobbi Greenwalt, 1201 12th Street South, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:

- a. 14 foot variance to the required 20 foot setback abutting the City right-of-way, in order to construct a new garage 6 feet from the East (12th Avenue) property line.

Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 4, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15144, approving the Olcott Park Fountain, Project Fund Agreement, with the Virginia Community Foundation. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to table the appraisals for the former Staver Foundry property until the next Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to authorize DSGW Architects to move forward with a change order to the contract with Lenci Enterprises for the work associated with the stairs on the south and west sides of City Hall, at an increased cost of \$72,370, with the over budget costs to come out of the Contingency Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau supported by McReynolds to authorize the City Administrator to immediately submit a grant application to the IRRRB and in November of 2015, submit an application to the Minnesota Department of Employment of Economic Development for the soils cleanup on the former clinic site. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15145, accepting the base bid and Alternates No. 1 and 2, from Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., in the total amount of \$997,279.50, for the Waschke Dodge Chrysler Jeep Facility Project, contingent upon approval of the IRRRB grant for soil corrections and approval by the MPCA on the Response Action Plan for the contaminated soils process. Resolution adopted unanimously. Mayor Cuffe noted that the Waschke's will be responsible for the base bid, which includes the utilities and related site work, at a cost of \$699,497.50.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to approve the travel requests for Fire Chief Allen Lewis and Scott Fredrickson (or IAFF Local 390 Representative) to attend the Virginia Line of Duty Deaths Memorial, to be held September 18-20, 2015, in Colorado Springs, CO. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to approve the travel request for Erik Jonassen, Fire Department, to attend the Rope Rescue Training, to be held October 15-23, 2015, in Joshua Tree National Park, CA. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15146, approving the hiring of Zachary Yurczyk for an EMT position. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to adopt Resolution No. 15147, approving the hiring of Justin Root for an EMT position. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 15148, approving the hiring of Lisa Hanover for a Firefighter/Paramedic position. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Matt Kelley, Police Department, to attend the Tactical Awareness Training to be held September 8-10, 2015 in Brooklyn Park, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to approve the travel request for Jonathan Benz, Police Department, to attend the DARE Conference to be held August 9-11, 2015 in Stillwater, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 15149, setting a policy for the unpaid blight and other assessments on tax forfeited properties, as amended. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 15150, authorizing the City of Virginia to make application to and accept funds from the IRRRB Residential Redevelopment Program for the demolition of the properties located at 427 14th Street North, 915 14th Street North and 211 4th Street South. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by McReynolds to approve the expenditure for three tempered glass covers for the historic plaques that are located throughout the City, at a cost not to exceed \$167 per plaque. Motion carried.

Councillor Sipola reported on the Personnel Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 11, 2015.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to amend the Receptionist job description to include processing animal licenses. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to move forward and fill the full-time Receptionist position for the Information Window and return the two half time employees to their respective departments. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 11, 2015.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Jorgensen to adopt Resolution No. 15151, approving the guidelines for the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant, as prepared by the Virginia Economic Development Authority. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau gave an update on the Minnesota Department of Transportation “Coffee and Conversation” meeting held on August 6, 2015, regarding the Highway 53 relocation project:

- Current working on status of construction, design and environmental phases.
- Crew is knocking the loose rocks from the pit walls, prior to installing pillar for bridge.
- The idling of the United Taconite operating will not affect the Highway 53 relocation project. Easements will expire in May of 2017.
- Steel for the bridge has been ordered.
- The bidding process will begin on October 22, 2015.
- No final decisions have been made on the noise walls.
- Future meetings are scheduled for September 3 and October 1, 2015.

Councillor Baranzelli commended the Public Works Department for the demolition of two houses over a three day period.

Councillor Littlewolf clarified some factors regarding the three City solar projects:

- The solar projects provide clean renewable energy at no cost to the City, as grants were received for the projects.
- The solar project at Southside Park is also used as a picnic area.
- The Public Utilities Finance Director will be invited to attend a Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting to present accurate information on the financial projections for the solar projects.
- Once the lease ends, the City will receive 100 percent of the benefit of the solar projects.
- The solar projects are high quality.
- There has been positive feedback from the community for the solar projects.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to put forth Councillor Baribeau's name for the vacant RAMS position.

Ayes: Councillors Littlewolf, McReynolds, Jorgensen, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe – 5

Nays: Councillor Sipola – 1

Abstained: Councillor Baribeau - 1

Motion carried.

A lengthy discussion followed. Councillor Sipola questioned the benefits the City receives by being a member of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools and stated he cannot support the motion. Councillor Baribeau stated the 2015 membership dues have been paid. It was the consensus of the members to continue to participate in RAMS for the remainder of the year and reassess the membership in 2016.

Councillor McReynolds stated the Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability will hold an informational session from 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. on August 23, 2015, in City Center Park regarding the designation of a farmers market.

Moved by Sipola and supported by McReynolds to authorize the Mayor to send a letter in support of the Jefferson Bus Lines. Motion carried.

Mayor Cuffe reported on the following items:

- Thanked the individuals that hosted the National Night Out on August 4, 2015: Peter and Brenda Skorich, Tammy Berglund, Fred and Vicki Entner, Kim Christenson, Michael and Kim Plesha, Gene and Donna Perrault, Karl and Stacie Sundquist, Clarence Graham, Cindy Haugen (Pine Mill Court/Columbia Apartments) and Eleanor Anshus.
- Thanked the businesses that donated to the National Night Out on August 4, 2015: Dollar Tree, Super One Walmart, F & D Meats and Target.
- Recognized and thanked the Police Department for finding the owner of an American flag that was found in the evidence storage area and for properly presenting it to a relative.
- Received a thank you from the Midway Neighborhood Reunion Committee for the City's assistance in preparing the site.
- Announced the City golf tournament will be held on August 27, 2015.
- An open house will be held in the near future to show the public how the new camera surveillance system operates.
- Thanked the Fire Chief and Fire Department for their quick response to a house fire and rescuing three pets.
- Will be holding a series of town meetings to publicly address public concerns.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LARRY CUFFE JR.
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk