

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, September 26, 2017

The regular meeting of the City Council in the City of Virginia, Minnesota was called to order by Mayor Cuffe, Jr. at 6:42 p.m. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councillor Paulsen, Johnson, Jorgensen, Littlewolf, Baranzelli
Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (7)

Absent: None

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Bill Smitke thanked the Councillors for their time serving the City of Virginia. Mr. Smitke isn't able to attend the Public Hearing on October 3, 2017 regarding the vacation of the 300 Block of 1st Street South so he would like to give his opinion to the Council regarding the vacation. Mr. Smitke gave a positive retort for the vacation of the 300 block and noted there would be more individuals who would be spending money in downtown Virginia and that it would be a good decision to vacate the street.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 12, 2017.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 17-018 schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Sale of Surplus Equipment.
4. Approve 2 AM license for Flaimer's, Inc. D/B/A Flaimer's.
5. Approve travel request for Joseph Broneak to attend the following:
 - a. BCA Search Warrant in Grand Rapids MN on October 25, 2017 cost of \$155.25
 - b. Precision Driving at HCC in Hibbing MN on October 10, 2017 cost of \$90.00

Motion Carried

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to approve the purchase of various fitness equipment for the Fire Hall using the AFG Grant that was awarded and to submit a change order to move the funding from the contractual service to allow for the purchase at a total cost of \$44,360.97. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Johnson to approve Mike Ruedebusch and Daniel Cerise, VFD, to attend the EMS World Expo on October 16-20, 2017 in Las Vegas, NV, cost of \$1,390 and \$400 respectively. Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the Whole held on September 19, 2017:

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17119 to approve the 3-year contract with the Mesabi Humane Society for FY 2018-2020 with annual increases over the three years. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to allow dogs in Olcott Park for the 5k Fundraiser for Mesabi Humane Society on October 7, 2017. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Paulsen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17120 approving the purchase of a 2017 garbage truck from Macqueen Equipment, Inc. for the side load box with a trade in of the 2008 garbage truck for a total of \$141,731.07 and the frame and chassis from Skubic Brothers, International in the amount of \$109,380.15 for a total purchase of \$251,111.22. Resolution adopted unanimously

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Johnson to allow City staff to present the video describing the need for a new Public Safety Center on all available avenues, social media television and to various organizations. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Johnson to adopt promotional Resolution 17121 for Mr. James Hipple from a Single Role EMT to Firefighter/Paramedic effective October 1, 2017. Resolution Adopted Unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to allow City Administrator See-Benes to work with MnDOT to request Business District Signage on Hwy 53 to 2nd Avenue, both north and south with the correct verbiage. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt Resolution 17122 for the Proposed 2017 Property Tax Levy, Collectible In 2018 with a 2% General Fund Levy Increase. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Littlewolf to include \$500 in the 2018 budget for the Iron Range Youth in Action. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve a \$4,000 increase the Calvary Cemetery budget for 2018 pending a letter is received requesting funds. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to adopt Resolution 17123 effective January 1, 2018 creating an Ambulance Special Revenue Fund and retire the Ambulance Enterprise Fund on December 31, 2017 and to transfer all monies from the Enterprise Fund to the Special Revenue Fund on recommendation of the City auditor. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Paulsen to authorize sending a letter to Mr. Wagner acknowledging that the Council has received his email and have discussed the concerns regarding the Opiate Epidemic. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Baribeau to approve the request from Independent School District #706 to pay for half of the cost of the property survey conducted near Parkview School on City owned and School District owned lands in the amount up to \$3,895.10 to facilitate a land swap between the parties. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Benes thanked Barb McKee for her dedication to the figure skating program and congratulated her on retirement.

Moved by Councillor Johnson, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to approve requests from the Bridge

Daze committee for the Community Walk on September 30, 2017 for porta pottys, partial closing of East Chestnut and placement of garbage cans on the plaza. Motion Carried.

Councillor Jorgensen would like to begin the process to change 2nd Street South to two way traffic. Councillor Johnson would not support and feels a study should be done on a larger scope of work. Councillor Littlewolf would like some to hear of options from the County if the street vacation doesn't happen. Councillor Baribeau referenced the email that was received today from Kevin Gray, St. Louis County, regarding the vacation of the 300 Block.

Moved by Councillor Jorgensen, supported by Councillor Baribeau to allow City Engineers to conduct a study to change traffic on 2nd Street South from a one way to a two way between 2nd Avenue to 5th Avenue and present a recommendation to the council.

Ayes: Councillor Baribeau, Jorgensen, Baranzelli, Mayor Cuffe, Jr. (4)

Nay: Councillor Johnson, Paulsen, Littlewolf (3)

Motion Carried.

Moved by Councillor Baranzelli, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to set the Truth and Taxation meeting for December 12, 2017 at 6:01 p.m. Motion Carried.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. read the resolution submitted from Rams regarding the sulfate standards. Councillor Baribeau discussed the information that has been presented at several meetings he has attended in regards to the sulfate standards. Further discussion on the Resolution continued.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to adopt resolution 17124 from RAMS regarding the sulfate standard. Resolution adopted unanimously.

COMMISSION LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Councillor Littlewolf invited the Council to the Rural and American Indigenous Leadership in partnership with Advocates for Family Peace. The event will be October 6, 2017 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Virginia Public Library. Each City may have two people attend.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, Council Jorgensen to adopt the resolution 17125 for the 2018 VEDA levy in the amount of \$66,676. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Councillor Baribeau, supported by Councillor Jorgensen to discuss the 2018 VEDA levy at the Truth and Taxation meeting set in December 2017. Motion Carried.

City Administrator See-Britt informed the council of the placement of the time capsule on Friday, September 30, 2017 at the Hwy 53 bridge plaza.

Councillor Paulsen thanked the Council for the City update that was in the newspaper of things happening in the City of Virginia.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. was contacted regarding the naming of the Hwy 53 Bridge. Taconite Sky Bridge was the name that was selected from all the recommendations that were submitted locally. The names will be given to the MN legislature for a final decision on the name of the Hwy 53 bridge.

The House of Representatives will be traveling to Virginia to view the Hwy 53 Bridge on Wednesday, September 27, 2017 at 12 p.m.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. and City Administrator See-Benes attended the Virginia and Eveleth school board meetings to discuss the Miners Memorial Complex Project for potential collaboration with the schools. The City is moving forward with the RFP for the Construction Manager at risk which proposals are due on Friday, September 29, 2017.

Mayor Cuffe, Jr. thanked the City office staff for organizing all of the events that have been going on in the City. The public is invited to attend the public to the hearing for the vacation of the 300 Block of 1st Street South on October 3, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m. to Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.