

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 9, 2001

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

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Lucarelli, Russo, Baribeau, Thornton, Henderson, Cuffe,
Mayor Gentilini – 7

Absent: None

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held December 26, 2000.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 00001.
3. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Two Police Department employees, computer training, Plymouth, MN, January 16 and 17, 2001.
 - B. Paul Hejda, John Aro, Mike Juola, Public Works Department, Workplace Safety for Labor and Management Practitioners, Eveleth, MN, January 17, 2001.
 - C. Tom Butorac, City Attorney, Update for City Attorneys, Bloomington, MN, February 9 and 10, 2001.
 - D. Dave Koeneman, Park Department, pick up greenhouse supplies in Minneapolis, January 10, 2001.
4. Approve Cigarette License for Helen's Market, 600 3rd Avenue North.
5. Approve Cigarette License for Bradley Meyers, d/b/a Maco News, contingent upon meeting requirements.
6. Approve Secondhand Good Dealers License for Connie Ann King, d/b/a New 2 U.
7. Adopt Resolution No. 01025 designating depositories for 2001.
8. Adopt Resolution No. 01026 approving Premises Permit Application for National Multiple Sclerosis Society at Uptown Nite Club.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve calling for quotes for the following equipment for the Park Department: 1) Pickup truck; 2) Infield pro; 3) Tee mower; 4) Upright freezer; 5) Ice machine. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the proposed golf course rate increases for the years 2001 and 2002. Councillor Lucarelli stated that he would have rather increased the rates by a few dollars, rather than \$8 or \$10 at one time.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to approve the following changes in the golf rates for 2001 and 2002: 1) Green fees weekend rates (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) – 9 holes, \$20.00; 18 holes, \$25.00; 2) Motorized cart rental weekend rates (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) – 9 holes, \$20.00; 18 holes, \$25.00; 3) Season tickets – Child, \$75.00; Student, \$150.00; Adult, \$350.00; Husband/Wife, \$550.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Thornton and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01027, designating Mesabi Daily News the Official Newspaper for 2001. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated that the Finntown Tax Increment District has been in existence for 25 years and has to be decertified by April 1, 2001. This district has been used to fund revitalization in Finntown. Tax increment revenues should be collected for 2001 for this district, but expenditures must be completed by the decertification date or the funds have to be returned.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the City Clerk/Finance Director to decertify the Finntown Tax Increment District. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to authorize continued membership in the Iron Range Labor-Management Association, in the amount of \$750.00. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe stated that several people have approached him about the difference in gas prices between Virginia and Duluth. He suggested that the City Council write a letter to the area legislators to get some answers as to why the gas prices are 10 to 12 cents higher in some areas within a 60-mile radius.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to write a letter to the area legislators asking them to check on the gas price difference within a 60-mile radius. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that the City Council met as a Committee of the Whole on January 3, 2001, with Bob Manzoline, Regional Rail Authority, to discuss the Mesabi Trail and the Mesabi Trailhead facility, which will be located in Virginia. The Regional Rail Authority will be requesting funding from the State, in the amount of \$3.5 million, to use for the Mesabi Trail and trailhead facility.

Moved by Russo and supported to write a letter in support of the Mesabi Trailhead facility being located in Virginia. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson and supported to approve the issuance of an On-Sale Liquor License to Snow Avalanche, Inc., d/b/a La Cocina & Cantina, 409 Chestnut Street, contingent upon meeting all requirements. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini also stated that a decision was made at the Committee of the Whole meeting on January 3, 2001, that the Personnel Committee, as a Committee of the Whole, will interview all applicants for commissions. A proposed policy for interviewing applicants for commissions has been distributed to the City Council for their review.

Councillor Cuffe stated that he attended an Eveleth-Virginia Airport Commission meeting and they are very concerned about the lack of two representatives from Virginia, as it is difficult to have a quorum for their meetings.

Moved by Henderson and supported to send a letter to the Eveleth City Council requesting them to consider making changes to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Joint Powers Agreement, in order to allow an elected official to serve on the commission, if no citizens volunteer to serve on the commission. Motion carried.

Councillor Henderson stated that the Public Utilities Commission adopted a resolution in support of funding to rebuild and/or repair the steam system and that a letter will be sent to Congressman Oberstar to officially request funding for the City of Virginia. City Department Director Leoni stated that no change has been recommended to the steam system conversion plan and that the City of Virginia is just formalizing our request for funding in the form of a resolution.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to waive the requirement for a written resolution for the following motion. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01028, supporting obtaining funding to repair or rebuild the steam system, with the resolution to be sent to Congressman Oberstar and other elected officials. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Department Director Leoni stated that Brown Transportation has requested permission to try a number of different promotions with the Dial-a-Ride service.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to table the request from Brown Transportation, until City Department Director Leoni meets with them to discuss the requests. Motion carried.

City Department Director Leoni stated that a recently hired firefighter has resigned.

Moved by Russo and supported to advertise for a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Fire Department. Motion carried.

City Department Director Leoni stated that he has received responses to his letter from interested parties regarding a joint fire and police facility. A Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting will be set up to discuss the joint fire and police facility, with the other interested parties invited.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that applications have been received for a director for the Quad Cities Economic Development Authority and that interviews will be set up in the near future.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that a thank you was received from the United States Department of Commerce for the City of Virginia's help in the 2000 Census.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that Joe Leoni has donated \$10,000 to the Virginia Foundation to be used at the Virginia Golf Course for a sign and lighting at the sliding hill, with any remaining money to be used for the Southside Park or the Finntown Park.

Moved by Thornton and supported to send a letter to Joe Leoni thanking him for his generous donation to the Virginia Foundation. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that the City of Biwabik is trying to develop a program to provide assistance to displaced miners through participation in forest-based enterprises.

Moved by Thornton and supported to refer the program, to provide assistance to displaced Miners through participation in forest-based enterprises, to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Thornton and supported to adjourn at 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, January 23, 2001, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk