

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, MAY 22, 2001

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent: None

Moved by Cuffe and supported to accept the feasibility reports for the following improvement projects:

- 1) 13th Avenue South from 17th Street South to 20th Street South;
- 2) 3rd Street South from 4th Avenue West to 5th Avenue West;
- 3) 1st Street South from 3rd Avenue West to 4th Avenue West;
- 4) 7th Avenue West from 8th Street North to alley North of 8th Street North;
- 5) 10th Street North from 8th Avenue West to 9th Avenue West;
- 6) 11th Avenue West from 13th Street North to alley North of 16th Street North;
- 7) 13th Avenue West from 8th Street South to 13th Street South.

Motion carried.

Moved by Thornton and supported to open the public hearing on the improvements projects. Motion carried.

Mr. Bob Thomas, 1230 12th Street South, stated that storm sewer line keeps rising on 13th Avenue South and the curb and gutter on the west side of the avenue is four inches higher than the east side. He questioned if these items would be repaired before the overlay is done. Councillor Baribeau stated that the Public Works crew would repair the storm sewer before they overlay the avenue. Mr. Thomas also stated that the gas tankers use that avenue, along with speeding traffic. He is concerned that the overlay might make these problems worse. City Department Director Leoni

stated that additional signage will be put in that area to direct people to use 12th Avenue to get to the Thunderbird Mall.

Steve Brown, 1231 11th Street South, presented a petition from the residents in that area requesting that stop signs be installed at the intersections of 13th Avenue West with 10th Street South, 11th Street South and 12th Street South.

Matt Niemi, 1222 10th Street South, also stated his concern regarding the speeding traffic on 13th Avenue West and would like the City to seriously consider the stop signs.

Moved by Thornton and supported to refer the matter of signage on 12th Avenue West and 13th Avenue West to a joint meeting of the Public Safety Committee and Street and Alley Committee. Motion carried.

Kerry Bidle, 1031 15th Street North, questioned how the assessment figures were arrived at. He also stated that the traffic and speed has significantly increased on 11th Avenue North since the new clubhouse. He is not opposed to the overlay project, but would like signage in place to slow traffic down. Councillor Lucarelli suggested this also be referred to the Public Safety Committee and to include the Police Chief to review additional Police Department patrols.

Mel Pfutzenreuter, 1031 16th Street North, questioned whether curbs and gutters could be put along all of 11th Avenue. City Department Director Leoni stated that an overlay will be done this year on 11th Avenue, but the City may look at a total reconstruction in the future including curbs and gutters.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to close the public hearing. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01110, approving C.P. 7-01, specially assessed bituminous overlay project, and to advertise for bids. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to call for bids for the Oneida Forty (Edgewood Vista Assisted Living) project. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo removed Item 5, amendments to Assumption Certificate and Surety Rider for Qwest Corporation, from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Thornton and supported to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Item 5, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held May 8, 2001.
 2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 01010.
 3. Approve Transient Merchants License for Penny Vlasich, Northland Variety.
 4. Adopt Resolution No. 01111, approving extension of Listing Extension Agreement with Century 21 for the Northern Heights Addition property through May 19, 2002.
 5. Approve amendments to Assumption Certificate and Surety Rider for Qwest Corporation Right of Way Permit Bond.
 6. Approve Cigarette License for Tim Kruchowski, Razzle's Nite Club, 203 Chestnut Street.
- Motion carried and resolution adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 5, Councillor Russo questioned if the amount for the Qwest Corporation Right of Way Permit Bond was large enough.

Moved by Henderson and supported to table the amendments to the Assumption Certificate and Surety Rider for the Qwest Corporation Right of Way Permit Bond. Motion carried.

Moved by Thornton and supported to reschedule the public hearing to discuss loans for steam system conversions and energy improvements until 6:30 P.M. on June 12, 2001. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve Doug Foschi, Queen City Sports Palace, to sell on-sale liquor in a fenced in area in the adjacent parking lot on June 17, 2001, contingent upon checking if a one-day temporary liquor license is required. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to contribute one Virginia Golf Course season pass for the 2001 Quad Cities Golf Outing, which will be held on June 21, 2001, at the Virginia Golf Course. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe discussed the blighted homes, businesses and warehouses in the City of Virginia that are in deplorable condition. He stated that the City should be doing something more, such as possibly writing letters to these property owners to make them aware of the available programs.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to present the blighted buildings to the Buildings and Grounds Committee and have them come up with a plan to present to the City Council. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that the Comprehensive Housing Study is in place and contains recommendations on what could be done. She will make sure that the Building and Grounds Committee receives notices when the revitalization team will be meeting to review the housing study.

Moved by Henderson and supported to reschedule the public hearing to discuss the proposed referendum question to grant additional Special Sunday Licenses to 6:30 P.M. on June 26, 2001. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the transfer of the On-Sale Liquor License to Razzle's Nite Club, 203 Chestnut Street. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the issuance of an On-Sale Beer License and an On-Sale Wine License for the New China Buffet, 322 Chestnut Street, contingent upon approval of the Police Department. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street and Alley Committee meeting held on May 22, 2001.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to refer the estimate for the Chestnut Street Christmas decorations, in the amount of \$12,750.00, to the Finance Committee, as this is an unbudgeted expenditure. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve the change in language on the form to request elimination of the City portion of monthly garbage service fee, as follows: "If the property you own will be vacant, due to circumstances beyond your control (e.g. death, long term illness) for at least four (4) continuous months, the City portion of your monthly garbage fee may be removed from your utility bill by completing this form." Motion carried.

City Department Director Leoni stated that this would disqualify people, who leave their homes during the winter and summer months, from requesting the elimination of the City garbage fee, as this was not the intent of the program.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to refer the request to overlay the City parking lot east of Virginia Surplus in Block 18, Original Addition, to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to request Park/Recreation Director Bachman to check into excessive weeds in the sodded area in the right of way in the 200 block of 11th Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to install an additional sign stating "Do Not Enter, Wrong Way " at the Southeast corner of the alley on 16th Avenue between 12th and 13th Street South. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Park/Recreation Commission meeting held on May 15, 2001. He stated that the Park Commission has decided to landscape and sod the east one half of the

Finntown Park lot. Benches and picnic tables will possibly be added to the Finntown Park.

Representatives from the Labor Management Committee also attended the Park/Recreation Commission meeting and requested that the City and Park Commission not take on any additional projects that require maintenance, until the City hires more employees. Councillor Cuffe suggested that the City take a serious look at the manpower.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the annual Lakes Beautification Committee cleanup will be held from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon on Saturday, June 2, 2001. This year, the Lakes Beautification Committee will pay \$2.00 for each bag of litter that is picked up.

Councillor Henderson stated that Steve Skogman, President, Range Recreational Board, will set up a future meeting to discuss the facility and its financial condition.

City Department Director Leoni stated the City has joined with USX to clean up the old gas plant site.

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

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01112, approving the access agreement with USX, in order to clean up the old gas plant site. Motion carried.

City Department Director Leoni stated the Laurentian Vision charette scheduled for May 30 through June 2, 2001, has been postponed for a few months until the lead person recovers from a recent illness.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini announced the winners of the City of Virginia Human Rights Commission essay contest: 1st Place - Lindsey Predovich; 2nd Place - Andrew Ruthenbeck; 3rd Place - Troy Bloyer/Rachel Lach. Honorable Mentions - Robby Babich, Jenna Carpenter, Carol Smith, Nick Strle, Keith Soderberg,

Moved by Thornton and supported to adjourn to 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 12, 2001, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk