

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 28, 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, Thornton, Henderson, Cuffe, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6
Absent: Councillor Baribeau - 1

Councillor Cuffe removed Item 3.B. and Item 4 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the following Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 3B and 4.

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held August 14, 2001, and Special Meeting held July 31, 2001.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 01016.
3. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Billy Hebl, David Koski, Police Department, Bureau of Criminal Investigation Training, September 25, 26 and 27, 2001, Duluth, Minnesota.
 - B. Robin Olivanti, Deputy Police Chief, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Training Seminar, October 24 and 25, 2001, Owatonna, Minnesota.
 - C. Rick Puhek, Deputy Assessor, MAAO Fall Assessor Conference, September 30 – October 3, 2001, Alexandria, Minnesota.
 - D. Jack Luzovich, Dorian Jankila, Steve Gobats and Tom Cyr, Public Works Department, Trenching Workshop, September 6, 2001, Eveleth, Minnesota.
4. Approve Transient Merchant's License for Charles Homier, Jr., d/b/a Homier Distributing Company, for tool, housewares and general merchandise sale to be held at the Miners Memorial Building on September 17 and 18, 2001.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 01157 approving Premises Permit Application for Queen City Sports Palace, 523 Chestnut Street.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 3B, Councillor Cuffe questioned why a personal vehicle was being used instead of a police vehicle. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated that the police vehicles need to be kept in Virginia in case of an incident.

Regarding Item 4, Councillor Cuffe stated he is opposed to outside vendors coming into Virginia and competing with local businesses.

Moved by Thornton and supported to approve Item 3B, travel request from Deputy Police Chief Olivanti, and Item 4, Transient Merchant's License for Homier Distributing Company.

Ayes: Councillors Lucarelli, Russo, Thornton, Henderson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 5

Nays: Councillor Cuffe – 1

Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that the assessments for C.P. 3-99, reconstruction of tee alley, Block 8, Anderson's Third Addition, will be continued to the Street and Alley Committee meeting to be held at 9:00 A.M. on September 10, 2001.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve calling for construction bids for the City Center Park Project, C.P. 16-01. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to approve calling for bids for the demolition of the Virginian Bar. Motion carried.

Moved by Thornton and supported to approve the final payment request for George Bougalis & Sons Co, in the amount of \$13,595.50, for C.P. 6-00, Parkville-Silver Creek Dredging Project. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01158 to enter into a contract with Benchmark Engineering, in an amount not to exceed \$24,312.00, for the Seppi Brothers Concrete development of Northern Heights, and, if the project moves forward to the construction

phase, to enter into a construction observation and staking agreement at their 2001 hourly rates, in an amount not to exceed \$14,700.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to amend Resolution No. 01155, adopted on August 14, 2001, accepting the bid from Utility Systems of America, Inc., in the amount of \$136,197.50, for the Mountain Iron Drive drainage improvements, with the City of Virginia's share to be \$45,399.17 and the Department of Natural Resources and City of Mountain Iron responsible for the remaining \$90,798.33. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01159, submitting a request to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a one-year extension on the Brownsfields Demonstration Pilot Grant and to modify the grant to include both the Highway 53 Corridor area and the 16-acre parcel west of the Mesabi Community College. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to forego the request from the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities for a contribution to pursue a new economic development program for Greater Minnesota. Motion carried.

A review of the Southside Park playground equipment bids indicated they were \$26,360.00 higher than the budgeted amount of \$75,000.00.

Moved by Russo and supported to reject all the bids for the Southside Park playground equipment, and to continue to pursue a Department of Natural Resources grant and to review this project in the Spring of 2002. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson and supported to submit a funding request to the Virginia Foundation for the Southside Park playground equipment. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to call for bids for fencing, a groundsmaster and a loader snowbucket for the Park Department and a portable stage, players benches and tables and chairs for the Miners Memorial Building, all of which are included in the 2001 budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Thornton and supported to call for quotes for the heating system control box for the Miners Memorial Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to move the date for the next Council meeting to 6:30 P.M., Wednesday, September 12, 2001, due to the Primary Election. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported to draft a modification to the City parking ordinance to recognize residential parking permit areas and to provide for penalties if residential parking areas are violated. Motion carried.

Moved by Henderson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01160, accepting the quote from Ringfinger Computer Sales, in the amount of \$2,850.00 plus tax, for a computer system for the public access studio, contingent upon the other pieces of equipment being in place. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Russo reported on the joint Personnel Committee meeting of the City Council and Public Utilities Commission held on August 21, 2001.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01161, approving a salary increase for Terry Leoni, City Department Director and Public Utilities General Manager, effective August 29, 2001.

Ayes: Councillors Lucarelli, Baribeau, Thornton, Henderson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 5

Nays: Councillor Cuffe – 1

Resolution adopted.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01162, approving a salary increase for Ronald Lackner, City Clerk/Finance Director, effective August 29, 2001.

Ayes: Councillors Lucarelli, Russo, Thornton, Henderson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 5

Nays: Councillor Cuffe - 1

Resolution adopted.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01163, promoting Richard Puhek to the City Assessor position, effective September 1, 2001, and to post the position of Deputy Assessor, contingent upon modification of the job description to include both assessor and engineering functions. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to allow two fire department employees to participate in rescue training from a helicopter on September 6, 8 and 9, 2001, and to review the mutual aid agreement at contract time. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to allow the Fire Marshall to participate in the State of Minnesota Juvenile Fire Starter Intervention Program. Motion carried.

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

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 01164, to authorize entering into a retirement letter of understanding with Thomas J. Yarick. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Lucarelli reviewed the letter from the owner of the ICO building on Chestnut Street, regarding the long grass at that location. Councillor Thornton stated that the City Council agreed to move forward with the misdemeanor charges for violating the City Code, due to the exterior condition of the ICO building. Also, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will be meeting with the owners of other blighted warehouses in the near future to review each situation.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated she recently attended a Quad Cities joint powers meeting for the Range Recreation Civic Center. Subsidies from the quad cities are expected to double next year, due to their poor financial condition. The manager is on a temporary month-to-month contract until the board can come to an agreement with the curlers to make the building more self-sustaining. Councillor Henderson encouraged all Councillors to attend the board meetings.

City Department Director Leoni reported on the Legislative Bonding Committee's visit to Virginia to review the steam system and Mesabi Trailhead facility site.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner recommended that the City move forward and apply for the Renewal Community Designation on the basis of outward migration. There would be many benefits for new or expanding businesses. He requested permission to hold a public hearing at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 16, 2001 for the cities of Mt. Iron, Virginia and Wuori Township.

Moved by Thornton and supported to approve a public hearing for the Renewal Community Designation at 6:00 P.M., September 18, 2001. Motion carried.

City Department Director Leoni stated that City Council went on record requiring that each City department have different colored vehicles. With the new State bidding process, color selections are limited and tan is not available.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- The flags at City Hall and Miners Memorial Building have been replaced.
- Wrote a letter to the editor regarding the process on the lakes clean up project.
- Human Rights Commission held Bias/Hate Crime Response Network meeting on August 15, 2001.
- Iron Range Rehab Center donated \$500,000 for the VRMC Capital Campaign. In addition, they have donated the use of their building for their headquarters. Jim Givens, Burgher Office, donated the office furniture for the headquarters.
- Speak Out, sponsored by Bill Noyes Forum, was held on August 23, 2001.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to allow one employee from the Engineering Department to attend a one-half day workshop in Duluth on Thursday, August 30, 2001, regarding clean water partnership grants and loans. Motion carried.

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

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk