

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 8, 2002

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, Lindberg, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma
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 27, 2001, and Reorganizational Meeting held January 2, 2002.
 2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 02-0001.
 3. Approve issuance of Cigarette License to Helen's Market, 600 North 3rd Avenue.
- Motions carried and resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt an Ordinance providing for the creation of an Emergency Management Ordinance. Ordinance adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to appoint Terry Leoni, City Department Director, as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02026, approving the purchase of the property located at 316 South 1st Street, for the amount of \$65,000.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the Mayor to provide welcome packets to representatives of the 2002 Men's and Women's National Curling Championships, which will be held March 2-10, 2002, at the Range Recreation Civic Center. Motion carried. Councillor Peterson will attend the next Range Recreation Civic Center meeting to determine what the City can provide for the event.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve a Conditional Use Permit for Jane Lehtinen, d/b/a Grooming by Jane, in order to operate a boarding kennel at 1517 South 8th Street, subject to the following contingencies: 1) A maximum of fifteen domesticated animals (cats and/or dogs) will be allowed for overnight boarding; 2) No animals will be left outside overnight or during the time when the building is left unattended; and 3) The Conditional Use Permit will be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission one year after the business opens. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve the issuance of a Kennel License to Jane Lehtinen, d/b/a Grooming by Jane. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the final Edgewood Vista Plat of Virginia. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated the Cable Commission is currently meeting with a representative from Mediacom and will report to the Council after their meeting. Councillor Russo requested that the discussion on the Mediacom rate increase be deferred until the Cable Commission and Mediacom representative come to the meeting.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize City Department Director Leoni to submit the following projects for Mineland Reclamation funding: 1) Seppi project; and/or 2) Midway water infrastructure. Motion carried.

Councillor Lucarelli reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on January 7, 2002.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will be meeting with the Park/Recreation Commission to discuss the pros and cons on various scenarios for the Golf Course concession.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to authorize the City crews to move forward with the site preparation for the golf cart storage building and to refer the golf cart storage building to the Finance Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the bid from Levio Penoncello, in the amount of \$2,000.00, for the purchase of Lot 1, Block 3, Ridgewood First Addition, with the stipulation that construction start on the house within 20 months and completed within 36 months. Motion carried. The resolution approving the sale will be adopted at the next City Council meeting.

Moved by Peterson and supported to pursue negotiations for the purchase of the property at 409-411 2nd Street South. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to refer the Virginian Bar property to the Heart of Virginia, with their suggestions to be reviewed at a future meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to send a letter to Bill Doran, stating that he has fourteen days to decide to purchase the one-acre parcel of property located on Bourgin Road, or the property may be offered to the public. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to send a letter to Tod Urban, notifying him that Lot 8, Block 2, Northern Heights Addition, will revert back to the City, as he has not complied with the building covenants, and to refund the purchase price, less closing costs. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to send a letter to the Virginia Economic Development Authority requesting that a statement be included in the deed at the time of closing on the Fairview Addition properties, stating that the property will revert back to the City if the building time requirements are not complied with, and the purchase price, less closing costs, will be refunded to the buyer. The same procedure will be followed for property in Northern Heights Addition. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to direct the City Attorney to aggressively pursue the purchase of property along Virginia Lake behind 308 North 3rd Avenue. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to allow representatives of the Little League baseball program to remove the fence from the old tennis court in Midway for use at the Little League baseball field. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to send a letter to the Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway stating that the City of Virginia will oppose the removal of the tracks, unless they agree to repair the streets, and that the City would also bring in other parties, if necessary. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the billing statement from St. Louis County, in the amount of \$31,044.00, for the purchase of the former Midway School building. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to send a letter to the Senior Citizens Center, notifying them that their request for a loading/unloading parking space on Chestnut Street will be reviewed once the reconstruction is completed on Chestnut Street and suggesting that they use the parking area in the alley to drop off visitors. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner requested that a public hearing be held to consider issuing bonds for a project by Range Mental Health Center, Inc.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02026A, calling for a public hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, February 12, 2002, to consider the issuance of Health Facilities Revenue Obligations for a project by Range Mental Health Center, Inc. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02027, accepting bid of Grande Ace Hardware, in the amount of \$897.00 per month, for storage and distribution of garbage bags for a two year period beginning January 1, 2002, with the option of a one year extension.

Ayes: Councillors Lucarelli, Russo, Baribeau, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6

Nays: Councillor Lindberg - 1

Resolution adopted.

City Department Director Leoni stated the tentative date for the Board of Review is April 23, 2002.

City Department Director Leoni gave an update on various requests for funding. The \$5,000,000 request for bonding for the steam system was rejected for Federal funding, but will be on a list as part of the Governor's budget. The request for a Minnesota Department of Trade and Economic Development grant for the clean up of the coal gasification plant was rejected, but will be pursued again during the May funding cycle. An IRRRB grant, in the amount of \$250,000, was approved for infrastructure for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield project. The IRRRB grant request for \$650,000 for infrastructure for the Seppi project will be discussed this month. The IRRRB grant request for the Midway water infrastructure was rejected by the IRRRB, but he will continue to pursue the request.

He is also working with Northspan and the Arrowhead Regional Development Commission to seek federal funding for the Midway infrastructure project.

City Attorney Butorac stated the Cable Commission and Mediacom will appear at the January 22, 2002, City Council meeting to discuss the cable rate increase and plans for the public access studio.

Moved by Russo and supported to table the communication from Mediacom, regarding the rate increases, until the January 22, 2002, meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Public Works Department will be accepting trees and greens at the Public Works Garage from January 7 – 18, 2002.
- Virginia Public Library will be holding Author's Visits at 6:30 P.M. on January 10 and 17, 2002, as part of the adult winter reading program.
- Four people from the Iron Range (John Filander, Rick Anderson, Mike Skenzich and Gary Larson) have volunteered to donate their time to help out at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.
- Laurentian Vision Charrette will be meeting from 8:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. on January 15, 2002, at the Park Inn.
- Reported on Laurentian Arts Culture & Alliance meeting she and Councillor Politano attended on January 5, 2002, where the group identified important steps that need to take place now that they own the facility.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adjourn to Tuesday, January 22, 2002, at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk