

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 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

Councillor Lindberg removed Item 4.3 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows, with the exception of Item 3:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 25, 2002, and Special Meeting held October 2, 2002.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 02019.
3. Receive and file Virginia Golf Course Rounds and Revenue Report through September, 2002.
4. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Susan Gooden, City Attorney's Office, and Britt See, Engineering Office, Recording Documents Seminar, October 30, 2002, Duluth, MN.
 - B. Roxanne Koski, Police Department, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, October 24, 2002, Bemidji, MN.
 - C. Bill Hennis, Engineering Department:
 1. Local Water Management: The Next Era, October 16, 2002, Grand Rapids, MN.
 2. Wetland Conservation Act and Public Water Rules Review, October 30, 2002, Duluth, MN.
5. Approve variance, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission:
 - A. Robert and Sheila Winter, 110 10TH Street South, 24' variance to the required 5' side yard setback requirement, in order to construct an addition 2.6' from the east property line with the following contingencies: 1) 1 hour firewall construction on east side of addition; 2) No windows on east side of addition; 3) Owner address concerns regarding drainage from roof.
6. Adopt Resolution No. 02175, authorizing execution of license agreement with United States Steel for a 15-inch sanitary sewer line.

7. Adopt Resolution No. 02176, authorizing execution of a three-year extension of the lease agreement with the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency.
Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 3, Virginia Golf Course Rounds and Revenue Report through September, 2002, Councillor Lindberg questioned what the other revenue included. City Department Director Leoni stated the other revenue includes golf cart rental fees, pull cart fees and trail fees. These figures will be detailed on future reports. Councillor Lindberg also asked when the inventory will be done for the golf pro shop. City Department Director Leoni stated an inventory will be done after October 15, 2002, as all gift certificates must be turned in by that date, and the information should be available for the first Council meeting in November.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve Item 3 on the Consent Agenda, Virginia Golf Course Rounds and Revenue Report through September, 2002. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02177, authorizing the sale of a parcel of property located in Olcott First Addition, to Craig Emery, at a cost of \$784.00 for the land, plus survey fees and closing costs, with the stipulation that construction on a structure start within 20 months and be completed within 36 months. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated she received a call from Sykes Enterprises notifying the City that they have lost a major customer at their Progress Park facility and have decided to contract this work at another location. Unless they find another major contract by December 7, 2002, Sykes will close this facility temporarily and lay off between 209-240 employees and look at leasing out the building. The City needs to find out what Sykes' issues are and how the City can help. The City of Virginia also needs to actively pursue jobs to replace those jobs that are lost and focus even harder on economic development.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street and Alley Committee meeting held on October 2, 2002.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve Jola and Sopp Excavating, Inc., to lower the manholes on 4th Street South, at a total cost of \$2,700.00. Motion carried. (Councillor Lindberg abstaining from voting.)

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02178, approving Change Order No. 4, which increases the contract of Jola and Sopp Excavating, Inc., by \$16,441.83, for additional work required for C.P. 16-01, City Center Park. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve placement of signage on 4th Street North near City Center Park to warn of possible road flooding during heavy periods of rain. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02179, approving Change Order No. 2, in the amount of \$5,540.78, and Change Order No. 3, in the amount of \$2,433.85, which increases the contract of Ulland Brothers, Inc., by the total amount of \$7,974.63, for additional electrical work and actual quantities installed for the Chestnut Street Improvements, Phase I, C.P. 3-00, and to also approve the final total payment to Ulland Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$41,840.00, for C.P. 3-00, Chestnut Street Improvements, Phase I. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Department Director Leoni stated the shipment of the Chestnut Street light standards has been delayed, due to a manufacturing problem, and he will put the contractor on notice and pursue contract language if the delay extends past the contract specifications.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the Engineering Department to call for bids for the installation of infrastructure to the new Seppi location. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02180, accepting bid from Jola and Sopp Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$489,968.50, for the Ballfield Channel Improvements, C.P. 8-02. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Politano reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on October 8, 2002.

Moved by Politano and supported to run the local sporting event programming on the City of Virginia public access channel, in conjunction with the Cable Commission, and to advertise for contributors to offset the cost of the local programming, with Bob Cohn to be given permission to use the public access studio. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize payment to Bob Cohn for videotaping Virginia high school sporting events, as follows: 20 games at \$90.00 through December 31, 2002, and 20 games at \$125.00, effective January 1, 2003, with the payments to come from the General Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to tentatively approve the 2003 budget request for the Cable Commission, in the amount of \$25,000.00, plus the additional \$1.00 per subscriber fee (2,500 subscribers), and to work with City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner prior to purchasing equipment and expending the budgeted funds.

Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to refer all budget requests to the finance budget committee for final budget approval. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve a 2003 budget for paying off the remaining loan balance for the Range Recreation Civic Center, in the amount of \$40,014.00, and to authorize City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner to send a letter to the bank indicating this is our final payment on the loan and request an auditing statement of the loan and a release, as well as requesting a list of operating expenses from the ROCC. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the operating expenses for the Range Recreational Civic Center (ROCC). The City Council would like to see the operating expenses split equally between the four

cities in future years, instead of on a per capita basis, now that the loan is paid off. City Attorney Butorac stated the City cannot dictate how the operating expenses will be split, as the agreement requires unanimous approval of all four cities.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize Dennis Benz to stay with the DARE Program for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year at one day per week for the five-month period January through May, 2003, and to work with the fifth grade only, at an estimated cost of \$5,200.00, and the DARE Program will be put on hold for future years until the City budget is available. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve a budgeted payment to the Calvary Cemetery Association, in the amount of \$6,500.00, for road repairs. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to call for quotes for the snow slide prevention system for the Northland Office Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported that the City move ahead and cover the cost to install electricity to the Larden Development townhouse project, at a estimated cost of \$3,862.00, and request that the Public Utilities Commission participate and waive any mark up costs. Motion carried.

(Councillor Lindberg abstained from voting.)

Councillor Politano stated that the City will review each case on an individual basis in the future.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to direct the Nijji Center to apply for an energy loan under the bonding mechanism through the City of Virginia and give them special consideration on interest, with the loan repayment to begin on January 1, 2005. Motion carried. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated the interest will start to accrue on the loan on January 1, 2005.

Moved by Politano and supported to designate one day per week during the Fall Spruce Up so the Public Works Department can pick up yard waste and debris from the homes of senior

citizens or disabled persons, if they call City Hall and leave their name and address and if they put items in their front yard. Councillors expressed concerns on how to determine if a citizen is eligible or ineligible. The costs could also increase substantially.

Ayes: Councillor Politano, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 2

Nays: Councillors Lucarelli, Russo, Baribeau, Lindberg, Peterson – 5

Motion failed.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that citizens can call the City Councillors or City Department Director Leoni if they need help to dispose of their items.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve expenditures, in the amount of \$1,500.00, for the City Employee Christmas Party. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported that a committee, consisting of Councillor Peterson and Mayor Gentilini, be formed to meet with the Heart of Virginia, VEDA, VEEDA, Chamber of Commerce and the Quad Cities Economic Development Authority, in order to evaluate and consider consolidating some of the agencies. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to refer the 2003 budget request from the Heart of Virginia to the 2003 budget process. Motion carried.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on October 8, 2002.

The Personnel Committee met with the Labor/Management Committee to discuss their role and concerns.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the City Attorney to send a letter to the Virginia School Athletic Director, along with a bill for the time and labor to repair damages at the Virginia Golf Course Clubhouse, due to the cross country meet held on September 26, 2002, with a copy of the letter to be sent to the others schools involved in the meet. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to recall the person on lay-off at the Library, due to the resignation of a full-time Library employee, and to direct the Human Resource/Safety Coordinator to meet with the Library Director to analyze the current staffing needs at the Library. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reviewed the minutes of the Park/Recreation Commission meeting held on September 18, 2002. Councillor Lindberg requested that the tennis building vandalism be referred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Regarding the vandalism, City Department Director Leoni stated that Police Chief Waldron is addressing the issues and working on initiatives to put more patrol cars on the street. The Council asked that citizens to be more responsive to incidents involving vandalism and reminded them of the reward for information leading to the arrest of people involved in vandalism. Councillor Baribeau asked that the City look into the curfew ordinance and start enforcing it.

City Department Director Leoni stated that the 100 block of Chestnut Street has been barricaded, due to a major water break at W. A. Fisher.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- A planning town meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 15, 2002, at the Miners Memorial Building, to share ideas and concerns for the developments plans for the shores of Silver and Virginia “Bailey’s” Lake.
- City of Virginia Fall Clean Up will be held October 15, 2002, through October 26, 2002, with the exception of Sunday, from 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the Public Works garage and the Virginia compost site.
- Attended a luncheon sponsored by the Hibbing VFW Post to discuss employer support of the guard and reserves, due to concern about guardsmen that would be called to Bosnia.
- Virginia Foundation will hold their annual “Turn on Your Lights Campaign” on October 28, 2002.
- Congratulated Cheryl Weappa, Deputy Assessor, on successfully completing Assessors Course K “Minnesota Assessment Administration.
- Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging has cancelled their candidate forum scheduled for October 10, 2002, due to lack candidate participation.

- Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging will be broadcasting a PBS documentary on care giving on October 9 and 13, 2002.

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

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk