

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, MARCH 26, 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 March 12, 2002.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 02006.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Mesabi Range Student Advocates for Human Services to hold a raffle on May 8, 2002.
4. Adopt Resolution No. 02070, authorizing submission of a Community Development Block Grant application for the Eveleth-Virginia Progress Park Expansion and Development Project.
5. Approve Application for Dance Permit for Virginia Teen Center for June 29, 2002, and September 28, 2002.
6. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Roger Scott, Anthony Krulc and Russell Carlson, Fire Department, Visual Air Cylinder Inspection Workshop, April 13, 2002, Virginia, MN.
 - B. Bill Kishel, Keith Konu, Park/Recreation Department, Toro Service School, March 27-28, 2002, Biwabik, MN.
 - C. Robin Olivanti, Police Department, 2002 Executive Training Institute, St. Cloud, MN.
7. Approve Cigarette License for David Troutwine, D/B/A Virginia Short Stop Express, 1501 12th Avenue South.
8. Adopt Resolution No. 02070-A, authorizing submission of a Community Development Block Grant application for the City Center Park Project.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Jim Prittinen and Jennifer Bonner, ABC Committee members, were present to request support of Independent School District 706's operating referendum levy, which will be voted on by a mail-in ballot between April 9 - 23, 2002. The ABC Committee is a citizen-based group working

toward passage of the school referendum. The referendum would provide an additional \$500.00 per pupil over the next five years. Sixty percent of the increase would come from property taxes, beginning in the year 2003. Forty percent of the increase would come from additional State funding.

Moved by Peterson and supported that the City Council go on record in support of Independent School District 706's operating levy referendum. Motion carried.

Cheryl Bisping, American Lung Association, was present and requested the City to approve a tobacco free policy for all youth sporting facilities and parks, effective May 1, 2002. She stated the Park Commission was in favor of the policy. The youth would benefit from tobacco free areas and would promote tobacco-free lifestyles. Daniel Ehrke, Program Director, Tobacco Free Youth Recreation, was present and stated mini-grants are available to help implement and enforce the policy.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the Park/Recreation Commission, City Attorney and Park/Recreation Council liaisons to develop an ordinance to make the youth sporting facilities and parks tobacco free areas. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 5, Sec. 3.04, Subd. 7 of the City Code of the City of Virginia entitled "Municipal Utility Services and Charges a Lien". Ordinance adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to table the request from the Urban Edge for permission to hold a "Fun Run – Blue Pride Blast" on April 27, 2002, until more information is received regarding the plans and routes for the event. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02071, allowing the Mayor and City Clerk/Finance Director to execute an agreement with United Truck Body Co., Inc., for the

purchase of one new utility box, in the amount of \$10,240.00, including sales tax, fees, installation and delivery. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02072, allowing the Mayor and City Clerk/Finance Director to execute an agreement with United Truck Body Co., Inc., for the purchase of one new utility crane, in the amount of \$10,018.00, including sales tax, fees, installation and delivery. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02073, approving Easement #133-027-0151 with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Government Lot 1, Section 6, Township 58, Range 17 West, in order to make Inland Road a public thoroughfare by connecting Ninth Avenue to Trunk Highway 53. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approving calling for bids for the following Public Works supplies: 1) Crushed rock salt; 2) Aluminum sulfate; 3) Liquid chlorine; 4) Gravel; 5) Bituminous cold mix; 6) Sand; 7) Assorted nuts, bolts, washers, hoses and other fittings; 8) Lubricants and fluids; 9) Asphaltic concrete surface maintenance services. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to authorize Metro Fire to display the City's new Fire Department rescue truck at the Duluth Fire School, April 12 - 14, 2002, contingent upon them providing the insurance. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to authorize the Fire Department to participate in the Week of the Young Child on April 7, 2002, at the Thunderbird Mall. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02074, accepting quote from North Star Turf, in the amount of \$4,785.05, including tax, for a walk behind greensmower for the Park/Recreation Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02075, accepting quote from MTI Distributing, Inc., in the amount of \$7,453.94, including tax, for a utility vehicle for the Park/Recreation Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02076, accepting quote from North Star Turf, in the amount of \$15,774.78, including tax, for a sprayer for the Park/Recreation Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02077, accepting quote from Range Office Supply, in the amount of \$1,112.93, including tax, for a copier for the Park/Recreation Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Politano and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02078, accepting quote from North Star Turf, in the amount of \$36,773.39, including tax, for a fairway mower for the Park/Recreation Department. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the bids received for the tractor and flail mower for the Park/Recreation Department will be referred back to the Finance Committee for further discussion.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02079, approving the hiring of Mark Troendle as the Reference Librarian for the Virginia Public Library, with a starting date of April

1, 2002, subject to a sixty-seven working day probation period and in accordance with the terms of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, Local 454 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02080, approving the hiring of Scott Richard as Firefighter/Paramedic for the Virginia Fire Department, with a starting date of April 15, 2002, subject to the twelve-month probation period and in accordance with the terms of the International Association of Firefighters Local 390 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02081, approving the hiring of Christopher Clark as Firefighter/Paramedic for the Virginia Fire Department, with a starting date of May 27, 2002, subject to a twelve-month probation period and in accordance with the terms of the International Association of Firefighters Local 390 labor agreement and contingent upon the position becoming available as of May 25, 2002. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Lucarelli reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings held on March 18 and 25, 2002.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to allow the Chamber of Commerce to use the former Jaycees sign to advertise and promote the Mineview in the Sky. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02082, authorizing conveyance of property to the City of Virginia from Gordon and Kay Bourgin for tracts "H" and "I" of Registered Land Survey #32, located in the NW ¼ of NE ¼ of Section 29, Township 58, Range 17 West. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the sale of the Easterly 3.44 feet of Lot 12, all of Lots 13 and 14, and the Westerly 41.56 feet of Lot 15, Block 6, Nelson's Addition to Virginia, to

Richard and Maxine Florey, with the resolution approving the sale to be adopted at the next Council meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to authorize City crews to build an outside staircase on the east side of the Fire Hall and to continue to work on plans for a joint Police and Fire facility. Motion carried. Councillor Lucarelli stated a repelling platform would be added to the outside stairway, if possible.

Councillor Lucarelli stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee reviewed the decision to remove the stone pillars in the Virginia Regional Medical Center parking lot. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the masonry class at the college would be willing to repair them, at an approximate cost of \$1,000.00, plus access to certain equipment. Councillor Lindberg stated he hopes the stone pillars will not stand in the way of the construction of a new clinic. City Attorney Butorac stated the traffic flow in the Virginia Regional Medical Center parking lot and westerly entrance off 9th Street North may have to be changed.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to rescind the following motion, which was approved on February 12, 2002: “Once construction begins to extend the parking lot to the previous 9th hole, associated to the proposed St. Mary’s Duluth Clinic facility at the Virginia Regional Medical Center campus, the stone pillars will be removed from the parking lot.” Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve: 1) Leaving the stone pillar entrances where they are at this time; 2) Remove the shrubbery and clean up the area around them, contingent upon authorization from the Iron Range Rehabilitation Board; 3) Allow the Mayor to continue to work with the vocational school masonry class to repair them, 4) Request the Virginia Regional Medical Center and Iron Range Rehabilitation Board for their approval to place an additional stop sign by the pillars. Motion carried.

Councillor Lucarelli stated the Buildings and Grounds Committee also reviewed the Chestnut Street ICO building, Virginian Bar property, recent fire at 226 Chestnut Street, Culligan Water property and the proposed City Center Park project.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to authorize the City Department Director and City Attorney to meet with Scott Oertel to discuss the plans for the building located at 226 Chestnut Street, due to the recent fire. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated she is very proud of the Virginia firefighters and other area firefighters for their efforts in the recent fire on Chestnut Street. She thanked them, along with Joe Prebonich, Italian Bakery; Salvation Army; Women's Auxiliary - Virginia Fire Department; City of Gilbert; City of Biwabik; City of Mt. Iron; City of Eveleth; Urban Edge; American Legion; Therese Elverum, Director of Fire Training, Mesabi Range Technical College; and McDonald's.

Councillor Politano reported on the Finance Committee meetings held on March 19 and 26, 2002.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve the following wage rates for City of Virginia summer employees: \$5.50/hour for first year employees; \$6.50/hour for second year employees. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to hire two interns for the Engineering Department to focus on the GASB 34 requirements, with the college providing some matching funds. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the joint Street and Alley Committee and Parking Task Force meeting held on March 22, 2002.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to designate the first two parking spaces on the east side of the 100 block of 4th Avenue South, north of the alley, as a loading/unloading zone between the hours of 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to eliminate parking on both sides of 9th Street North, from 9th Avenue to Highway 53, except for special events approved by the City Council.
Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the City Attorney to prepare an amendment to the calendar parking ordinance, to include language that construction dumpsters must adhere to the calendar parking requirements. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner requested that the loan limit for the energy conversion loan program be increased to \$15,000.00 per loan. City Department Director Leoni stated the Department of Public Utilities will distribute information regarding the increase in the loan program.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02083, modifying the program for funding energy conversions or improvements. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- John Bachman, Park/Recreation Director, submitted a grant to the Northland Foundation for paint for the Midway skating rink and the two open-air shelters by Silver Lake. The Youth Advisory Council and Iron Range Youth in Action will paint the buildings.
- A Committee-of-the-Whole meeting was held at 4:00 P.M. today with representatives from surrounding communities to discuss concerns regarding cable television and local access channels. A meeting will be set up with Mediacom during the next month to discuss the problems that were identified.
- Mayor Luoma Gentilini will be attending the Duluth/Superior Dukes game on June 1, 2002, to join several other Mayors to sing the national anthem.
- Extended an invitation to the City Council and City officials to participate in the 5th Annual Alzheimer's Walk at Natural Harvest Foods from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. on May 8, 2002. She will refer the request to sponsor the event to the Finance Committee.
- Announced the Employees of the First Quarter, 2002: Mike Urbiha, Public Works Department; Mark Butorac, City Hall.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adjourn to 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 9, 2002,
in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk