

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 27, 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 open the public hearing for the 2002 proposed improvements projects:

C.P. 5-01	Overlay, Northern One Third of Bourgin Road
C.P. 5-03	Overlay, Telegraph Drive
C.P. 5-04	Overlay, 900 Block of 17 <sup>th</sup> Street North
C.P. 5-05	Overlay, 400 Block of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street North
C.P. 5-06	Overlay, 1000 Block of 16 <sup>th</sup> Street North
C.P. 5-07	Overlay, 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue West, 13 <sup>th</sup> Street South to 8 <sup>th</sup> Street South
C.P. 5-08	Overlay, Original Addition, Block 18 Alley
C.P. 5-09	Overlay, Midway Drive, Vermillion Drive to 400' South of Merritt Drive

Motion carried.

Bill Hennis, Lead Engineer, reviewed the proposed overlay projects.

Jan Makowski, 18 Telegraph Drive, asked if the project will be done this year. Lead Engineer Hennis replied that the contractor has the option to do the work this Fall or next Spring, but it is the City's intent to do most of the work this Fall.

Lynn Pinske, 602 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, asked if the total cost of the project will be assessed to the property owners. Lead Engineer Hennis replied that only fifty percent of the total cost of the project will be assessed to adjoining property owners and avenue projects are also assessed one-half way down each adjacent block.

David Hamalainen, 620 Bourgin Road, stated Bourgin Road gets a lot of truck traffic and asked if the residents are expected to pay for the wear and tear caused by the trucks. Councillor Baribeau stated it is

not possible to stop truck traffic from using the road. He also stated that only one-third of Bourgin Road will be done this year, with the remainder of Bourgin Road completed next year. There was no further discussion.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to close the public hearing on the 2002 bituminous overlay projects. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02152, approving the plans and specifications and to advertise for bids for C.P. 5-02, 2002 Bituminous Overlay Program. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini opened the public forum to obtain public input on the City of Virginia Dial-a-Ride operation. Gus Phillipich expressed concerns regarding his customers having to wait 90 minutes for the Dial-a-Ride demand bus. His customers have also tried to call from home before they arrive at his business and are told they must call after they arrive at his business. In the past, he has closed his business to give a customer a ride home. Councillor Lucarelli stated he received a call from a Washington Manor resident stating she is very happy with the helpfulness of the drivers. Councillor Russo stated that some people have to wait, while some people have standing appointments. He would like people to call City Hall if they have problems with the Dial-a-Ride operation. Councillor Lindberg stated he received a call requesting that the Dial-a-ride start earlier because they start work at 7:00 A.M. Dial-a-Ride currently starts at 7:00 A.M., but would have to start earlier to accommodate them. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated we have three Dial-a-ride buses and will try to correct the bad experiences. Linda Brown, owner of Brown Transportation and operator of the Dial-a-Ride program, stated their operating hours are limited by the City's contract and they do not use all three busses until it gets colder and the ridership goes up. The third bus currently comes on at 2:00 P.M., as the demand bus is booked up between 3:00 and 4:00 P.M. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated the City has a contract covering the State and Federal funding, which only covers a certain number of operating hours and the City would have to fund any additional hours of operation. Linda Brown suggested that people make appointments with the Dial-a-Ride driver the day before. The Dial-a-Ride service has also been expanded to go into the Mt. Iron area near the movie theater and to the former Fingerhut area, which takes more time. City

Clerk/Finance Director Lackner suggested that the schedule be reviewed to see if the City can improve the level of service. Councillor Russo complimented the service and suggested people call Dial-a-Ride and cancel their trip if they find another ride. Don Mohawk, Minnesota Department of Transportation Project Manager, and Gary Picek, Virginia Deputy Finance Director, were also available for their input.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to close the public hearing on the Dial-a-ride operation.

Motion carried.

Councillor Peterson removed Item 14 on the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt the Consent Agenda, as follows, with the exception of Item 14:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held August 13, 2002.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 02016.
3. Approve travel request for Glen Kokal, Police Department, Drug Interdiction through Criminal Patrol Training, September 16-20, 2002, Rochester, MN.
4. Approve Transient Merchants License for Charles F. Homier, Jr., Homier Distributing Company, for sale of tools, housewares and general merchandise at the Miners Memorial Building on September 20 & 21, 2002.
5. Adopt Resolution No. 02153, authorizing special assessment against property owned by James Wittrup at 128 11<sup>th</sup> Street South, Parcel Code No. 90-60-2910, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
6. Adopt Resolution No. 02154, authorizing special assessment against property owned by Harlan Wesala at 905 14<sup>th</sup> Street North, Parcel Code No. 90-130-560, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
7. Adopt Resolution No. 02155, authorizing special assessment against property owned by Wayne Trenholm at 112 Third Street South, Parcel Code No. 90-10-12320, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
8. Adopt Resolution No. 02156, authorizing special assessment against property owned by Lyle Soine at 610 6<sup>th</sup> Street South, Parcel Code No. 90-30-3590, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
9. Adopt Resolution No. 02157, authorizing special assessment against property owned by Tim Barfknecht at 120 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Parcel Code No. 90-30-5540, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
10. Adopt Resolution No. 02158, authorizing special assessment against property owned by Tim Barfknecht at 113 8<sup>th</sup> Street South, Parcel Code No. 90-30-5680, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
11. Adopt Resolution No. 02159, authorizing special assessment against property owned by Tim Barfknecht at 111 9<sup>th</sup> Street South, Parcel Code No. 90-30-5690, for failure to comply with Sec. 7.10 of the Virginia City Code and delinquent payment of lawn service fees for the above property.
12. Receive and file Virginia Golf Course Rounds and Revenue Report through July 31, 2002.
13. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Sacred Heart Church for bingo and raffle on October 18 and 19, 2002.

14. Approve Temporary Liquor License for the Jim Padgett Alumni Hockey Classic, Inc., for wedding reception to be held at the Miners Memorial Building on September 21, 2002.
  15. Adopt Resolution No. 02160, approving City of Virginia/VEDA Grant Program.
- Motions carried and Resolution adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 14, Councillor Peterson questioned the request from the James Padgett Alumni Hockey Classic, Inc., for a Temporary Liquor License for a wedding reception. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated that Popper's Bar will serve the liquor, but the non-profit organization will be providing the liability insurance, as the proceeds will be going to them.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to grant a temporary liquor license for the Jim Padgett Alumni Hockey Classic, Inc., for a wedding reception to be held at the Miners Memorial Building on September 21, 2002. Motion carried.

Members of the Virginia Quarterback Club were present to request permission to hold a bon-fire at the Silver Lake beach at 7:00 P.M. on October 3, 2002, as part of homecoming week activities.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to allow the Virginia Quarterback Club to hold a bon-fire at the Silver Lake beach at 7:00 P.M. on October 3, 2002. Motion carried.

Lead Engineer Hennis explained the Progress Park Sanitary Sewer Relocate Project, C.P. 6-02. The current sewer line, which runs from Second Avenue to Midway, will be relocated by next April, due to EVTAC expanding their mining area.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02161, accepting the bid from Jola and Sopp Excavating, Inc., in the amount of \$219,211.00, for the Progress Park Sanitary Sewer Relocate, C.P. 6-02. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Lead Engineer Hennis reviewed the Ballfield Channel Improvement Project, which consists of installing a new ditch south of Ridgewood Addition to Trunk Highway 53 near the former gas plant. This is a

joint venture between the City of Virginia, City of Mt. Iron, Minnesota DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Division, Department of Public Utilities and CDBG. The total cost of the project is \$456,000.00 and the City of Virginia will pay approximately \$80,000.00.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the Engineering Department to obtain bids for the Ballfield Channel Improvement Project, C.P. 4-01. Motion carried.

Lead Engineer Hennis reviewed the Progress Park Phase II Development Expansion Project, Eveleth-Virginia Water Interconnect, C.P. 7-02. In order to proceed with this project, the City must do a wetlands delineation.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02162, approving Wetlands Replacement Permit for property in Progress Park. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize Lead Engineer Hennis to sign as the local government unit representative on the Notice of Wetland Conservation Decision. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02163, approving the purchase of three acres of wetlands from Deer Run II, LLP, of Owatonna, Minnesota, in the amount of \$15,750.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize the Iron Range Veterans Memorial Committee to place a sign and flagpole on City Center Park property, contingent upon submitting a plan to the City Engineering Department and meeting the City Code requirements. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini suggested that the ice time agreements with Youth Hockey Association and Mesabi East be referred to the Finance Committee, as there are a lot of details that need to be ironed out. Councillor Lindberg stated the Park/Recreation Commission recommended the rates to charge the Youth Hockey Association. Councillor Peterson stated the Park/Recreation Commission also agreed to rent ice time to

Mesabi East for \$120.00 per hour and to slot them in on a non-priority basis, which would not affect the Virginia Youth Hockey program.

Moved by Politano and supported to table the lease agreement with the Virginia Youth Hockey Association and the proposed ice time rental agreement with Mesabi East.

Ayes: Councillors Russo, Politano, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 3

Nays: Councillors Lucarelli, Baribeau, Lindberg, Peterson – 4

Motion failed.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 02164, approving the Lease Agreement with the Virginia Youth Hockey Association for use of the Miners Memorial Building, at the following lease rates: 2002-2003 season - \$8,240.00; 2003-2004 season – \$8,490.00; 2004-2005 season - \$8,750.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the youth hockey program is very important to our City and should be given priority as to rates and times. Councillor Baribeau stated our programs should get the priority ice time and should also get some additional ice time, as the ice will be in the back rink two weeks early.

Moved by Russo and supported to give the priority ice time to the Virginia skating programs and allow Mesabi East to use the remaining time at \$120.00/hour, contingent upon the scheduling being acceptable to the Youth Hockey Association and figure skating program. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to authorize Park/Recreation Bachman to have final approval regarding the scheduling of ice time. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the City Council and City administrative staff to attend the 2002 League of Minnesota Cities Regional Meeting on October 9, 2002, in Hibbing, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to authorize the Mayor to be the City of Virginia's voting delegate for the National League of Cities, with the Vice Mayor to be the alternate voting delegate. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on August 21, 2002.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to deny the request from Chris Mackey to hold the Paul Brandt concert in Virginia, based on the fact that he has not yet met the City criteria. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to not hold any dances, other than those currently scheduled, at the Miners Memorial Building until a policy for the use of the building is in place. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to begin the process of transferring a City-owned parcel of land near the gas plant to VEDA, in order to apply for funding to clean up the gas plant site. Motion carried.

Councillor Lucarelli reported on the Insurance Committee meeting held on August 27, 2002.

The committee reviewed the Northeast Service Cooperative proposal for medical insurance for 2003, at an increase of 9.1% or \$114,000.00. The Human Resource/Safety Coordinator will contact the Human Resource Director at the Virginia Regional Medical Center and discuss the possibility of merging the two groups.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to amend the Insurance Trust Committee by-laws, in order to replace the City Attorney with the Human Resource/Safety Coordinator as a City representative on the committee. Motion carried.

The Insurance Committee will review dental insurance costs at a future meeting.

Councillor Politano reviewed the Finance Committee meeting held on August 27, 2002.

Moved by Russo and supported to not pro-rate Transient Merchant License fees, until permit fees are reviewed by the Finance Committee at a future meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the 2003 City Band budget, in the amount of \$9,955.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to reimburse Jennifer Lyons the amount of \$145.77 for a replacement tire, due to the deteriorated curb on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to continue the City's membership in the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities for the year 2003, in the amount of \$10,131.00, and to send a letter stating this might be our last year and we hope our concerns will be addressed. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to table the request from the Greenwood Cemetery Association for additional funds for road repairs and to send a letter to both cemetery associations and request a copy of their by-laws and a copy of their deeds for the cemetery property. Motion carried. The Greenwood Cemetery will also be requested to provide an estimated cost for road repairs during the 2003 budget process.

Moved by Politano and supported to refer the communication from Bob Cohn, requesting funding to telecast the Virginia Blue Devils sports events, to the Cable Commission and to Councillor Lindberg, School Board liaison.

Ayes: Councillors Lucarelli, Russo, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 5

Nays: Councillors Baribeau, Lindberg – 2

Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to authorize Bob Cohn to telecast 40 Virginia Blue Devil sporting events at \$90.00 per event and to research the additional \$1,400.00 that he is requesting and to ask the school to provide the filmers and videotapes for each game. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to refer the information on the Virginia Jewish Synagogue to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, with no recommendation. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to waive the City garbage fee for the new Niiji Center, which is located at 517 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South, retroactive to January 1, 2002, and until construction is completed. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee denied the request from the Niiji Center for reimbursement of the building permit fee of \$351.55 for their new building at 517 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the Finance Committee tabled the Sister Cities International membership, in the amount of \$295.00. She stated the City does not have to be a part of the Sister Cities International in order to continue the relationship with our Sister City. She will obtain more information and report at the next Finance Committee meeting.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner reported that the Federal EDA Public Works final grant application for the Virginia-Eveleth, Minnesota, Progress Park Expansion and Development Project has been submitted.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Next City Council meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 11, 2002, due to the Primary Election.
- A ceremony will be held at 10:00 A.M. on September 6, 2002, at the Minntac main gate for dedication of a memorial in memory of September 11, 2001.
- Labor/Management training will be held from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 4, 2002, at the Library Auditorium.
- Received a resignation from Jane LaKosky from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Moved by Politano and supported to appoint Beverly French to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority for the unexpired term of Jane LaKosky ending November 22, 2005. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini continued her report:

- A community development block grant application was submitted for the City Center Park Project, Phase II.
- Attended a meeting at the IRRRB office on August 20, 2002, to meet with a company interested in moving into Progress Park, which would create an additional 200 jobs.
- Eveleth-Virginia Airport obtained federal funding, in the amount of \$150,000.00, for rehabilitation projects.
- Attended Blue Cross/Blue Shield open house on August 21, 2002.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adjourn until 6:30 P.M. on Wednesday, September 11, 2002, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk