

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, APRIL 8, 2003

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 3 from the Consent Agenda.

Councillor Russo removed Item 4 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 3 and 4, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 25, 2003.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 03007.
3. Adopt Resolution approving Premises Permit Application for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at the Fourth and Main.
4. Approve request from the Range Shrine to hang a banner on Second Avenue and 10th Street South to advertise the Range Shrine Circus.
5. Approve travel request:
 - A. Susan Krause, Library, Catalog Training, April 24, 2003, Mt. Iron, MN.
 - B. Dawn Heisel, Library, Circulation Training, April 23, 2003, Mt. Iron, MN.
 - C. Mark Troendle, Library, PAC Training, April 22, 2003, Mt. Iron, MN.
 - D. Dana Waldron, Tom Krause, Police Department, Connie Larson, Human Resource/Safety Coordinator, Safety/Loss Control Workshop, April 29, 2003, Biwabik, MN.
 - E. Glen Kokal, Police Department, US Police Canine Association, National Detector Trials, May 3-7, 2003, Lakeville, MN.
 - F. Dana Waldron, Renee Anderson, Police Department, MN Jurisdictional Network Organization, April 9, 2003, International Falls, MN.
6. Approve variances, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission at their April 7, 2003, meeting.
 - A. Jeff Lind, 704 5TH Street South:

1. Grant 3.0' variance to the 8.0' side yard setback in order to build a 30' X 40' garage 5.0' from the east property line.
 2. Grant 3.0' variance to the 8.0' side yard setback in order to build a 30' X 40' garage 5.0' from the west property line.
 3. Grant 200 sq. ft. variance from maximum allowed 1,000 sq. ft. of accessory structures in order to build a 1200 sq. ft. garage.
 4. Grant 315 sq. ft. variance to the maximum 30% rear yard coverage of 885 sq. ft.
 - B. Randall Peterson, 1 Highland Park Drive, grant 320 sq. ft. variance from the maximum allowed 1000 sq. ft. of accessory structures in order to build a 1320 sq. ft. garage.
 - C. Craig Emery, 804 7th Street North, grant 260 sq. ft. variance from the maximum allowed 1000 sq. ft. of accessory structures in order to build a 1260 sq. ft. garage, contingent upon the purchase of northerly lot from a private party.
 7. Adopt Resolution No. 03084, authorizing execution of agreement with the Land of the Loon Ethnic Arts & Crafts Festival, Inc., for use of Olcott Park for June 20-22, 2003.
- Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 3, Councillor Lindberg requested that the Premise Permit Application from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to operate at the Fourth and Main be referred to the Liquor Committee, as the Fourth and Main is behind in payments owed to the City of Virginia.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to refer the Premise Permit Application for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at the Fourth and Main to the Liquor Committee for review.

Motion carried.

Regarding Item 4, Councillor Russo questioned the City's liability if Mesabi Sign hangs the banner for the Range Shrine on Second Avenue.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the request from the Range Shrine to hang a banner on Second Avenue and Tenth Street South, contingent upon approval by the Department of Public Utilities and the City Attorney. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk/Finance Director to execute agreements to sell Lot 19, Block 1, Fairview Second Addition, in the amount of \$12,200.00,

and Lot 20, Block 1, Fairview Second Addition, in the amount of \$9,800.00, to Chad and Kathryn Seppala, Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 03086, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk/Finance Director to execute agreements to sell Lot 21, Block 1, Fairview Second Addition, in the amount of \$14,500.00, to Eric and Carol Peterson. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 03087, authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk/Finance Director to execute agreements to sell Lot 13, Block 1, Fairview Second Addition, in the amount of \$10,000.00, to Ronald and Mary Ellen Rhode. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Department Director Leoni stated that, as part of the Emergency Operations and Severe Weather Awareness Week, a statewide Tornado Drill will be held on April 10, 2003. A brochure will also be inserted with the utility bills to inform people of what to do in emergency situations.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the Fire Chief is requesting support to continue to work with the National Fire Safety Council on a fundraiser, which will be used to purchase classroom materials for students in the Virginia Schools. The program costs the Virginia Fire Department approximately \$500.00 in overtime costs for the one-week program.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to support the fire prevention week activities.
Motion carried.

Councillor Lucarelli reported on the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on April 1, 2003.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to install a fire-rated door on the upper level of the Fire Hall, at an estimated cost of \$1,000.00, contingent upon meeting the building code requirements. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to purchase and install an Extendo bed for the Fire Department pickup truck, at a cost of \$1,200.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Lucarelli and supported to adopt Resolution No. 03088, accepting bids for the following surplus equipment: 1) 1976 General Safety Telesquirt - City of Cook, \$13,101.00; 2) 1973 Seagrave Aerial Ladder Truck - City of Cook, \$11,101.00; 3) 1997 I.H.C. 4700 Recycle Truck - West Central Sanitation, \$21,100.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Politano reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on April 1, 2003.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize the City of Virginia to hold a lunch at the Golf Course restaurant following the Blue Cross/Blue Shield groundbreaking ceremony on April 21, 2003. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve the budget request of \$9,240.00 for the Virginia Lakes water quality project. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize Park/Recreation Director Bachman to hire four seasonal employees for the Park Department and Golf Course. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to set the Spring Spruce-Up for a two week period, Monday through Friday, April 28 through May 9, 2003, from 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve the change in children's Dial-a-Ride fees that "10 and under" are free, rather than "12 and under". Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve the following modifications to the Dial-a-

Ride service, which will take effect on June 29, 2003:

- Reduce hours, as follows:
 - Monday – Saturday End at 6:30 P.M., rather than 8:30 P.M.
 - Sunday End at 4:30 P.M., rather than 6:30 P.M.
- Eliminate service on holidays:
 - Presidents Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving.
- Limit service from 6:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. on certain holidays:
 - New Years Eve Day, Thanksgiving Eve Day, Christmas Eve Day.
- Offer monthly bus passes at a cost of \$30.00, which would allow rider to ride unlimited times during the month on the route bus only.
- Limit free service to Election Day (to and from polls only) and Land-of-the-Loon (shuttle to and from Miners parking lot to Olcott Park only).
- Limit service to Mt. Iron to Plaza 53 and YMCA only.
- Limit service to Eveleth to the Technical College and Progress Park only.
- Increase advertising to stimulate ridership.

Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to raise the ticket fines from \$5.00 to \$10.00 and the

late fees from \$10.00 to \$20.00 for the following violations:

- Expired meter
- Parking against traffic
- Parked in alley
- Overtime parking
- No parking 2 A.M. to 6 A.M.
- Allowing motor to run unattended

Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve the purchase of a golf course

computerized registration system, in the amount of \$6,331.42. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize the City Clerk/Finance Director to write

a letter to the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Authority requesting them to seek legislative authority to create a taxing district to fund the airport. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to authorize the City Clerk/Finance Director and City

Attorney to meet with the Eveleth-Virginia Airport Director, City of Eveleth's City Clerk and Mayor

and the Virginia's representative on the Quad Cities Economic Development Authority, to discuss cost savings measures for the airport. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to sod the driving range this year, at a cost not to exceed \$3,000.00. Motion carried.

Councillor Politano reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on April 8, 2003.

Moved by Politano and supported to table the summer ice rates until the Finance Committee meeting, which will be held on April 15, 2003.

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

Nays: Councillors Baribeau, Politano – 2

Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to adopt Resolution No. 03089, approving a new lease with Independent School District No. 706 for the Miners Memorial Building and other shared, City-owned facilities for the period October 20, 2003, through the 2005-2006 hockey season. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Politano and supported to rent the City of Virginia's manure spreader, with an operator, to the St. Louis County Fair Board at the current rental rate structure, plus overtime, if necessary. Motion carried.

Councillor Lindberg reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting held on April 8, 2003.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to make the 18th Street North and 11th Avenue intersection a three-way stop and to readdress the matter in six months. Motion carried.

The Public Safety Committee also reviewed the calendar parking in the 600 block of 13th Street South. The Engineering Department will send a letter to Range Mental Health regarding

redesigning of their parking lot, in order to make more parking spaces on the south side of 13th Street South.

Councillor Russo reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on April 8, 2003.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the Safety Policy on headphone usage, with the deletion of Item 6. This policy will allow employees operating riding lawnmowers to use cordless headphones, at the employees' expense. Motion carried.

At the Personnel Committee meeting, the City Attorney reviewed the Open Meeting Law.

Councillor Baribeau thanked the person who trimmed the tree near the flagpole at the Columbia Apartment building.

Councillor Peterson stated the Virginia/Eveleth Economic Development Authority, along with County Commissioner Keith Nelson, toured Progress Park and are working hard to promote the area to attract new businesses.

Councillor Lindberg stated he attended the public meeting on April 1, 2003, to discuss the project to add the St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic to the Virginia Regional Medical Center campus. This meeting will be rebroadcast on the public access channel.

Councillor Lucarelli stated the Quad Cities Economic Development Authority have been working to get off-shoots from major businesses to settle in vacant buildings in the quad city area.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Groundbreaking ceremony will be held at the new Blue Cross/Blue Shield site at 11:00 A.M. on April 21, 2003.
- Article on the City's Neighborhood Watch Program was printed in the League of Minnesota Cities magazine.
- Smoke-Free Coalition will be meeting at 12:00 Noon on April 23, 2003, at Michael's on the Course restaurant to present an award for becoming smoke free.
- Representative from the Minnesota Historical Society was in City Hall on April 1 and 2, 2003, to gather information for the possible historical designation of City Hall. Mayor Luoma Gentilini thanked Harry Lamppa for the information he provided.
- Soroptimists will start a yellow ribbon campaign in honor of the armed forces.
- Received a letter from the Youth Hockey Association thanking Frank Judnick for his help in the delivery of the weight room equipment.
- Submitted grants to the Virginia Foundation for the Neighborhood Watch Program and the Mineview in the Sky.
- Lakes Beautification Clean Up will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2003, to plant flowers within the City.
- Virginia City Band Concerts will be held in Olcott Park at 7:00 P.M. on June 26, July 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2003.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize the Mayor to write a letter to the legislators in opposition to the Governor's budget proposal and the Senate's property tax freeze proposal. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to adjourn to 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, April 22, 2003, in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk