

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, FEBRUARY 24, 2004

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 Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6
Absent: Councillor Lindberg - 1

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated a public hearing has been scheduled for 6:30 P.M. to discuss the following improvements for C.P. 1-04, West Chestnut Street Improvements:

- Reconstruct section of West Chestnut Street from 12th Avenue to 16th Avenue;
- Mill and overlay section of West Chestnut Street from 9th Avenue to 12th Avenue.

Moved by Peterson and supported to open the public hearing on C.P. 1-04. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated the project is estimated to cost \$750,000.00, of which \$107,000 will be funded through special assessments. The remaining balance of the project will come out of the City Street Improvement Fund. Special assessments are estimated to be \$17.31 per lineal front foot for this project.

Moved by Politano and supported to close the public hearing on C.P. 1-04. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to adopt Resolution No. 04046, ordering improvements, C.P. 1-04, West Chestnut Street Improvements from 9th Avenue to 16th Avenue. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini removed Item 5 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Peterson and supported to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows, with the exception of Item 5.

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held February 10, 2004.
 2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 04004.
 3. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Bill Hennis, Bill Cole, Engineering Department, Manufactured Structures Seminar, April 20, 2004, Duluth, MN.
 - B. Dawn Heisel, Library, Summer Reading Planning, March 5, 2004, Mt. Iron, MN.
 - C. Dennis Benz, Police Department, Basis Latent Finger Print Class, July 13-15, 2004, Grand Rapids, MN.
 - D. Roger Scott, Jeff Lind, Tom Krause, International Association of Arson Investigators Conference, March 23-27, 2004, St. Cloud, MN.
 - E. Paul Hejda, Rod Seppala, Public Works Department, Traffic Control Workshop, March 8, 2004, Medina, MN.
 4. Approve request from Public Works Department to request proposals for the following supplies for the year 2004-2005: Crushed rock salt; aluminum sulfate; liquid chlorine; gravel; bituminous cold mix; sand; assorted nuts, bolts, washers, hoses and other fittings; lubricants and fluids; asphaltic concrete surface maintenance services.
 5. Receive and file communication from William Siegel thanking the City of Virginia for naming the street in Progress Park "Siegel Boulevard".
 6. Approve Transient Merchant's License for Barb Ann Leinonen, d/b/a Barb's Fried Bread.
- Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 5, Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated Bill Siegel has been instrumental in the developing Progress Park and a street in Progress Park has been named in his honor.

Moved by Peterson and supported to receive and file the communication from William Siegel, thanking the City of Virginia for naming the street in Progress Park "Siegel Boulevard".

Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to table the Ordinance amending Section 3.01, 3.03 and 3.04 of Chapter 3 of the City Charter until the March 9, 2004, Council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the cities of Virginia, Eveleth and the Virginia-Eveleth Economic Development Authority (VEEDA) received a \$2.8 million Federal Economic Development Grant to support light manufacturing opportunities in Progress Park, which would increase job growth, increase water and sewer support, create a new roadway to open up additional parcels of land and provide for the construction of a 30,000 square foot building. VEEDA is proposing to move forward with a General Obligation Revenue Financing Bond to complete the infrastructure and building project in Progress Park, which is an estimated \$5.6 million project. The \$2.8 Federal EDA grant is a matching grant, which must be matched by the cities of Virginia and Eveleth. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated the cities of Virginia and Eveleth would be responsible for approximately \$1.8 million in bonds, which would be split equally, with building rentals and taxes to be used to offset the bond payments.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 04047, to: 1) Authorize the City of Virginia to submit a grant application to the Iron Range Resources for \$900,000 of the matching funds; and 2) Authorizing VEEDA to proceed with securing a General Obligation Revenue Financing Bond to complete the infrastructure and building project in Progress Park. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize City administrative staff and the City Council to attend the State of the Cities Legislative Conference, which will be held on March 3, 2004, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Councillor Lind stated the Liquor Committee met on February 18, 2004, to review five citations issued at a Virginia liquor establishment to underage individuals for illegal consumption. The Liquor Committee will review the incidents and liquor violation policy and meet again in approximately one month.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reviewed the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting held on February 18, 2004.

Moved by Lind and supported to authorize the Fire Chief to move forward and contact applicants on file, State Fire Chiefs Association and International Association of Firefighters regarding the Fire Department vacancy, with a decision to be made on additional advertising at a later date.

Motion carried.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to adopt Resolution No. 04048, authorizing entering into an employment agreement with Dana Waldron for the Public Safety Director position, effective March 15, 2004.

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 5

Nays: Councillor Baranzelli – 1

Resolution adopted.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated a meeting has been scheduled for 5:00 P.M. on Monday, March 1, 2004, to meet with the Hospital Commission regarding the ambulances issues.

Councillor Raplinger stated the Insurance Advisory Committee met on February 19, 2004, and each union representative will bring the following considerations to their respective unions:

- 1) Continue to withdraw \$60,000 from the fund each year to offset retiree health care insurance premiums.
- 2) Freeze the fund temporarily until interest rates increase.
- 3) Disburse a portion of the insurance trust funds to employees.
- 4) Reimburse active employees an amount yearly to defray current medical expenses.

An Insurance Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled in approximately 30 days to discuss the various options for the Insurance Trust Fund.

Councillor Baranzelli reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting held on February 23, 2004.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported to authorize the Engineering Department to obtain traffic counts and speeds and review accident history in the area of 9th Street South and 15th Avenue and to bring a recommendation to the Public Safety Committee in April regarding the placement of “Slow – Children at Play” signs in that area. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize the Police Department to monitor the usage of the handicapped parking sign in front of 211-213 5th Avenue North, prior to removal of the handicapped sign. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on February 23, 2004.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to start the hiring process for the budgeted Reference Librarian position, under the current job description. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting will be scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, March 10, 2004, to discuss budget priorities.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to adopt Resolution No. 04049, approving changes with the Human Resource/Safety Coordinator position, as follows:

- 1) Change title from Human Resource/Safety Coordinator to Human Resource/Safety Director.
- 2) Change the vacation schedule for the Human Resource/Safety Director to coincide with the other non-represented administrative personnel, as follows: 1) Two weeks vacation after one year; 2) Three weeks vacation after two years; 3) Four weeks vacation after three years.
- 3) Update the salary matrix to allow for a 1% matrix adjustment for 2003, retroactive to January 1, 2003.

Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Lind reported on the Housing and Redevelopment Authority meeting held on February 2, 2004, where Laurentian Manor residents expressed concerns regarding building repairs and the three percent rent increase.

Councillor Lind reported on the Virginia School Board meeting held on February 23, 2004. The School Board discussed the implementation of the “No Child Left Behind Law” and options regarding the High School Principal position, which will be vacant at the end of the current school year.

Councillor Peterson reported on the Range Recreation Civic Center board meeting held on February 19, 2004. The RROCC signed a long-term lease with Curl Mesabi and Councillor Peterson congratulated Curl Mesabi for the tremendous job they have done in maintaining the building and booking events in the facility.

Councillor Politano reported on the Library Commission meeting held on February 18, 2004, and stated it is the feeling of the Library Commission that the Reference Librarian position must require a master’s degree.

Councillor Raplinger reported on the Human Rights Commission meeting held prior to the City Council meeting and their annual meeting to discuss bias and hate crimes has been tentatively scheduled from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon on Thursday, April 29, 2004.

City Department Director Leoni requested authorization to allow one AFSCME employee to attend their annual lobbying event in St. Paul on March 11, 2004.

Moved by Peterson and supported to allow City Department Director Leoni to work with the AFSCME union to select one employee to attend the “AFSCME Day on the Hill” on March 11, 2004, with no loss of wages. Motion carried.

City Department Director Leoni notified the citizens that sidewalk plowing is not a priority with the Public Works Department, due to budget and staffing reductions, and stated the City ordinance requires residents to keep sidewalks in front of their residences free and clear of snow.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Received thank you letter from Al Anderson thanking the Public Works Department for the great job in plowing the streets and alleys.
- Received a letter from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announcing that the City of Virginia will receive a Certificate of Commendation for outstanding maintenance of our Wastewater Treatment System.
- On March 30, 2004, the Minnesota Historical Society will review the City of Virginia’s application to consider placing the Virginia City Hall on the National Register of Historic Places. Mayor Luoma Gentilini, along with Harry Lamppa of the Virginia Historical Society, will submit a written statement regarding the application.
- Presented “Arrow of Light” badges to seven local Cub Scouts.
- Presented a Proclamation to Austin J. and Everett L. Gillen as the 2004 Northland Chapter MDA Goodwill Ambassadors.
- Received letter from Fire Chief Vandervort commending Lt. Mike Parenteau for going beyond the call of duty in assisting the ambulance staff during a serious incident.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adjourn to 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 9, 2004, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk