

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

**CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JUNE 23, 2004**

Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Luoma Gentilini at 8:30 A.M. in the Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Lindberg, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma  
Gentilini – 7

Absent: None

Mike Biondich, Public Works Team Coordinator, updated the City Council on various street projects. He also stated he is working with the Community Service Program to clean up areas in Virginia and asked the City Council to provide him with a list of areas that need to be cleaned up.

Steve Giorgi, AFSCME Staff Representative, asked why the Council contracted out the painting and staining of the golf course clubhouse, at a cost of approximately \$4,000.00. Mr. Giorgi also asked if the City plans on removing the sod on the former ninth hole at the golf course when the parking lot is constructed at the St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic and stated the Men's Golf Club would be willing to work in a cooperative effort to help cut the sod and put it around the ponds at the golf course.

Ed Alto, Public Works Team Leader, requested permission to obtain quotes to replace a garbage truck, street flusher and brush mower. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated he will analyze the two funds to see if cash is available to replace the street flusher and garbage truck.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize the Public Works Department to obtain quotes for a garbage truck, street flusher and brush mower and to move forward with the purchase of the brush mower, once the bids are received. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated he will review all purchase orders that are above \$1,000.00.

Dana Waldron, Public Safety Director, updated the City Council on a grievance submitted by the Fire Department union regarding pay for a two-hour call out. Public Safety Director Waldron stated there is a need to address the response time issue and the coverage at the Fire Hall. Public Safety Director Waldron will look at equipment to use to call back firefighters more quickly. He also stated the need to continue to talk with other communities regarding paying their share for the ambulance, which was started with former Department Director Leoni.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to authorize Public Safety Director Waldron to put together a proposal for an on-call policy and bring it back to the City Council and authorize the Public Safety Director, City Clerk/Finance Director and Human Resource/Safety Coordinator to meet with Hospital personnel regarding the ambulance service for outlying communities. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated a meeting of the Quad City Mayors will be held in July and she will invite the Virginia City Clerk/Finance Director, Public Safety Director, City Council and Hospital staff to discuss the ambulance issue.

Public Safety Director Waldon stated he will be meeting with the architect to review various sites for a new public safety facility and will include members of the Buildings/Grounds Committee.

Moved by Politano and supported to authorize Public Safety Director Waldron to move forward with the planning of a mock motor vehicle crash. Motion carried.

A Personnel Committee meeting will be held once City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner and Human Resource/Safety Director Larson analyze the health care savings proposal in the proposed LELS agreement.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini suggested that the Mesabi Daily News do an article on the bike patrol, once the bikes are received.

The Street/Alley Committee will discuss a policy for future street dances, in order to control underage drinking.

The letter from the City of Mt. Iron regarding exploring the possibility of updating 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue was referred to a Street/Alley Committee meeting.

A Special Council meeting will be set for Tuesday, July 6, 2004, in order for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities to provide a briefing of the legislative update.

Moved by Peterson and supported to send the Greenwood Cemetery their 2004 annual appropriation and the balance of the funds for the 2002 resurfacing road project. Motion carried.

Library Director Maxwell stated the part-time employee at the Library has been filling in to cover for employees on short-time disability and requested permission to allow her to continue to

fill in for vacations during the summer. The budget would not be increased, as the reference librarian position was not filled for the entire year.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to allow the part-time employee at the Library to work 40 hours/week through the end of August to fill in for vacations.

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Baranzelli, Lindberg, Peterson – 4

Nays: Councillors Lind, Politano, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 3

Motion failed. (Requires super majority of 5 to 2.)

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner reviewed a listing of the number of employees by department between the years 2000 and 2004.

Moved by Politano and supported to suspend the hiring for the skilled laborer position.

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6

Nays: Councillor Lindberg – 1

Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to immediately post internally for the Engineering Technician position on a temporary basis. Motion carried.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve hiring GAP Engineering for professional engineering services on an as-needed basis and to notify the City Council if the cost goes above \$5,000.00. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner reviewed the preliminary budget for 2005, with a proposed levy increase of ten percent. He also explained that the local government aid will be reduced to \$2.6 million by 2008 if the law stays the same. The total 2005 proposed revenue is estimated at \$8,733,457, which is still short approximately \$130,000. The proposed budget does not include any

funds for capital expenditures. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the City Council will begin meeting individually with department heads on July 21, 2004, to review the 2005 budget.

Park/Recreation Director Bachman stated in December of 2003, the City Department Director approved the bid to stain the golf course clubhouse, at an approximate cost of \$4,000.00.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to adjourn at 11:45 A.M. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI  
Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
Deputy City Clerk