

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, OCTOBER 10, 2006

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, Lindberg, Damm, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6
Absent: Councillor Baranzelli - 1

Councillor Lindberg removed Item 6 from the Consent Agenda.

Councillor Peterson removed Items 4 and 5 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 4, 5 and 6.

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 26, 2006.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 06017 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve variances, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission on October 2, 2006:
 - A. Marion Rivard, 727 North 10th Street – 2’ variance from the required 5’ side yard setback, in order to construct an 18’ x 24’ garage 3’ from the West property line, contingent upon rain gutters and obtain utility obstruction agreement, if required.
 - B. Jeff McIntrye, 903 17th Street North – 1’ variance to the maximum allowed 3’ fence height, in order to construct a 4’ fence in the front yard, contingent upon completion of the purchase of said property.
4. Adopt Resolution authorizing special assessments against properties in violation of Clear Water Discharge Ordinance.
5. Adopt Resolution authorizing special assessments against properties in violation of the City Code, Section 7.10 “Regulations of Grass, Weeds and Trees”.
6. Adopt Resolution authorizing special assessments against properties for delinquent public utilities.
7. Approve Applications for Exempt Permits:
 - A. Arrowhead Center, Inc., raffle to be held on December 1, 2006.
 - B. Student Advocates for Human Services, raffle and bingo to be held on December 13, 2006.
 - C. Holy Spirit Catholic Church, raffle to be held on October 28, 2006.
8. Approve travel request for Tim Koivunen, Police Department, Latent Print and Vehicle Processing Class, October 13, 2006, Bemidji, MN.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 6, Councillor Lindberg stated a business should not be allowed to be \$45,000 in arrears with delinquent utilities.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06186, authorizing special assessments against properties for delinquent public utilities. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Regarding Items 4 and 5, Councillor Peterson asked if the people were contacted regarding the violations of the Clear Water Discharge Ordinance and the Blight Ordinance, prior to placing the outstanding invoices on their property taxes as a special assessment. City Attorney Butorac stated the people were contacted several times regarding the outstanding invoices and notified of the potential assessment. Councillor Peterson asked that, in the future, the City Council be provided with a list of the violations, including the names and addresses. City Attorney Butorac stated the listing is available in the Clerk's office, but the amounts are certified by parcel code numbers.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06187, authorizing special assessments against properties in violation of Clear Water Discharge Ordinance. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06188, authorizing special assessments against properties in violation of the City Code, Section 7.10 "Regulations of Grass, Weeds and Trees". Resolution adopted unanimously.

Dennis Jorgenson, representing Curl Mesabi, stated the Range Recreation Civic Center will host the World Junior Curling Championship in March of 2007. Mr. Jorgenson estimated that the event will provide an additional \$1 million in economic impact for the area. Mr. Jorgenson also stated the curling club has hosted many curling events since 2000, which have impacted the economy by nearly \$1 million.

Mr. Jorgenson thanked former City Councillors Bunny Isaacson and Roy Olson, Mayor Carolyn Gentilini, Gary Carlson and Councillor Steve Peterson for their participation with the curling club and encouraged the quad cities to continue to remain active.

Councillor Peterson stated many other events, including weddings, reunion and parties, are held at the curling club, which also generates additional money in the area. Councillor Peterson also stated Curl Mesabi has received an Iron Range Resources grant to improve the lounge area prior to the World Junior event.

Public Safety Director Waldron stated the City of Virginia has been awarded a SAFER grant, which will provide \$310,000 in funding over a five year period to help fund the hiring of three additional firefighter/paramedics for the Fire Department. Public Safety Director Waldron thanked Accountant Wendy Summers, Assistant Chief Jim Theodore and Scott Dane of Dane Consulting for their assistance in providing information for the grant application. Public Safety Director stated the City of Virginia must hire five employees for the Fire Department within ninety days, according to the terms of the grant.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06189, authorizing the sale of East 100' of Lot 1, Block 1, Midway Gardens Second Addition, to Habitat for Humanity, for \$8,500.00. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Nathan Thompson, Director, Habitat for Humanity, thanked the City Council for allowing them to purchase the property Midway, which will be used to build two new homes in Virginia. Mr. Thompson stated an open house will be held on November 19, 2006, for the latest house built in Virginia, which is the 1400th house that Habitat for Humanity has built in Minnesota.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06190, approving an agreement with St. Louis County for improvements to County State Aid Highway 7 (Hoover Road). Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06191, approving Change Order No. 6 to increase the contract of KGM Contractors, Inc., by \$29,988.00, for C.P. 6-02, VEEDA Progress Park Development Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Peterson and supported to table the bids for the mass excavating and infrastructure for the Fairview Addition, Phase III, development project, as the bids came in \$100,000 over budget. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06192, approving the final plat of “Sherwood Forest First Addition”. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Lind reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on October 3, 2006.

Moved by Lind and supported to allow the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to reduce the rent for the eight vacant apartments on the third floor of the Washington Manor by \$100 per month as an incentive through 12/3/07, with the HRA to report back in January, 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to increase the rent at the Washington Manor rent by one percent as of January 1, 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve the budget for the Washington Manor, as submitted by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to increase the Washington Manor garage rental by \$5 per month. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to authorize the Public Works Department to obtain quotes for a plow, box and sander for the new dump truck. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to contribute \$100 to the Kids Voting of Virginia for the General Election to be held in November. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve a budgeted contribution of \$15,396.65 for the Biosolids Disposal Site Authority for the year 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve a budgeted contribution of \$18,450 to the Laurentian Chamber for the Mineview in the Sky for the year 2007. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve a budgeted contribution of \$7,500 for the Eveleth-Virginia Airport for the year 2007, contingent upon the City of Eveleth approving the same contribution. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve the purchase of a 42" plasma TV from Jenia's, in the amount of \$1,957.25, for the bar at the Golf Course Clubhouse. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to authorize the City Council and administrative staff to attend the 2006 Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Fall conference, to be held November 8-10, 2006, in Alexandria, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Councillor Raplinger reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on October 3, 2006.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to authorize the Public Safety Director to continue the hiring process to maintain 21 employees at the Fire Department, contingent upon the City Council approving the final resolution. This includes the three additional firefighter/paramedics that will be hired as part of the SAFER grant. Motion carried.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to approve the hiring of George Anderson for the temporary part-time parking monitor/courier position. Motion carried.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to approve two weeks of paid vacation for the seasonal employee that has worked for a twelve month period. Motion carried.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to authorize the Human Resource/Safety Director to eliminate the posting for a temporary Heavy Equipment Operator position and repost a regular full-time Heavy Equipment Operator position for seventy-two hours and advertise externally, if necessary. Motion carried.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to request the Finance Committee to review the budget and staffing for the Public Works Department and consider the request to hire one additional Heavy Equipment Operator, prior to the retirements in 2007. Motion carried.

Councillor Damm reported on the Insurance Committee meeting held on October 10, 2006.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to allow staff from the Northeast Service Coop and Greater Minnesota Agency to schedule mandatory meetings with City employees to discuss the Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA) plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to request the City Clerk/Finance Director to prepare financial information on how the Voluntary Employee Benefit Association (VEBA) plan funding would affect the City's cash flow. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06194, authorizing submission of an application for an Iron Range Resources Grant for costs incurred for a technologies pilot program for a business in Progress Park. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Discussion was held on the resolution approving the grant for the renovations to the B'Nai Abraham Jewish Synagogue. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner recommended removing the last paragraph from the resolution regarding the maintenance of the project site.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06195, authorizing submission of an Iron Range Resources Grant for renovations to the B’Nai Abraham Jewish Synagogue, with the last paragraph removed from the draft resolution. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Operations Director Tourville stated he has finalized the negotiations regarding the purchase of the parcel on Fourth Street North and will bring a recommendation to the next Finance Committee meeting.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Town meeting was held on September 28, 2006, to discuss the lakeshores of Bailey’s and Virginia Lakes and another meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on October 26, 2006.
- Received a letter from the Virginia Regional Medical Center requesting signage for a pedestrian crosswalk on 9th Avenue North between the hospital and the Washington Manor parking lot, which will be referred to the Public Safety Committee.
- Received thank you from Karen Hunt, School Nurse, thanking the City for the crosswalk message that was published in the newspaper, as two pedestrians were hit in the crosswalk by the school recently.
- Received a thank you from the Virginia Early Childhood Readiness Program for allowing City vehicles to participate in the “Truck Night”.
- Congratulated Addison Hendricks and Joey Leoni for receiving their Eagle Scout Badges.
- Announced Darrell Knapper, Captain, Fire Department, as the recipient of the Employee of Third Quarter 2006 award.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adjourn until 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, October 24, 2006, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

Deputy City Clerk