

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, APRIL 8, 2014

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Russo at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Russo - 6

Absent: Councillor Littlewolf - 1

Mayor Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 25, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-007 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Secondhand Goods Dealers License for The Chestnut Burrow at 235 Chestnut Street.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to approve the requests from the Dream Machines Motor Club to hold a cruise night from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Friday, June 6, 2014, on Chestnut Street:

1. Allow the posting of öZero Tolerance for Alcohol and Traffic Violationsö signage along Chestnut Street.
 2. Allow the Public Works Department to place several trash dumpsters on Chestnut Street.
- Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Ralston to approve the requests from the Dream Machines Motor Club to hold the 2014 Fuzzy Dice Cruise Night on from 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. on Friday, August 15, 2014, and the 22nd Annual Summer Celebration Car Show on Saturday, August 16, 2014, on Chestnut Street:

1. Barricade entire length of Chestnut Street, excluding the fire avenues. Non emergency avenues to be barricaded up to the alleys to allow for location of vendors and additional participants.
2. Post "No Parking" signage along Chestnut Street and the avenues up to the alleys, 24 hours prior to the 6 AM setup time on Saturday for the participants and vendors. No parking enforcement would begin at 6 AM on Saturday.
3. Place trash dumpsters along Chestnut Street on Friday (four dumpsters per block, two on each side of street).
4. Allow club to post "Zero Tolerance for Alcohol and Traffic Violations" signs along Chestnut Street.
5. Allow Park//Recreation Department to place several picnic tables and benches along T Square building on Third Avenue for use on Saturday.
6. Waive bond requirement for food vendor permits and prorate fee to \$75.00.
7. Allow club to use downtown public address system for both events. City staff to confirm that system is in good operational order prior to event. Allow club to use one 110 volt electrical outlet by use by WEVE radio to broadcast live during both events.

Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14050, approving the hiring of Chris Rensdorf for a Patrol Officer position, contingent upon passing the pre-employment physical, occupational therapy and psychological assessment, with a starting date after April 11, 2014, and subject to a twenty month probation period and the terms of the Law Enforcement Labor Services Local 195 labor agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on April 1, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Administrator to submit grant applications to fund the soil corrections and the extension utility infrastructure for the Ulland Brothers development project, which is proposed to be developed on the City property located north of the existing St. Louis County building on Highway 135. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Administrator to move forward with the preparation of a development agreement with Ulland Brothers for the proposed project in the City of Virginia. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to submit grant applications for the repair of the Olcott Park fountain and to move forward with the repairs in stages, as funds become available. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to adopt Resolution No. 14051, approving the agreement with Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$18,000, to provide professional engineering services for the demolition of the former Staver Foundry. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the City Administrator and Councillors Ralston and Cuffe to pursue discussions on a multi-jurisdictional facility with the State of Minnesota and St. Louis County. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to accept the concept to develop a budget to maintain and enhance the lakes and trails, which would be based on a percentage of City taxes received from the lake shore properties. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to adopt Resolution No. 14152, accepting the quote from Northeast Technical Service, in the amount of \$9,340, to continue with the Limited Site Investigation on MPCA Leaksite #18023, located at the former Troy Building site in Virginia, Minnesota, which is eligible for reimbursement through the Petrofund. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to authorize the City Administrator to obtain the cost to prepare an economic impact study to determine the effects on the City of Virginia, based on:

- 1) Proceeding with the proposed joint school co-location project in Mt. Iron.
- 2) Building a consolidated school campus in Virginia.

Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe clarified information that was disseminated by school board officials in a television interview with Barbara Reyelts regarding the co-location of the Virginia, Eveleth/Gilbert and Mt. Iron/Buhl high schools to a new \$110 million campus. Issues included the maintenance of the individual school identities, loss of staffing and the vote taken by the Virginia City Council to oppose legislation that included the diversion of funding from the Doug Johnson economic development fund for the school co-location project. Councillor Cuffe noted a shadow bill was still being crafted at that time to divert \$25 million from Doug Johnson Fund directly to the Mt. Iron School District. Councillor Cuffe stated the Collaborative Committee has assigned committees to study models for the proposed co-location and urged the committees to review all options and just not the proposal to co-locate grades 7 through 12 on the Mt. Iron site.

Councillor Ralston reiterated the importance of an economic impact study and questioned the burden on the Virginia taxpayers if the operating levy is increased.

Councillor Baribeau expressed concern on the loss of dollars to the Virginia School District if the open enrollment students are eliminated and the additional debt that will be incurred by Virginia taxpayers for the Parkview School addition. Councillor Baribeau stated he would like to see an itemized structural engineering study to determine the upgrades that are necessary for the current Virginia high school campus. He also expressed concern regarding the current teaching staff with co-location proposal, and the elimination of the current unions if the districts end up consolidating.

Councillor Sipola stated he agreed with the motion, but suggested that the motion be tabled to allow the school districts additional time to convince the Virginia City Council on the proposal.

Moved by Sipola to table the motion. Motion died for lack of support.

Councillor Baranzelli questioned why the first choice site on Southern Drive was overlooked.

Mayor Russo asked what would happen to the students that migrate to the Virginia Library after school.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Ralston to oppose dissolving the identity of Independent School District No. 706, Grades 7 to 12, and moving the high school outside the City limits of Virginia. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau gave an update on the Highway 53 relocation project and stated the draft Environmental Impact Statement is currently under review and will be published in June, 2014, with a 45 day review period for the public. Changes are also being considered to get in and out of the Midway Addition. Councillor Baribeau stated the decision on the route to relocate Highway 53 may

not be determined until the fall of 2014. Councillor Cuffe expressed concern on the project delays and the proposed time line to begin construction in May, 2015.

Councillor Sipola acknowledged the donation of \$5,000 from the Essentia/VRMC Foundation for the Silver Lake walking trail.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk