

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, FEBRUARY 25, 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.

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Russo ó 7

Absent: None

Mayor Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held February 11, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-004 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Transient Merchant/Solicitor License for Walter Walls, d/b/a Barbøe Fried, Bread, contingent upon meeting licensing requirements.

Motions carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to set the date for the 2014 Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for Tuesday, April 15, 2014, from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon. Motion carried.

City Clerk Roskoski reviewed the transfer of the On-Sale, Sunday and Off-Sale liquor licenses for the Mirage Bar and recommended holding the Sunday Liquor License until the Minnesota Health Department food license has been transferred.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to approve the transfer of the On-Sale, Sunday and Off-Sale Liquor License from the Iron Range Corporation, d/b/a The Mirage, to the

Mirage, LLC, d/b/a The Mirage, located at 509 Chestnut Street, contingent upon meeting the licensing requirements and obtaining the final approval from the State of Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve the Optional 2 AM Liquor License for the Mirage, LLC, d/b/a Mirage Bar, 509 Chestnut Street, pending approval from the State of Minnesota. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on February 18, 2014.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14038, accepting the proposal from Lori Beth Maki to manage the Mineview in the Sky, with the City responsible for the telephone service up to \$300, and contingent upon the Laurentian Chamber notifying the City that they will not be requesting a direct subsidy from Virginia for the year 2014. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved to Ralston and supported by Cuffe to authorize the City Attorney to prepare a contract with Lori Beth Maki to manage the Mineview in the Sky for the year 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve the travel request for Gwen Webb and Adam Metsa, Fire Department, to attend the Special Operation Training Association Conference to be held March 30-31 & April 1, 2014, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to approve the travel request for Chris Clark, Fire Department, to attend the Minnesota Chapter of International Arson Investigators Conference, to be held March 25-28, 2014, St. Cloud, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve the travel request for Dennis Benz, Police Chief, to attend the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Conference, to be held March 30-April 3, 2014, Rochester, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to adopt Resolution No. 14039, authorizing the Park/Recreation Director to submit an application to St. Louis County for the 2014 Public Event Center Recycling Bin Grant. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to approve the travel request for Nancy Maxwell, Library Director, to attend the Minnesota Library Legislative Day to be held March 4-5, 2014, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baribeau to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to hire a private contractor to unthaw the water line at the Greenhouse and trickle the water to prevent future freezing. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to authorize City administrative staff and the City Council to attend the 2014 Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Legislative Action Day, which will be held on March 5, 2014, in St. Paul. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston reported on the Finance Committee of the Whole meeting that was held at 9:00 AM on February 25, 2014, to meet with representatives of the Virginia School District to discuss the collaboration with the Virginia, Mt. Iron/Buhl and Eveleth/Gilbert School districts on the proposed new joint high school. Councillor Ralston stated the Virginia School Board voted unanimously to require a vote on the issue.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on February 18, 2014.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baranzelli to begin the process to replace the Park/Recreation Utility position that will be vacant effective May 2, 2014, in accordance with the current policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Baribeau to post for the replacement of the mechanic position, in accordance with the current policy and contingent upon receipt of a retirement date from the employee. Motion carried.

City Administrator Tourville stated steps are being taken to obtain temporary help to assist the Assessor's Office in meeting the requirements for their April 1st deadline. Information will be presented to the Personnel Committee on retaining the former City Assessor on a limited basis until a permanent decision is made regarding the Assessor's office.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee meeting held on February 18, 2014.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to table the snow removal complaint until a complete report is received from the City's insurance adjuster. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Cuffe to approve the installation of stop signs for the East and West traffic at the intersections of 8th Avenue West/4th Street South and 8th Avenue West/7th Street South, once the frost is out of the ground. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to move forward in the sale of the Northland Building parking lot to St. Louis County and authorize the City Administrator to enter into negotiations. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Ralston to conduct a City wide parking study, with the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee to review the completed study and prepare a recommendation. Motion carried.

Matt Reid, SEH Engineering, was present and recommended that the portion of the walking trail, from Rotary Park to 9th Avenue West, be developed this summer during the Fourth Street North reconstruction project, with the remaining portion of the walking trail to the bridge on 9th Avenue completed in the Spring of 2015 when the final level of pavement is done.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to include the engineering services for the Mesabi Trail and Silver Lake Walking Trail as part of Short Elliott Hendrickson's engineering contract for the reconstruction of Fourth Street North. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to deny the request to hold a farmer's market on the former Seppi site on Silver Lake, due to reconstruction of Fourth Street North, and authorize staff to find an alternate location. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Littlewolf to request the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to require Knox boxes on certain buildings, with the draft ordinance to be further reviewed by the Street/Alley/Public Safety Committee. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe gave an update on the Public Utilities Commission meeting held on February 24, 2014, including the new credit card on-line payment program, frozen water line issue, wood boiler outages and the Conservation Improvement Program.

Mayor Russo reported James Petroskey submitted his resignation from the Public Utilities Commission and stated a letter of thanks will be sent for his service.

Mayor Russo recommended the reappointment of Julianne Paulsen and Rob Marwick to the Virginia Economic Development Authority.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Ralston to reappoint Julianne Paulsen to the Virginia Economic Development Authority for a two year term ending December 31, 2015. Motion carried.

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Ralston to reappoint Rob Marwick to the Virginia Economic Development Authority for a two year term ending December 31, 2015. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the realignment of Trunk Highway 53 and the proposed intersection at Trunk Highway 135. Several safety concerns on the design of the intersection were expressed by the Mayor and City Council. Councillor Baribeau stated the Highway 53 Committee has started to meet again and is preparing information to present to the legislators.

Mayor Russo reported on the following issues:

- Iron Range Tourism Bureau will hold a board meeting at 10:00 A.M. on February 27, 2014, at the Mesabi Station in Eveleth.
- Commended the Public Works Department for the great job with snow plowing and snow removal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOUIS J. RUSSO
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk