

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, March 11, 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: Ralston, Baribeau, Sipola, Baranzelli, Cuffe, Littlewolf - 7

Absent: None

Mayor Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held February 25, 2014.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 14-005 ó Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Dave Salsman Memorial Chapter of Ruffed Grouse for a raffle to be held on April 25, 2014
4. Adopt Resolution No. 14040 entering into contract with the St. Louis County for 2014 Street Striping Maintenance Program (if approved, adopt resolution)

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to approve request from David Dincau, on behalf of Auto Zone ó 1903 16th Avenue South, for a 220 square foot variance to the maximum 64 square foot allowable, in order to construct three signs totaling 284 square feet on site. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to Approve request from David Dincau, on behalf of Auto Zone-1903 16th Avenue South, for a 5 foot variance to the required maximum height of 25 feet, in order to construct a pylon sign 30 feet in height. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Sipola to approve the appropriation \$50,000.00 from the Lake Fund and apply it towards the Silver Lake Walking Trail project. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14041 , approving the bid from Nelson-Collie Electric in the amount of \$22,385.00 for the lighting system at the Tennis for all Facility and list the old 32 light fixtures with DO Bid. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to approve Travel Request for Matt Kelly, Police Officer, to attend the Criminal Justice Training & Education to be held on March 19-21, 2014 in Mankato, MN. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to adopt Resolution No. 14042, accepting the allocation of \$2500.00 from the City of Mt. Iron which will be passed through to the approved independent contractor hired to manage the Mineview in the Sky. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the City Administrator to begin discussions with the Virginia Community Foundation to gather more realistic terms in regards to a viable offer on the former ICO Property. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to return to the next scheduled finance meeting with an aerial blue print of the Northwynd Canine Center and Rotary Park sites showing the proposed Laborerø Union building. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Littlewolf to Approve the donation of 2 adult golf passes for 18 holes of golf and 2 gift certificates to the Quad Cities Tennis for All to be used as door prizes or silent auction items at the to the March of Dimes öMarch for Babiesö Walk on May 3, 2014. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported by Cuffe to allow Personnel Committee to negotiate a contract with Rick Puhek for Assessor services on a temporary basis not to exceed in \$1500.00 per month plus allowable expenses. Motion carried

Moved by Cuffe and supported by Ralston to adopt Resolution No. 14043 , approving the temporary hire of Rick Puhek to conduct Assessor services based on the recommendation from the Finance Committee. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Cuffe reported that the Police Department is working on preparing individual pass codes for the locks in City Hall and Fire Department.

Councillor Baribeau reported on the update on Wild Rice Sulfate Studies that were done by the PCA. There will be a public meeting at the Mesabi Range Community Technical College Virginia Campus on Friday March 14th at 10:30 and 1:00 pm in the Norse Room to review the studies. The Mayor will be attending the 1:00 session and he urges all those whom are interested to attend for this is a public meeting.

Councillor Cuffe reviewed a notice that was sent out to all residence of Virginia on March 11, 2014. He stated it is important to try to minimize the possibility of frozen water lines and recommends you take action to prevent frozen water lines. The homeowner is the owner from the Tap of the main into the main and throughout the house. You should run your water if you are in fear it will freeze, however the Virginia Public Utilities is only discounting extra usage to those whom have already experienced a frozen water line and those residence in the Midway area. The notice shows the minimal cost to run your water lines and he warns that the costs to unthaw frozen water lines can be nearly \$2,000.00.

Councillor Baribeau reviewed a draft letter from the St. Louis County Commission in opposition of the intersection of Highway 53 and 135 that the Minnesota Department of Transportation has proposed.

Moved by Baribeau and Supported by Baranzelli to approve a letter from the City of Virginia in support of the St. Louis County Board's letter opposing the Highway 53 and 135 intersection that is proposed by the Minnesota Department of transportation which offers a lesser level of service than the existing interchange. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to put together our own resolution opposing the particular alternative plan that has been proposed from MnDOT that has proposed an intersection at Highway 53 and 135 without a bridge. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau reported that a bridge is needed for safety at this intersection. He will be attending the next follow up meeting which is scheduled for March 19, 2014 at 7:30 at The Shop in Virginia.

Mayor Russo set a Special City Council Meeting that will take place Tuesday March 18th at 9:00 in the Chambers Council at City Hall to discuss the single subject of moving the schools of Virginia and Eveleth-Gilbert to Mt. Iron.

John Tourville updated the Council on the following:

- John Tourville, Larry Cuffe and Mayor Russo attended the legislature last Wednesday and Thursday.
- Spent time with Senator Tomassoni whom is aware about the clover leafs with the intersection of Hwy 53 and 135. He is recommending an extra 20 million dollars to acquire additional land to make those interchanges.
- Discussed requesting money for infrastructure and planning expenses for the following items:
 1. Miners Memorial Building
 2. Fourth Street Project
 3. Northside Industrial Development
- John also stated that he was unable to secure any funding for the Lakes and Trails Legacy fund
- Updated the Council regarding his conversation with Jason Metsa regarding requesting additional funding for the Highway 53 and 135 intersection expenditures

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, March 25, 2014.

LOUIS J. RUSSO
Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

KRIS JOHNSON
Administrative Assistant-
Network Technician