

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, AUGUST 9, 2005

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 Lind, Baranzelli, Lindberg, Politano, Peterson, Mayor Luoma
Gentilini – 6

Absent: Councillor Raplinger – 1

Moved by Lindberg and supported by Peterson to approve Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held July 26, 2005.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 05015.
3. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Dana Waldron, Public Safety Director, International Association of Police Chiefs 2005 Conference Exposition, September 23-29, 2005, Miami, Florida.
 - B. Cheryl Weappa, Assessors Department, IAAO Course 102, October 16-21, 2005, St. Paul, Minnesota.
 - C. Tom Krause, Police Department, Minnesota Division IAI Conference, September 14-16, 2005, Rochester, MN.
4. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Laurentian Chamber of Commerce for raffle on September 22, 2005.
5. Approve Adult Service Establishment License for Hair on Main, 409 Chestnut Street.
6. Adopt Resolution No. 05122, authorizing the City of Virginia to be fiscal agent for the Tennis For All Committee.
7. Approve recommendations from Planning/Zoning Commission granting the following variance requests:
 - A. Michael Weiss, 1112 19th Street South, 2' variance to the required 5' side yard setback in order to construct a 24' x 32' garage 3' from the west property line.
 - B. Dave Deluca, 44 Vermillion Drive:
 - 2' variance to the required 8' side yard setback in order to construct a 16' x 26' addition to the garage 6' from the east property line.
 - 40 sq. ft. variance to the maximum allowed 1000 sq. ft. of accessory structures.

- C. Jim Lemoine, 1053 Bourgin Road, 6.25' variance to the required 10' side yard setback in order to construct an addition 3.75' from the north property line.
 - D. Bill Falkowski, 1501 11th Avenue North:
 - 2.2' variance to the required 8' side yard setback in order to construct a 22' x 24' garage 5.8' from the east property line.
 - 12.4' variance to the required 20' setback from City right-of-way, in order to construct a 22' x 24' garage 7.6' from the west property line (11th Avenue).
 - 70 sq. ft. variance to the maximum allowed 30% rear yard coverage of 457sq. feet, in order to construct 528 sq. ft. of accessory structure.
8. Adopt Resolution No. 05123, approving Application to Conduct Off-Site Gambling for the Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County at the Queen City Sports Palace on September 5, 2005.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to approve the final payment to Mesabi Bituminous, Inc., in the amount of \$23,043.51, for C.P. 5-04, 2004 Bituminous Overlay Program. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 05124, accepting bid from R.N.O.W., Inc., in the amount of \$68,820.00, for one automated side loading refuse collection truck body. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Politano and supported to table the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Superior National Forest, until the agreement is reviewed by the City Attorney, League of Minnesota Cities and Public Safety Director. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the funds that were returned by Skatejam, Inc., to the City will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to accept the bid from Bill Harley and Katie Pietrini, in the amount of \$9,900.00, to purchase Lot 22, Block 1, Fairview Addition, with the resolution adopted at the August 23rd Council meeting. Motion carried.

Councillor Peterson reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on August 2, 2005.

Moved by Peterson and supported to set up a meeting between Residential Services, Inc., and the neighbors to discuss the problems at the group home located at 1102 South 9th Avenue. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to authorize John Gerzina of Damberg Architects, to proceed with the plans on the lake property along Sixth Avenue, which the City is negotiating to purchase from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated she will provide Damberg Architects with the public input received from the previous town meetings regarding the lake property.

Moved by Peterson and supported to allow Matt Sandnas to work with Public Safety Director Waldron on a plan to allow the wedding party to travel by ATV's from Gethsemane Church to the Elk's Club on August 27, 2005, contingent upon approval by the Public Safety Director and availability of police officers. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to deny the request, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission, for Sherri Teasck and Markus Hoche to rezone Parcel 90-193-1010, located along Highway 135, from M-0 (Mining/Open Space) to R-1 (Single Family Residential) to build a residential home. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to approve the purchase of a TV/VCR/DVD for the Conference Room. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to refer the purchase of an additional golf ball dispenser for the driving range to a Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting in early 2006.

Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to allow City officials to submit an application and the required fees for a Demolition Landfill Permit for the City owned property behind the St. Louis County garage on Highway 135. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to have a purchasing policy, in writing, for all department heads. Motion carried.

Councillor Peterson stated the geotechnical engineer has made a recommendation to place foundation support pilings on certain lots in the Northern Heights Addition, due to the results of the soil boring testing.

Moved by Peterson and supported to sell Lots 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8, Block 2, Northern Heights Addition for \$1.00 each, contingent upon the purchaser meeting all covenants and restrictions (including one residence per lot) and signing a waiver regarding the soil conditions. Motion carried.

Moved by Peterson and supported to authorize City staff to negotiate with Minnesota Power and enter into contracts to perform soil borings and to move the power line in the Fairview Addition, contingent upon the results of the soil borings report. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated letters have been received requesting the purchase of lots in the Fairview Addition Phase III development and recommended that the Buildings/Grounds Committee develop criteria and conditions for the sale of lots.

Councillor Lind reported on the Liquor Committee meeting held on August 2, 2005.

Moved by Lind and supported to allow the Rock House to fence in their back parking area from 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. on Saturday, August 20, 2005, contingent upon the City inspecting the fence and the Rock House providing proof of insurance. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to authorize the City Attorney to send a letter to the off-sale liquor establishments requesting their input on allowing off-sale liquor establishments to locate off Chestnut Street. Once input is received, a Liquor Committee meeting will be set up to discuss the issue. Motion carried.

Councillor Peterson reported on the Special Joint Meeting of the City Council and Hospital Commission held on August 4, 2005, to discuss the ambulance service and possible joint purchase of two ambulances and it was the recommendation of the Councillors and Hospital Commissioners present to recommend the City purchase one ambulance and the Hospital purchase one ambulance, contingent upon the City and Hospital Finance Directors determining the funding and ordering timelines.

Moved by Peterson and supported to allow the City to purchase one ambulance and request the Virginia Regional Medical Center to purchase one ambulance, contingent upon City and Hospital Finance Directors determining the funding and ordering timelines, as a one-time deal.

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

Nays: Councillor Lind, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 2

Motion failed. (City Charter requires five votes on expenditures.)

Moved by Lind and supported to request the Virginia Regional Medical Center to purchase one ambulance this year and request the City to place the ambulance as the top priority capital purchase during the budget process for the 2006 budget, on a non-precedent setting basis.

Ayes: Councillor Lind, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 2

Nays: Councillors Baranzelli, Lindberg, Politano, Peterson – 4

Motion failed.

Councillor Lindberg stated the City should buy an ambulance this year and the Hospital could buy a second ambulance next year. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated it would be more responsible to go through the 2006 budgeting process first, as the City also has other financial issues to deal with. During the budget process, the Council can decide what will be cut from the budget, in order to have the funds to purchase an ambulance. There are \$8.0 million in reserves, and all but \$300,000 is dedicated. City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated, if the City Council approves budgeting for an ambulance as the top priority capital purchase, funds would be set aside in 2006 and the ambulance could be ordered in 2005 and delivered in January of 2006. Councillor Peterson stated he has been assured that funds are available to purchase an ambulance this year and also stated there may be a change in the City Council next year. Councillor Peterson also stated the garbage trucks are on a five year rotation plan. Councillor Politano stated this issue has gone on for ten months and she will not approve waiting for the budget process. Councillor Lind recommended looking at the 2006 budget and approving the ambulance purchase at that time, if funds are available. Councillor Lindberg stated is going to make a recommendation to the Hospital Commission to turn the ambulance license over to the City, so the City can be responsible for the entire ambulance service.

Councillor Lind stated she attended the Housing and Redevelopment Authority meeting. The HRA commission has decided not to expend funds to extend and expand the roadway around the Alpine Village at this time, due to the occupancy rates and drainage problems. The HRA is also considering leasing one of the student housing units to another entity.

Moved by Politano and supported to approve the purchase of one ambulance as a 2006 budgeted item, for delivery in January of 2006, on a non-precedent basis. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated the 2006 budget process will begin soon, as the preliminary budget and levy must be submitted by September 15, 2005.

City Operations Director Tourville stated Representative Dan Dorman will tour the Highway 53 project and Hospital helipad project on August 17, 2005. These projects were submitted for funding in the 2006 legislative bonding bill.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Received thank you from Sue Stevens for sponsoring the Virginia City Band.
- Received letter from George Erickson, Tennis for All Committee, thanking the City for supporting the tennis project.
- Received invite from the Highway 53 Long Range Improvement Task Force to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 13, 2005, for the Highway 53/169 interchange project.
- Received invite from Iron Range Labor Assembly to attend the Labor Day Celebration on Sunday, September 4, 2005, in Olcott Park.
- Stated she will be contacting the members of the Hall of Fame nominating committee and bring back the committee for the All Class Reunion in 2008.

Moved by Politano and supported to adjourn to 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
Deputy City Clerk