

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, NOVEMBER 21, 2006

Special meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Luoma Gentilini at 1:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Present: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Lindberg, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6

Absent: Councillor Damm - 1

Mayor Gentilini stated the special meeting was called to discuss the resignation letter from Dana Waldron as Public Safety Director and how to move forward with the position.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to accept the resignation from Dana Waldron as Public Safety Director.

Councillor Peterson stated there are many issues to address in the Fire Department, including the SAFER grant and hiring of four fighters, and recommended keeping Dana Waldron as Public Safety Director on a temporary basis, until the Council determines how to proceed with the Fire Department. There would be no change to Dana Waldron's current contract, other than possibly extending the expiration date.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated she feels it is best to go back to a separate Police Chief and Fire Chief, as Dana Waldron has reached a point of frustration as Public Safety Director. The City Council previously approved hiring a Deputy Fire Chief, at a cost of \$81,537, including benefits, and hiring three additional firefighters under the SAFER grant and interviews have been set for November 28, 2006. Mayor Gentilini reviewed the various options and costs for the Police and Fire Departments, as prepared by Human Resources/Safety Director Erickson. Mayor Gentilini stated the City Council cannot consider the option with the Public Safety Director, a Deputy Fire Chief and two firefighters, at a total cost of \$333,198, as it does not meet the SAFER grant requirements. Mayor Gentilini recommended moving forward with the option that includes a Police Chief, Fire Chief and three firefighters, at a total cost of \$379,310.

Councillor Raplinger stated Dana Waldron will be welcomed back as a full-time Police Chief and commended him for reaching many of the City Council's goals as Public Safety Director, which has resulted in savings for the City. Councillor Raplinger stated that, since Dana Waldron's contract allows him to return to the Police Chief position, it does not make sense to hire a Public Safety Director at this time and recommended moving forward to hire a Fire Chief.

Roll call on above motion:

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Mayor Gentilini - 4

Nays: Councillors Lindberg, Peterson - 2

Motion carried.

Councillor Lind recommended posting internally for an interim Fire Chief.

Moved by Lind and supported to post internally for an Interim Fire Chief.

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Mayor Gentilini - 4

Nays: Councillors Lindberg, Peterson - 2

Motion carried.

Mayor Gentilini stated the new Fire Chief will be required to continue to reduce overtime in the Fire Department.

Councillor Baranzelli stated it is important to have a Fire Chief, with the increased staffing at the Fire Department.

Moved by Baranzelli and supported to move forward with the scenario that includes a Fire Chief, Police Chief and three firefighters and to move forward with the process to hire a Fire Chief.

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Mayor Gentilini - 4

Nays: Councillors Lindberg, Peterson - 2

Motion carried.

Public Safety Director Waldron stated he has met the goals that were set out for him as Public Safety Director and stated the scenario that includes a Public Safety Director and three firefighters could continue to save the City \$60,000 per year. Public Safety Director Waldron also stated his original request was for a secretary at the Fire Hall, which was promised by the City Council when he was hired as Public Safety Director, but when the Fire Union complained, the position was changed to a Deputy Fire Chief.

Councillor Raplinger stated he has no complaints on the performance by Public Safety Director Waldron, but the efficiencies are no longer apparent with the addition of the Deputy Fire Chief position.

Tim McQueen stated the City Council should consider taking action to meet NFPA standards, which requires four people on a fire scene within five minutes, ninety-five percent of the time. Mr. McQueen also stated the City of Virginia is abusing other cities with the mutual aid agreements.

Councillor Lind stated the City needed to save money when the Public Safety Director position was created, due to the loss of local government aid, and asked why the Fire Department's overtime in 2006 exceeded the overtime figures for 2005. Public Safety Director Waldron stated the Fire Department has saved a considerable amount of overtime when compared to the 2004 figures and the City has paid additional overtime in 2006 to cover the employees out on workers compensation and military leave.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adjourn the meeting at 1:55 P.M. Motion carried.

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI  
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI  
Deputy

(CORPORATE SEAL)