

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

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 Raplinger, Lind, Baranzelli, Lindberg, Damm, Peterson, Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 7

Absent: None

Councillor Lind removed Item 11B from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini removed Items 3E and 7 from the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Peterson and supported to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, with the exception of Items 3E, 7 and 11B:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held August 22, 2006, and Special Meeting held August 29, 2006.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 06015 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Britt See-Benes, Engineering Department, Technology Briefing Seminar, September 26, 2006, Duluth, MN.
 - B. Nicole Mattson, Billy Hebl, Police Department, MN State Association of Narcotics Investigators, September 15, 2006, Duluth, MN.
 - C. Bill Hennis, Bill Cole, Engineering Department:
 1. Performing Field Inspections, November 8, 2006, Duluth, MN.
 2. Issues and Answers within State Building Code, November 9, 2006, Duluth, MN.
 - D. Jennifer Sereno, City Clerk's Office, Essentials of Managing the Front Desk, October 25, 2006, Duluth, MN.
 - E. Tim Koivunen, Police Department, Background Investigation, September 28-29, 2006, Bemidji, MN.
4. Approve renewal for Optional 2 A.M. Liquor Applications:
 - A. Flaimer's, Inc., 127 Chestnut Street.
 - B. Iron Range Corporation, d/b/a Mirage, 509 Chestnut Street.
 - C. Peterson Properties, d/b/a Popper's, 120 Chestnut Street.
 - D. STAT, Inc., d/b/a Magic Bar. 116 Chestnut Street.
 - E. QCSP, Inc., d/b/a Queen City Sports Palace, 523 Chestnut Street.
5. Approve Sunday On-Sale Liquor License Application for Magic Bar, 116 Chestnut Street.

6. Approve Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo for Mesabi Humane Society for November 4, 2006.
7. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Quad Cities Rotary Club for raffle to be held on October 12, 2006.
8. Approve Dance Permits for Iron Range Youth In Action at the Miners Memorial Building: November 17, 2006; December 8, 2006; February 23, 2007; March 30, 2007; April 20, 2007 and May 11, 2007.
9. Authorize Memorial Blood Center to utilize four parking spaces in the Northland Office Center parking lot for blood drive to be held on September 14, 2006.
10. Adopt Resolution No. 06171, authorizing submission of an application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for a Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant for infrastructure for business expansion on the east side of Highway 53 north of the Golf Course.
11. Approve variances, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission at a meeting held on September 11, 2006.
 - A. Jamie & Stacy Winger – 122 2nd Street South
 1. A 15’ variance from the required 20’ side yard setback in order to construct a garage 5’ from the West property line.
 2. A 15’ variance from the required 20’ side yard setback in order to construct a fence 5’ from the West property line.
 - B. Robert and Barb Hilmas – 1209 19th Street South
 1. A 1’ variance to the maximum allowed 3’ height requirement in order to construct to a 4’ high fence on the front property line.

Motions carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Regarding Item 3E, Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the Background Investigation training scheduled for September 28-29, 2006, has been cancelled.

Regarding Item 7, Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the date of the raffle for the Quad Cities Rotary Club has been changed from October 12 to October 26, 2006.

Regarding Item 11B, Councillor Lind stated she would like to approve the variance, contingent upon the property owner providing the easement and survey prior to constructing the fence.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to allow the Engineering Department to approve the 1’ variance for Robert and Barb Hilmas, 1209 19th Street South, in order to construct a 4’ high fence on the front property line, contingent upon them following the building code regulations. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to approve Item 7, Application for Exempt Permit for the Quad Cities Rotary Club to hold a raffle on October 26, 2006. Motion carried.

Paul Monacelli presented a signed petition regarding the petitioners' concern for the safety and welfare of the children and vulnerable adults related to the use of Third Avenue and Fourth Avenue North by snowmobiles and off-road recreational vehicles. The petitioners are requesting that the City Council do the following: 1) Immediately install signage instructing the off-road vehicles to not use Third and Fourth Avenue North; 2) Order the Police Department to better monitor traffic and ticket the unlicensed or speeding off-road vehicles; and 3) Appoint a committee made up of a group of City Councillors and petitioners to determine long range remedies.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini recommended that the Public Safety Committee, City Attorney and Public Safety Director meet with a group of petitioners to determine a long range solution to the problem. Councillor Lindberg recommended that the residents help the Police Department by turning in the people that are violating the law. Councillor Peterson stated this needs to be addressed as a City-wide problem. Councillor Baranzelli stated he will set up a Public Safety Committee meeting with the group of petitioners. Councillor Damm suggested that representatives from the snowmobile club and hotel/motel operators be included in the meetings. Councillor Peterson suggested that the City Attorney place an advertisement in the newspaper stating snowmobiles and ATV's are not allowed on city streets, based on the City ordinance.

Moved by Peterson and supported to authorize the City Attorney to place ads in the newspaper regarding the regulations for snowmobiles and ATV's, based on the City ordinance, and to include the Police Department telephone number. Motion carried.

Barb Knapper appeared before the City Council and thanked the City Council for the brushing work that was done by City crews and for the extra patrolling by the Police Department. The neighborhood group feels the additional lighting in the new parking lot will help, but they would like to pursue a surveillance system for the Southside Park, which could be installed in conjunction with the new tennis building. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the Virginia School District is willing to

contribute funds for a surveillance system. Mayor Luoma Gentilini also recommended keeping the current lights on during the evening hours at Southside Park. Councillor Peterson expressed concern about placing surveillance cameras throughout Southside Park and stated he does not have an issue with placing cameras around the new tennis building. Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated the Engineering Department will bring an estimate to fence the Southside Park to the joint meeting of the Finance and Buildings/Grounds Committee.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to: 1) Request Terry Hartikka to obtain a cost estimate and determine the effectiveness of a surveillance system for the Southside Park and bring a recommendation to a joint meeting of the Finance and Buildings/Grounds Committees. 2) Request the Public Utilities Department to repair the existing lighting at Southside Park. 3) Remove the coin machine for the lights at the Southside Park tennis courts. Motion carried.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini recommended rescheduling the City Council meeting on September 26th from 6:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M., as two City Councillors are unable to attend at the regular time. Mayor Luoma Gentilini also stated a picture will be taken of the City Council prior to the meeting.

Moved by Peterson and supported to hold the City Council meeting at 4:30 P.M. on September 26, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06172, approving Change Order No. 2 to increase the contract of Range Cornice & Roofing by \$12,231.00 for Bid Package #10, Bid Phase III, 2004 Medical Facilities Redevelopment Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 05173, approving Change Order No. 5 to increase the contract of Mulcahy, Inc., by \$11,207.00 for Bid Package #26, Bid Phase IV, 2004 Medical Facilities Redevelopment Project. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06174, increasing the salaries of election judges and health care facility judges, as of September 12, 2006.

Ayes: Councillors Raplinger, Baranzelli, Lindberg, Damm, Peterson,
Mayor Luoma Gentilini – 6
Nays: Councillor Lind – 1
Resolution adopted.

Moved by Peterson and supported to table the request from the Planning/Zoning Commission to approve the preliminary plat for Sherwood Forest First Addition for further information. Motion carried.

Councillor Lind reported on the Finance Committee meeting held on September 5, 2006.

Moved by Lind and supported to approve the request from the Spay Neuter Aid Program (SNAP) to assume the \$10,000 heating and energy loan granted to the Niiji Center, at 6.5 percent interest over a ten year period. Motion carried.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06175, declaring the official intent of the City of Virginia to reimburse certain VRMC expenditures from the proceeds of G.O. Revenue bonds to be issued by the City. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06176, approving contract with Russo Consultants, at a rate of \$80.00 per hour and a cap of \$9,400.00, for negotiating the Fire, Police and City AFSCME labor contracts which expire December 31, 2006. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lind and supported to table the quote for the purchase of four new Federal Warning Systems Civil Defense Sirens and refer the issue back to the Finance Committee for further information. Motion carried.

George Erickson, Tennis for All Committee, stated the project is approximately \$200,000 over budget, due to additional snow load capacity transferred to the roof and a change in the foundation system. Mr. Erickson also stated the Tennis for all Committee has received \$621,000 in fundraising commitments to date, excluding the \$90,000 commitment from the City of Virginia.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06177, accepting bid from H.G. Harvey Construction Company, in the amount of \$769,000.00, plus Alternate #1, in the amount of \$100,000, for a total of \$869,000 for C.P. 11-06, Quad City Tennis for All Building. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06180, authorizing submission and acceptance of an Iron Range Resources Mineland Reclamation Grant for the Fairview Addition Housing Development. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06178, setting the proposed 2006 tax levy, collectible in 2007. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Lind and supported to adopt Resolution No. 06179, adopting proposed general and debt service funds budgets for year 2007. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Lind stated a town meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on September 28, 2006, at the Miners Memorial Building to discuss the lakeshore property.

Councillor Raplinger reported on Personnel Committee meeting held on September 5, 2006.

Moved by Raplinger and supported to authorize the Human Resources/Safety Director to submit a counter offer for the Public Safety Director's employment contract that expires on December 31, 2006. Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to allow City vehicles to participate in the Early Childhood Family Education and School Readiness Truck Night from 6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M. on September 21, 2006. Motion carried.

Councillor Lindberg stated the 7th Annual Festival of Trees will be held November 15-19, 2006, at the Mt. Iron Community Center.

Councillor Lindberg stated he and Councillor Peterson attended the City Employee Golf Outing on August 24, 2006, which was well attended.

Councillor Peterson stated the renovation of the hockey players' benches at the Miners Memorial Building is approximately ninety percent complete and the project is ahead of schedule.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stated a Truth in Taxation hearing is not required with the proposed levy increase of 6.4 percent.

Moved by Peterson and supported to not hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing for the City of Virginia. Motion carried.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner reported that a draft audit report has been received for the Virginia-Eveleth Economic Development Authority.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini stated a grand opening will be held for the new St.

Mary's/Duluth Clinic at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 19, 2006.

City Operations Director stated AFSCME Local 454 has filed an intent to begin negotiations for their contract that expires on December 31, 2006.

Mayor Luoma Gentilini reported on the following items:

- Received a thank you from the St. Louis County Rescue Squad for the \$1,000 donation.
- Attended ceremony on September 12, 2006, to swear in new police officer Lee Gams, welcome new firefighter Eric Bergstrand and to acknowledge the promotion of Officer Tim Koivunen to the Detective position.
- Thanked the Public Works Department for the great job in redoing the sidewalks in the 200 block on Southside.
- Reminded City supervisors that they have until September 30, 2006, to complete the mandatory NIMS requirements.
- Congratulated Cheryl Weappa for successfully completing the Professional Development Program for Assessments and Appraisals.
- Received thank you from the Tennis for All Committee thanking the City for their participation in receiving the \$125,000 Iron Range Resources grant for the tennis building.
- State of Minnesota will be celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2008.
- Announced Gary Picek as the recipient of the Employee of the Second Quarter.

Moved by Peterson and supported to adjourn the meeting to 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, September 26, 2006, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

CAROLYN LUOMA GENTILINI
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
Deputy City Clerk