

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, JANUARY 8, 2008

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Peterson at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Baribeau, Littlewolf, Ralston, Lindberg, Russo, Mayor Peterson - 6

Absent: Councillor Damm - 1

Mayor Peterson recommended appointing Louis Russo to the vacant City Council position.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 08027, appointing Louis Russo to the vacant City Council term ending December 31, 2009. Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner swore in Louis Russo for the vacant term on the City Council.

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

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held December 18, 2007, and Reorganizational Meeting held January 2, 2008.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 08-001 – Schedule of Bills.
3. Approve variances, as recommended by the Planning and Zoning Commission at regular meeting held January 7, 2008:
 - A. Bruce Niemi – 125 North 1st Street:
 1. 20' variance to the required 20' setback from the City right-of-way (2nd Avenue) in order to build a fence on the property line.
 2. 4' variance to the maximum allowed 2' height requirement in order to build a 6' fence along the East property line (2nd Avenue).
 3. 3' variance to the maximum allowed 3' front yard height requirement in order to build a 6' fence on the South property line. (1st Street North)
4. Approve Kennel Licenses:
 - A. Grooming by Jane.
 - B. Northwynd Canine Center.

5. Approve Bowling Alley Licenses:
 - A. Virginia Bowling Gardens.
 - B. Plaza Bowl.
6. Approve Tobacco License for Queen City Sports Palace.
7. Approve travel requests:
 - A. Nancy Maxwell, Library Director:
 1. Council of Regional Public Library System Administrators, January 23, 2008, St. Paul, MN.
 - B. Tom Butorac, City Attorney, City Attorney's Educational Conference, February 1-2, 2008, St. Paul, MN.

Motions and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the request from Sandra Tuominen, Critter Care Pet Clinic, to rezone the property located at 216 12th Street South for office space.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to approve the request from Sandra Tuominen, Critter Care Pet Clinic, to rezone the property located at 216 12th Street South from R-3 (5-12 Multi Family) to B-2 (Community Business). Motion carried.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to table the request from Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency to rezone the property to be known as 318 12th Street South from R-2 (1-4 Family Residential) to R-5 (5-12 Multi Family Residential) to a Special Meeting to be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Motion carried.

City Attorney Butorac stated he will assist the Planning and Zoning Commission in drafting an ordinance regarding LED signs.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to remove the LED sign ordinance from the agenda until a recommendation is obtained from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reviewed the communication from City Clerk/Finance Director Lackner stating the following initiative petition has been certified, as per the requirements of the City

Charter: “The property formally owned by the DMIR Railroad, South of the property owners on the South side of Eleventh Street alley to the North, West of the Alley running diagonally from Eleventh Street to Jim’s Transmission to the East, Highway 53 on the South, and Southside Park to the West, become part of the dedicated Southside Park.”

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to table the initiative petition to a Special Meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 15, 2008. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt Resolution No. 08028, designating Mesabi Daily News as the Official Newspaper for 2008. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Councillor Baribeau requested that quotes be obtained from the Mesabi Daily News for larger print for the legal advertisements.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to allow the concrete and block demolition material from the burned buildings in 100 block of Chestnut Street to be placed at City concrete pile for crushing. Motion carried.

Councillor Ralston recommended that the Engineering Department meet with the appropriate authority to request a variance, in order to keep the foundation if the first floor is removed, as it would significantly impact the sidewalks and infrastructure.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adopt Resolution No. 08029, approving the hiring of Joel Martinson for a firefighter/paramedic position, contingent upon successfully pre-employment physical and occupational therapy assessment and subject to the terms of the International Association of Firefighters, Local 390, Labor Agreement. Resolution adopted unanimously, with Mayor Peterson abstaining from the vote.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 08030, amending the Joint Powers Agreement for the Quad Cities Joint Recreational Center to allow the Alternate At-Large Curl Mesabi Commissioner to have voting privileges in the absence of At-large Curl Mesabi Commissioner. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the City Council and administrative staff to attend the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Annual Legislative Action Day on February 20, 2008, in St. Paul. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson stated he met with St. Louis County Commissioner Keith Nelson regarding the proposed project to add a 100-bed jail facility to the Virginia Courthouse and to possibly build a skywalk between the Courthouse, City Hall, Northland Building and Post Office.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to send a letter to the local legislators and St. Louis County Board in support of the proposed jail project in Virginia. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the meeting held with the City of Eveleth staff and City Council regarding the zoning issues at the Eveleth-Virginia Airport. Mayor Peterson stated a plan was developed to meet the zoning requirements, which also pleased the adjoining property owners.

Mayor Peterson recommended that City Attorney Butorac meet with the Eveleth City Attorney to review the airport joint powers agreement and consider placing Eveleth and Virginia City Councillors as voting members on the Airport Authority.

Councillor Lindberg thanked the Public Works Department for their excellent job in snow plowing. Councillor Lindberg suggested that citizens contact the City Operations Director if they have issues with the snow plowing.

See 2008 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 08027 – 08030 and Finance Resolution No. 08001.

Moved by Lindberg and supported to adjourn to the Special Meeting to be held at 6:30

P.M. on Tuesday, January 15, 2008, in the Council Chambers, City Hall. Motion carried.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
Deputy City Clerk