

Administration Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Meeting called to order by Alderman Mottershaw at 7:00 pm

Aldermen in attendance: Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors

Also in attendance: Mayor Murphy

Visitors: Mike Marsaglia, Kenny Williams, Jill and Don Jenkins, JoAnn Marsaglia, Bill and Marcia Woodruff, Gary Marsaglia, and Angie Stevens. Visitors left at 7:45 pm.

Comments from audience:

Mike Marsaglia: Last month it was said that a few of the Aldermen wanted to research further regarding liquor license and gaming. If there are any questions I hope, I can answer them. I hope we come to a resolution tonight. I know it will take some concessions and negotiations by the council members and the Mayor. I did reach out to the Chamber of Commerce, and they are anything that would approve of the economic development and the good of the City of Virden. I am also asking if all the Aldermen could take off the hat of any personal feelings and put on the hat that would be best for the City of Virden for economic development.

Male Visitor (unidentified): I heard that the Chamber of Commerce were supposed to vote on whether they supported gaming or not on the 3rd Thursday of this month. Boster: I am not sure why they would be voting on supporting gaming since it already exists in the taverns, restaurants, and bowling alleys.

JoAnn Marsaglia: Why aren't the meeting minutes placed on paper? A lot of older people do not have access to a computer. Mottershaw: The city was not the ones to place it in the paper previously. The owner was local, and they came to each meeting and took their own notes to publish.

Topics:

1. Approval of meeting minutes 08/31/2023

Motion made by Bertolino second by Mottershaw to approve meeting minutes 08/31/2023. Motion passed with all in favor.

2. Discuss interview process

Alderman Ibberson believes it should be the department head, the chairman, and the mayor that performs the interviews. They will make their recommendations at the committee meeting. Some of the comments and questions that are being asked are not allowed to be asked. It has to change or whoever sits in on those interviews can be sued. Alderman Bertolino stated it should be one person asking the questions. Others should not comment or elaborate on those questions. Alderman Cunningham also recommends changing the application itself. There is no safe place that those are being stored. She also disagrees with some questions being asked. Alderman Boster also agreed that there should not be any more than five people on an interview panel. Ideally three but a minimum of two. He agrees that the questions for each position should be established and

agreed upon. Some questions being asked are inappropriate. Alderman Neighbors agrees that the interview process should be narrowed. He would recommend two aldermen that are the chair and co-chair along with department heads and mayor.

3. Discuss employee direct deposit

Those employees that are grandfathered in are grandfathered in. All new employees would be required to have direct deposit moving forward. If this gets approved, it should go into the personnel policy.

Ibberson made recommendation seconded by Bertolino to take to council for approval for all new employees would be required to have direct deposit moving forward. There was a consensus to take to council for approval.

4. Discuss derelict properties

We have close to \$20,000 left in the line item to deal with the derelict properties. Prioritizing which properties to be focused on for the year to fit in the budget and whatever grants are available to assist. The building to the east of old Jed's, do we know who bought it. The cost to tear down the old Jed's building is not in the budget. Lisa has a list of properties that do not have water service to the properties. There are 59 properties on the list. Lisa will send the list out. Next Administration meeting this will be discussed. Alderman Neighbors asked if the gaming does pass can those funds be dedicated to parks and derelict properties. The council can dedicate any revenue to a particular subject.

5. Discuss Beer & Wine liquor license

Alderman Boster opened with he is for adding more liquor licenses. He does not believe that it should be limited. He expressed that any individual should have the right to open any business and not be hindered by the council. He feels that is what the council has done by limiting the current Class A, Class B, and all other liquor licenses. It has created a monopoly for those individuals that have the current available licenses. It was recommended by Alderman Boster to create the Beer & Wine liquor license with \$250.00 for the fee. Hours of operation from 11am-1am with last call at 12:00 am. No limitations on the number of licenses. Mayor Murphy suggested having it the same as Class A which are Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays 6am-12:00 am, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 6am-1:30am. Alderwoman Calloway is in agreeance as well as Alderman Bertolino and Alderman Neighbors. Alderwoman Cunningham would like a limitation on the number of licenses as well as the Mayor. Alderman Mottershaw does not want any changes to the current liquor licenses.

New proposal for consensus made by Alderman Boster to create a Beer and Wine License with hours of operation Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays 6am-12:00 am, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 6am-1:30am. The license fee is \$300.00 and there is a limitation of 6 available. licenses. There was a consensus to take to council for a vote.

6. Discuss office manager trainee pay scale

The employee is hired at \$18.00/hr. at full-time no matter if she is doing office manager duties or water department duties.

Additional Items:

1. We need to be clear to the public regarding comments, so we do not lose order. The audience has their right to make comments, but we cannot allow the back and forth.

Motion made by Ibberson to adjourn. Seconded by Calloway. Majority in favor to adjourn at 8:26 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Boster', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shelly Boster
City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: