

**City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday January 5th, 2026**

The Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Murphy at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

The following Council Members were present: Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Carter, Karrick, Boster, and Matrisch

Absent: Alderwoman Calloway

Also present: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, City Office Manager Karen Burgess, Bookkeeper/Treasure Barry Liss, Chief of Police Steven Snodgrass, and Attorneys Don & Joe Craven

Audience comments: Gary Schulze (from Waverly) inquired about the Data Center proposed to be built in the southwest area of Sangamon County.

Discussion: on the possible problems; where the center is proposed to be built, increased property taxes, drain on the electric/water system increase of utility bills, and noise level,

Approval of Agenda: (01-05-26)

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Karrick to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion: Passed with all in favor

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings (Regular 12/01/25 & Special 12/18/25)

Approval of Bills Payable

Approval of Treasurer's Report (November 25)

Approval of Water Report (December 2025) and Gallons Report (November 2025)

Request for Use of Public Property

1. Girl Scout troop # 6266 would like to use the island for selling cookies on Saturday February 14th and Saturday February 28th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion: Passed with all in favor

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Absent

Director of Operations

1. Absent

Chief of Police:

1. Karen Burgess presented an issue about the Sheriff's Law Enforcement Personnel (SLEP) program, which affects the Chief of Police. The City did not enroll or offer him in the program. She is awaiting a back bill that will be going back five years. Once the bill comes in, further discussion will need to be done on who and what portions of the bill (approximately \$10,000) will need to be paid.

Issue tabled until the bill comes in and will be discussed in the Administrative and Finance Committees.

City Office Manager:

1. Mayor Murphy would like a revision of the Community Center Rental Contract to be done, to include Mayor's phone number, stocking of supplies and resetting of the thermostat. Issue to be moved and discussed in the Administrative Committee.

City Attorney:

1. Don Carven presented an Ordinance to regulate spending of water revenues.

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve ordinance 2026-01 amending the City code of the Water Department revenues.

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Questions about bees as a nuisance

Discussion: on a resident's complaint about their neighbor having bees in a tree that overhangs their driveway and the hazard to their children.

The tree has since been removed by the owner and the bees are gone. No further action is needed at this time.

3. Mayor Murphy inquired about the 332 South Springfield house. Craven stated that he had received an email informing him that, the remediation company and the bank no longer have an interest in the property, and he felt it was ok for the city to start the demolition process even though there may be an ordinance violation.

Craven also reported that other property deeds are still pending.

Mayor Murphy talked about his discussion with one of the owners (Judy Gregory) and the house on South Springfield St. (433 S Springfield). She may be willing to sign off her portion of the deed and she has no idea where the other co-owner (Carl Albrecht) is located.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk:

1. Nothing currently

City Treasurer:

1. Nothing currently

Mayor:

1. Update on the North End Drainage Project: Benton Engineering has received the signed contract from the contractor and recommends the city wait for DECO's modified grant agreement before signing the contract. After the Mayor signs the contract, the work can start.

Mayor Murphy spoke about a \$30,000 Active Delivery Fee charge in the contract. This charge is for assisting the city in completing all the necessary DCEO paperwork.

2. Approve resolution to adopt Macoupin County Hazard Mitigation Plan

Motion: made by Matrisch seconded by Donley to approve Resolution 2026-01 a resolution of the city of Virden adopting the 2025 Macoupin County multi-jurisdictional all Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented.

Discussion: Approval is necessary to remain eligible for grant funding related to hazard mitigation.

Motion: passed with all in favor

3. Drug testing Program

Mayor Murphy spoke about the ongoing Drug Testing Program, who does the selection, how the selection/dates are determined and the need to keep the selection confidential.

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance: Establish separate checking account for DCEO funds

1. Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to Approve the establishment of a separate checking account for DCEO funds for input of grant money and to write checks from, to the contractors with the same signers as the other City accounts.

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Payout fringe benefits for 2025

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Neighbors to pay out to Dave Bounds the number of vacation hours that are in excess for him (64) and to Steven Snodgrass the number of vacation hours that are in excess for him (27).

Discussion: Bertolino wanted to know as to where the money is going to come from. Chief Snodgrass stated that the money will most likely come out of the Police budget.

Yeas: Boster, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors **Nayes:** Bertolino

Absent: Calloway, **Abstain:** 0

Motion: passed

Police: Approve purchase of tires for police truck

1. A new bid from Main Street Tire and Auto was reviewed. It was determined that their bid for (State Bid) tires were well within the Police Chief's purchase authority and no further action from the Council is required at this time.

Public Works:

1. Purchase of tablets for the Water Department was discussed. A phone meeting with the sales Rep will be scheduled in the Finance or Public Works Committee meeting. Bertolino will get together with Gary Etter to get more information on tablets and data providers. Chief Snodgrass requested the Police Department is also to be included in all meetings on tablets and data providers.

Miscellaneous:

1. Nothing currently

Administrative:

1. Nothing currently

Executive Session: Approval of Executive Session 12-01-2025 minutes and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation with Virden Sanitary District.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Neighbors to into Executive Session at 8:15 pm

Motion: passed with all in favor

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Donley to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 12-01-25.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Karrick seconded by Neighbors to adjourn at 8:27 pm.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint

City Clerk

Date Approved: