

City Council Committee Meeting

City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
January 6th, 2025

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Council Members present: Mottershaw, Boster, Donley, Calloway, Neighbors, Bertolino and Schnetzler.

Absent: Mitchell

Also in attendance: Mayor Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, Bookkeeper/Treasurer Barry Liss, Public Works Director Gary Etter, City Officer Manager Karen Burgess, and Chief of Police Steven Snodgrass.

Audience: Crystal Creasy and Mike Marsaglia

Topics:

Approval of Agenda (01-06-2025): Motion made by Boster seconded by Neighbors to approve the agenda as presented.

Discussion: None

Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (REGULAR 12/2/24 & SPECIAL 12/12/24).

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024.

APPROVAL OF WATER REPORT December 2024 and gallons report November 24

1. Request for use of public property:

Wendy Ploskonka would like to use the island on Saturday February 8th and the 15th from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for the Girl Scout Daisy troop of Virden and Girard to sell Girl Scout cookies.

Route 66 Main St. Mingle would like to host 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on the fourth Saturday of each month: April, May, August, September, and October.

Motion made by Donley seconded by Boster to approve the consent Agenda.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed with all in favor.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Mike Marsaglia voiced his displeasure with the posting of City Code 1-6-A-3: (MEETINGS, SECTION F, NONMEMBERS PARTICIPATION). Also stating that he knows it coincides with state law.

REPORTS FROM SUPERVISORS

CITY ENGINEER:

Mayor Murphy said that he talked to the Engineer asking about the progress of the pipeline project. As the archaeological survey was in, there is still an EPA and DNR form that needs to be sent in. The Engineer will e-mail them to me and have me sign tomorrow to get that approved, he said he is going to have an updated estimate for that project too, by tomorrow so it is moving along. According to David Hays they will not get the permit from those two things we are sending tomorrow until sometime in February when we get that, but things can proceed after that.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS:

Nothing currently.

CHIEF OF POLICE:

Nothing currently:

CITY OFFICER MANGER:

Nothing currently

CITY ATTORNEY

Due to the weather Don Craven's report was done by audio call. Mayor Murphy asked about what new laws for 2025 in Illinois are affecting Virden directly. Don Craven discussed bills about burning landscape waste, grants for restoring or expanding wetlands or prairies, First Responders Insurance, electric scooters on the street, a twenty-four notice before spraying pesticides, requirement for commercial and residential building codes. A bill that says, a public utility that provides drinking water, upon the request of a municipal wastewater agency the water provider shall provide timely and accurate water usage data, in a format identifiable to the requester for purposes of calculating Wastewater Billings. The Utilities shall be entitled to collect its reasonable costs incurred to provide such data. Mayor Murphy replied that the City of Virden does not qualify, by state definition, as a "public utility," so that law does not apply to us. He asked for the status of 932 N Springfield and 331 W Holden. Mayor Murphy then asked about 932, Craven said that she spoke to Maralee, she said that she has summonses out for both owners. If we cannot get them served, we will publish a notice and ask the court to let us take them down without the person being served. We must do something about it. The public health person who sent the letter about 331 W Holden was also given the 932 address to check out. Mayor Murphy then went on to the sale of 709 E Jackson, the buyer has backed off the contract. Mottershaw has talked to Ben Ladage, and he is supposed to try to contact the next highest bidder. Mayor Murphy said that he would email Craven the paperwork from Prairieland Title. Discussion then went on the police car that was ordered. It was supposed to be delivered in mid-December and is not here yet. Boster has been trying to nail down when this car is going to come. Boster said I just wanted to check to see if we can get out of it without any balance because they have not been responsive. We thought we were getting the car in December we do not have that car. We can get the Dodge because they (Carlinville) may have it. Chief Snodgrass has checked with the Ford place and the secretary could not even find the order form. Craven asked if somebody would e-mail him the order form from Ford and he would email them to cancel the order. Mayor Murphy directed Chief Snodgrass to email Craven the order form.

Motion made by Mottershaw, second by Boster, to cancel the order for the police car from the Morrow Brothers in Greenfield.

Discussion: Mayor Murphy wants to see how soon we can get a Dodge. Chief Snodgrass wants to find out the status of the order before canceling. Craven said that he would wait to cancel the order, until he heard from Chief Snodgrass.

Motion made by Mottershaw Second by Boster to cancel order.

Motion passed with all in favor. *Ayes: Calloway, Neighbors, Schnetzler, Bertolino, Boster and Donnely; Nays: None; Abstain: Mottershaw; Absent Mitchell.*

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

CITY CLERK

Nothing Currently

CITY TREASURER

Nothing Currently

MAYOR

Mayor Murphy proposed that the council allow him to sign a contract with Carlinville Area Hospital and Clinics for employee drug screens costing \$103.00 for the screen and \$40.00 for the collection fee. Motion made Mottershaw second by Donley to allow the mayor to sign a contract with Carlinville Area Hospital and Clinics for employee drug screens at \$103.00 for the screen and \$40.00 for the collection.

Discussion: Test will be for random, post-accident, for cause, or whatever we need them for. We have not changed our policy about determining the random ones, but we can still go ahead and sign the contract. Bertolino said this is nothing new.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Donley to allow the mayor to sign the contract for Employee Drug Screens.

Discussion None

Motion Passed with all in favor:

Ayes: 7, Nays: 0, Absent: 1

FINANCE

Mottershaw passed out budget worksheets and asked for them to be filled out and returned at the end of this month.

POLICE

Chief Snodgrass asked to advertise for full time police officer in January and possibly February.

Motion made by Bertolino second Boster to allow the Chief to advertise for full time police officer until the end of February.

Discussion: None

Motion Passed with all in favor. *Ayes: 7, Nays:0, Absent:1*

Additional Discussion

Mayor Murphy asked about the FOP Telecommunicators contract negotiations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Bertolino pointed out that Gary Etter's people did an "GREAT JOB" clearing the snow from the streets and alleys. Etter said we had some bad luck; one truck, the back wheels fell off and another truck, the defrost did work. No one was hurt. Sometimes people don't understand why things are getting slow, there's more behind the scenes that people don't know. You take 2 trucks out of Commission things slow down.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Mottershaw was notified that the buyer of 709 E Jackson backed out. Virden did pay \$1,040.54 prorated property tax and \$17.10 county tax. There should be \$200 in escrow, which should be forfeited.

Executive Session:

none

Motion to adjourn by Callaway second by Boster at 7:41 motion carried.

Executive Session:

None

Additional:

Motion made by Calloway seconded by Boster to adjourn at 7:41 PM.

Discussion None

Motion Passed with all in favor.

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: