

Regular Public Works Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday January 15th, 2026

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:00 pm.

Alderspersons in attendance: Calloway, Bertolino, Carter, Neighbors, Karrick, Matrisch, and Boster

Absent: Alderman Donley

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, Director of Operations Gary Etter, and Public Works Supervisor Ryan Calloway

Audience: Craig Carlile of SC Handy Drones

Comments from Audience: None

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes 12/18/25

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Boster to approve Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes of 12-18-25

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Scott Buffington AT&T FirstNet phone call

Alderman Bertolino expressed his concerns about the remote presentation, but a call to Scott proceeded.

Scott Buffington gave (approximately) one hour presentation on AT&T FirstNet Program. Topics covered: what is FirstNet, who built the program, the reason for it, how it works, which city entities would benefit from the program, who can the program cover, benefits to Police and Public Works and emergency communications with city employees during emergencies.

After the presentation there was a question and answer period in which it was determined by the Council that more precise information is needed on equipment needs and cost.

The city of Virden has already been approved for both primary and extended access to FirstNet.

A visit is to be set up with Scott Buffington for a hands-on assessment with Department Heads to assess equipment needed, cost and subscriber plan to establish FirstNet. Issue tabled to a later date.

3. Tree grant: RFPs (request for proposals) For tree inventory and tree maintenance plan

Mayor Murphy gave an update on the Tree grant plans saying that he is almost done with proposals and will be bringing them to the Council for approval.

An inventory of all trees on city property is needed and only one person with the qualifications has been identified.

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to send out the RFPs requests for tree inventory and tree maintenance plan.

Motion: passed with all in favor

4. Water main replacement status

Gary Etter stated that he had met with the Engineer and the cost for the plans and permits for the EPA will cost between \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Water lines to be replaced and master meters are on South Emmett, North Henderson and one in the alley that has had several breaks.

Discussion on keeping the project moving and putting funding in next years budget.

5. Approach to FNB's new ATM

The asphalt on the road leading up to the new FNB ATM driveway needs to be tapered up to blend it in.

Public Works will obtain and lay the rock and hot patch asphalt as soon as weather permits.

6. Flagpole replacement at PD

The homemade flagpole at the PD needs to be replaced. A new pole will cost around \$4,000. Public Works will get estimates for a new pole and the Committee will review this year's budget to see if the pole can be replaced this spring or wait till next year's budget.

Additionally Bertolino noticed the gutters on the PD building need to be cleaned as soon as the weather warms up.

7. Frontier deposit for Prairie Station Mill Creek boring

Gary Etter said that the project is complete. Bertolino stated the contractor has moved on and not completed required clean up or removed excess material. The deposit of \$5,900 should not be refunded.

All members concurred not to refund the deposit

Karen Burgess is to be notified not to refund their deposit.

Additional:

1. The welds on the bed of the one ton dump truck have broken and needs repaired. Gary Etter will be taking the truck to Girard in the next few days to be rewelded; the cost will be about \$1,000. Also the area that holds the back light on, needs to be replaced as the whole area is rusted out. This cost will be around

\$1,000 also. These two repairs have to be done.

The Committee was in favor to get both the repairs done in one visit.

2. Phone presentation by Rik Fernandez on the city's electrical supplier has been rescheduled to the 01-22-25 Finance Committee meeting.

Executive Session: None

Motion: made by Calloway seconded by Bertolino to adjourn at 8:34 pm.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: