

**Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday March 2nd, 2026**

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, Carter, Boster, Calloway, and Matrisch
- **Absent:** Karrick, Donley
- **Also present:** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, City Office Manager Karen Burgess, Bookkeeper/Treasure Barry Liss, Chief of Police Steven Snodgrass, Director of Public Works Gary Etter, and Attorneys Don & Joe Craven
- **Audience:** Leo Vecchiarello and Eric Dore of Solar on Earth
- **Comments from Audience** See #1 under Mayor

Approval of Agenda (03-02-26)

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve the Agenda as presented. **Motion** passed with all in favor

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes of Previous Meeting (02-02-26)**
- **Approval of Bills Payable:**
- **Approval of Treasurer's Report (January 2026)**
- **Approval of Water Report (02/26) and Gallons Report (01/26)**
- **Request for Use of Public Property**

1. Women's Auxiliary of the Virden American Legion Post 386 request to use the 4 way stop Friday May 22nd and May 23rd for National Poppy Day.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. **Motion** passed with all in favor

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Absent

Director of Operations:

1. Nothing currently

Chief of Police:

1. **Nothing currently**

City Office Manager:

1. Administrative Committee Agenda items are due tomorrow.

City Attorney:

1. Shut-off of water for non-payment of equipment repair

Discussion on adding repair fees to water bills where meters have been damaged, can non-payment trigger shut-off.

Joe Craven reviewed the code, and stated, yes, the city can shut the water off for violation of the new city ordinance on damaged water meters. Once a five day notice is given.

He will draft up a form letter which can be sent to the property owners. He also noted, the process could be shortened if the city changes the ordinance.

2. Questions about changing solicitor code

Discussion on the permit application for solicitation. Topics included who signs the application, police background checks, time required to process the application (48 hours minimum), No Solicitors List, how to enforce the code, badges and IDs; can a reasonable application fee be charged.

This issue is being sent to the Administrative Committee.

3. List of delinquent property taxes

Mayor Murphy went over the list of properties that have delinquent taxes. After some discussion, he stated he would do more review of the properties to see if the city may have any interest in them.

On the Gary Lair house (on South Emmett) there may be an ownership dispute. At the very least, to be able to take possession of the house the city needs a Property Release form signed by Gary Lair, then pay the back taxes.

Discussion on the possibility of buying some of the vacant lots for city storage (possible cost would be \$865 per lot).

Additionally, Bertolino asked the Attorneys to send a letter to the owner of the mobile home at 225 W Jackson (roof has collapsed). Craven will send out a letter tomorrow.

Bertolino also gave updated information about the house on Church St (Burtle House) demolition will start in the next week or so.

Mayor Murphy gave an update on the W Jackson St house. The city now owns the house and is just waiting to get the deed. Mayor Murphy will work on the precertification.

Joe Craven stated that on the subdivision code, the code calls for the engineering and legal fees incurred by the city are to be paid by the applicant.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk: 1. Nothing currently

City Treasurer: 1. Nothing currently

Mayor:

1. Approve contract with Solar on Earth to receive 10% solar farm Municipality credit.

Solar on Earth tried to get the city a 20% discount, however, was just not able to do it.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Neighbors to approve the contract with Solar on Earth to get a 10% discount on the city's Ameren bill. **Motion** passed with all in favor.

2. Update on pipeline construction

Mayor Murphy has signed the modified agreement that has the additional \$200,000 grant money on it

DCEO still needs to sign the agreement, no signing date was given.

Discussion on how the contractor may proceed, as to not interfere with the planting season.

The preconstruction meeting could happen the day after DCEO signs the contract.

There may be a possibility of the start date being the middle of March and the North End could be targeted for completion by April 15th.

Estimated time to complete the total job could be as little as two months.

Due to engineering and state delays, the start date may be shifted till after the fall Harvest, but if so, the contractor may ask for damages.

A property owner has offered to take the extra dirt provided that it would help the city.

3. Benton Engineering to review plans for pharmacy relocation

Contract Benton Engineering to review relocation plans for Sav-Mor Pharmacy, compare the plans to the city requirements and make recommendations.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Neighbors to authorize Benton Engineering to review the Sav-Mor relocation plans at the Carlinville Hospital Clinic site and to make recommendations to the city at a cost not to exceed \$1,000.

Yeas: Boster, Calloway, Neighbors, **Nayes:** Matrisch, Bertolino, Carter, **Absent:** Donley, Karrick **Abstain:** 0 **Yea** Mayor Murphy **Motion:** passed

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance:

1. Renew CD ending in 0309 with First National Bank at 3.5% For 12 months.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Carter to renew the water CD at FNB for 3.5% for 12 months

Yeas: Boster, Calloway, Neighbors Matrisch, Bertolino, and Carter **Nayes: 0**

Absent: Donley, Karrick **Abstain: 0 Motion:** passed

Motion passed with all in favor

Police:

1. Police/Academy Hiring

Allow the Chief of Police to submit academy applications for the two top candidates selected by the Police Committee.

Power test is scheduled for April 7th, physical exams will be required beforehand.

Hiring after successful test, expected mid-May

Motion made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to allow the Chief of Police to fill out applications for the top 2 candidates chosen by the Police committee, to go to the Academy, so that they can take the power test and get a physical.

Yeas: Boster, Calloway, Carter, Matrisch, and Neighbors **Nayes:** Bertolino,

Absent: Donley, Karrick, **Abstain: 0 Motion:** passed

Public Works:

1. Streets and Alleys

Approve maintenance done on Vac Truck (cost \$4,300).

Approve two line item transfers (\$3,000 and \$1,500) to pay for Vac Truck maintenance.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve a line-item transfer from 01-02-4009 in the amount of \$3,000 and another from line item 01-02-4005 in the amount of \$1,500, to line item 01-02-4006 for a total amount of \$4,500 to be transferred. Money transferred to pay for Vac truck maintenance.

Discussion Public Works has the money in their budget.

Motion passed with all in favor

2. Building & Grounds

a. Approve repairs on generator at Police Department

Repair will cost \$2,950.

A line-item transfer of \$800 needs to be approved.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve the transfer of \$800 from line item 01-04-4032 to line item 01-04-4026 and for the repair of the Police Department generator not to exceed \$2,950.

Discussion A new generator is estimated to cost \$15,000 to \$18,000. Altorfer CAT will be doing the repair.

Motion passed with all in favor

b. Accept bid to replace gutters on City Hall/Community Center building

1. Gary Etter opened 3 sealed bids; lowest bid was from Seamless Gutter for \$2,100.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to hire Seamless Gutter not to exceed \$2100 to replace the guttering on the City Office Building/Community Center. Seamless Gutter to provide proof of prevailing wage, insurance, and certified payroll. **Motion** passed with all in favor.

3. Parks: Nothing currently

4. Water:

a. Engineering costs for water project

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve Benton Engineering a cost not to exceed \$24,000 to do the engineering for the water project on N Henderson,

S Emmett and the alley between Church and Dye St. (just South of Dean).

Discussion this does include the EPA applications

Motion passes with all in favor

b. Liquidate surplus property (old/new Badger water meters)

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to declare the obsolete (to us) new Badger water meters as surplus property, approve waiving bids and selling them to the City of Winchester as is.

Motion passed with all in favor

c. Approve selling liquidated surplus property (old/new water meters)

Motion Made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve the selling surplus property, the obsolete (to us) new Badger water meters to the city of Winchester for \$105 each (times 42 meters) for a total of \$4,410.

Discussion The Funds collected from the sale of the meters are to go into the Water Fund Account.

Motion passed with all in favor

d. Water main at clinic:

Motion made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to table the water main to the clinic issue to the next Public Works Committee Meeting.

Motion passed with all in favor

5. Miscellaneous: Nothing currently

Administrative: Nothing currently

Other Business Nothing currently

Executive Session:

Motion made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to enter into Executive Session to discuss bargaining and to approve Executive Session minutes at 8:05 PM

Motion made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of 02-02-26

Motion passed with all in favor

Adjournment:

Motion made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to adjourn at 9:11 pm.

Motion passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: