

**Regular Public Works Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Wednesday March 18th, 2026**

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

Alderspersons in attendance: Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Matrisch, Boster, and Karrick (arrived at 7:01) and Carter (arrived at 7:03)

Absent: Calloway

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, and Director of Operations Gary Etter

Audience: Diane Rogers (Virden American Legion), John Fechtman (VPI), Debbie Kershaw (VPI), Donnie Neighbors and Rick Maguire

Comments from Audience: Diane Rogers inquired about getting a handicap parking spot at the American Legion.

Gary Etter to conduct a feasibility assessment and will work with the Legion to ensure the location meets ADA compliance.

Donnie Neighbors see topic #8

John Fechtman, sought to engage Benton and Associates, an engineering firm experienced in Oslad grant applications, to explore park improvement funding. The Committee confirmed no approval is needed as long as there is no cost to the city taxpayers.

Additionally: The Park Committee has collected enough bottle caps for two benches. One to honor Colby, funded by the fire department, which will be placed outside of the fire department and one for the public park, location to be determined. The Committee will contact Public Works for a location of the bench installation.

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes of 02-19-26

Motion made by Karrick seconded by Carter to approve the Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes of 02-19-26 **Motion** passed with all in favor

2. Fred Britenstine car show

Brent Britenstine requested to use the city square on the 20th of June from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM for a car show. **Motion** made by Boster seconded by Karrick to

take to the Council a motion to approve Brent Britenstine using the square for a car show on the 20th of June from 8 am to 3 pm for a car show. **Motion** passed with all in favor

3. Budget

Gary Etter spoke passionately on Public Works Union employee pay raises.

Discussion on the amount of time public works spends on water issues and the feasibility of charging that time and labor to water.

Discussion on moving the only non-union public works employee from Public Works and in assigning them to the Water department.

More discussion on the Public Works union pay raises and budget to be scheduled at a later date.

4. Spraying for Mosquitoes schedule

Spraying for mosquitoes will start in June. Discussion on doing wards 1&2 one night, then wards 3&4 the second night. Mayor Murphy, Director of Public Works Garry Etter and Alderman Bertolino will work on a spray schedule and present it at a later date.

5. Open bids and award contract for tree inventory and tree management plan

Two bids were opened; one was deemed incomplete, due to lack of required software procurement and training.

The tree inventory and tree management plan contract awarded recommendation was to Green View Companies, whose proposal is \$14,750 which includes software inventory for 150 trees, training, Management plan, an optional supplement component and they must turn over an Excel spread sheet.

Grant funding cap is \$13,500. The optional supplement component may be reduced or excluded to meet cap.

City to fund up front; then be reimbursed from the grant which may take up to six months.

Recommendation made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to take a motion to the Council to award the contract for Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan to Green View Companies for a cost not to exceed \$13,500. Recommendation passed with all in favor.

6. Progress on tree protection ordinance and tree planting RFP

Mayor Murphy is in the process of writing a Tree Protection Ordinance which is needed for the Tree Grant. Additionally he is working on the Tree Planting Request for Proposal (RFP), which requires the trees (62 in total) be purchased from a grower within 100 miles of where the planting is to occur.

7. Construction Engineering for Safe Routes to School Project

Construction Engineering proposal from Benton Engineering is \$30,000. The grant is an 80/20 grant. The \$30,000 cost must be paid up front. The council chose to use MFT funds to pay the Construction Engineering cost.

Recommendation made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Boster to take to the council a motion for approval of using MFT funds of \$30,000 to pay for the Construction Engineering for the Safe Routes to School Project. **Discussion** the \$30,000 will be paid by the city up front, then the city will receive \$24,000 (80%) back in reimbursement. Mayor Murphy will contact Stefanie Ballinger to get a time frame on the reimbursement.

8. American Legion 4th of July celebration

On behalf of the American Legion, Donnie Neighbors request to use the city square on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of July for the annual 4th of July Carnival with the rain date of the 4th of July. The hours of the carnival to be 5:00 to 9:00 PM.

Recommendation made by Bertolino to take to the Council a recommendation for the American Legion to be able to use the city square the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of July 2026 with the rain date of the 4th of July for the annual 4th of July Carnival.

Recommendation passed with all in favor

Executive Session:

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to enter into Executive Session at 8:08 pm. **Motion passed** with all in favor

Motion made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 02-19-26. **Motion passed** with all in favor

Additional: None

Motion made by Karick seconded by Matrisch to adjourn at 8:56 pm.

Motion passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: