

**Regular Public Works Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Thursday April 16th, 2026**

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:00 PM

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

Absent: None

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

Audience: Donnie Neighbors and Craig Carlile

Comments from Audience:

Donnie Neighbors inquired about the possibility of having a sign put up on top of the West Vance street sign, which would give recognition to his Uncle Paul Neighbors. Donnie stated his uncle was a Virden resident who became a popular songwriter and Orchestra Leader in the late 40s and early 50s. Paul's music (known as "swing band") was associated with the post-war dance era. Paul served in WWII, entertaining troops in Europe alongside Sterling Holloway; personally being acknowledged by General Eisenhower. Paul recorded 16 albums, hosted a radio show in New Orleans, and was associated with Tommy Dorsey. Paul's name is engraved on a historic door in New Orleans with legends like Elvis Presley. Paul is honored on the wall at the old courthouse and has always considered Virden as his home. There would only be one sign with the possibility of a red background with white letters.

Committee response: The request was deemed not unreasonable, City Attorney to be consulted for legal feasibility, issue to be put on City Council Meeting agenda under Attorney.

Craig Carlile stated the he and Russ painted a "Route 66" sign near the ATM. The stencil is two parts, 4 feet tall. If property owners would like a sign stenciled on their building (no roads or sidewalks) they can contact Russ at the hardware store.

Alderman Bertolino let Craig Know that the North End Drainage Project has begun after five years of engineering and state delays. He (Craig) may have an interest in flying his drones over the project but, Benton Engineering of Jacksonville should be consulted first.

Topics:

1. Approval of Minutes of 03-19-26

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve the Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes of 03-19-26 **Motion** passed with all in favor

2. Concrete Gutter on Perry Dr.

A resident's complaint raised a concern about a concrete gutter running under their driveway which has raised up approximately 4 inches, due to an unknown reason. The gutter, about 15 feet long needs dug up and reset. Public Works will put this on their list for repair.

3. Flagpole replacement in downtown park

As requested from previous meeting, Gary Etter presented 3 prices on two different styles of flagpoles (internal halyard and external halyard). Existing concrete pad and lighting will most likely be reused. If approved, funding will come out of FY27 budget, lead time is 8-10 weeks.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to recommend to the Council to purchase a 30 foot, external halyard, commercial flagpole from United State Flag Store, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. **Motion** passed with all in favor.

4. Summer Help

Topic to be discussed in Executive Session.

5. Approve purchase of tree inventory software (reimbursable)

The need of purchasing Tree Inventory Software was discussed. The "Plan It Geo" software familiar to the contractor (Steve Green) meets the requirements of the grant. The \$4,000 software must be fully purchased first and the city will be reimbursed from the grant.

Motion made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to recommend to the Council approval of Plan It Geo Incorporated Tree Inventory software at a cost not to exceed \$4,000. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors **Nays:** Boster, **Absent:** 0, **Abstain:** 0, **Motion:** passed

6. 222 West Hill Street

Mayor Murphy believed that Rick Maguire was going to talk the property owner and tried to get an update from Rick, however, Rick is on vacation and not able to get an update from the owner but will next week when he gets back.

Bertolino spoke on his conversation with Bill Woodruff, who has been assisting the owner with her finances. Owner's family doesn't appear to want to help, insurance has paid on the claim. The committee concurred that Bill Woodruff

can notify the owner that she has 60 days (mid-June) to make progress or the city will seek legal action.

Additional:

1. Alicia Hawkins inquired about getting a key to the West Park Restrooms to be kept by the Baseball Association or have the Restrooms unlocked M-F 4:30-7:30. She will be notified that a key is available at the Police Department after the water is turned on. The key will be available for Sign Out to establish responsibility.

2. Rimini Drive Dan Sanson of Macoupin County Housing Authority request the city meet to accept Rimini Drive and the new water lines. After a review there are 7 main concerns:

1. Engineers certification has not been provided.
2. Water pressure leak test was not observed by the Virden Water Department.
3. Issue #3 was for the Virden Sanitation District.
4. Issue #4 was for the Virden Sanitation District.
5. Pavement compaction test no test was done as the road was being built sub- base compaction cannot be verified, if left unconfirmed request a 5 year warranty and bond equal to Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) cost.
6. As Built plans still pending delivery.
7. Final plat still pending delivery.

Consensus, the city is not obligated to accept substandard infrastructure, more discussion will be scheduled after core testing and feedback from Benton Engineering is received.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to enter into Executive Session at 7:53 pm. **Motion** passed with all in favor

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 03-18-26 . **Motion** passed with all in favor

Motion made by Karrick seconded by Bertolino to adjourn at 8:28 pm. **Motion** passed with all in favor.

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved:

