

Regular Public Works Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday April 17th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 6:58 PM

Aldermen in attendance: Mottershaw, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Mitchell, Boster, Schnetzler and Calloway

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Mayor George Murphy, Director of Public Works Gary Etter

Audience: Craig Carlyle, Crissy Bruley, Zac Hutton and Crystal Creasy

Comments from Audience:

Zac Sutton asked why 315 W Hill St. was on the agenda since he is the owner.

Bertolino put the address on the agenda for discussion. The house is falling apart and has been open since January and the neighbors are complaining

Zac Hutton stated that as soon as the utilities are off the lot the house is going.

Topics:

1. Approval of minute (03/20/25)

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Boster to approve the Minutes of 03/20/25.

Motion Passed.

2. 331 W Holden bid

Discussion on this job going out for bids the 28th of April thru the 5th of May. What is the time frame to give the contractor to complete the demolition and cleanup? The consensus is, since this is a large building, the contractor should be given 45 days.

Bertolino recommended and it was seconded by Boster that the Committee take to the Council, to solicit bids to demolish, tear down and clean up 331 W Holden, with the previous contract and an exception of 45 days instead of 60.

Consensus passed

3. VIP request, for fundraiser at four way stop, collecting May 3rd.

Neighbors wanted to know if the Council is always going to approve organizations to collect money at the four way stop because he had received several complaints. Boster was not concerned since the people who request for collecting are churches, schools, nonprofit organizations, or private organizations as long as they follow the rules.

Bertolino is concerned with safety because some of the turns are tight, even though the people collecting are required to have insurance.

Mayor Murphy stated that request, come before the Council, it is voted on and there have been a few no votes. If the council is going to stop allowing permits to collect money, then there should be a notice published with an advance cutoff date. If there is a Special meeting before the 3rd of May then VPI's request will be put on the agenda.

4. Bids for installing meters

Gary Etter requested permission to take the bid from Murphy Brothers to the Council, so the contract for installation of the water meters can move forward.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to recommend to the Council to approve the contract with Murphy Brothers Construction LLC for the installation of water meters as per the contract terms at a cost of \$154,621.00

Motion passed with all in favor.

5. E Park ball diamond

Donley wanted to know if the ball diamond was used, it has a lot of dandelions growing on it.

Etter responded that a ballfield could be tilled but not sprayed. Consensus is to till the ball field making it ready for the Base Ball Association.

6. Street Sweeper

Donley wanted to know if a street sweeper could be run on Springfield St. (route 4). Etter responded that route 4 is a state route and he would contact the state to get it put on the list.

7. Sweet gum trees

Donley wanted to know if the Sweet Gum Balls cause a problem with drainage or any other problem

Etter responded that if there is a Sweet Gum tree on city property to let him know because he would like to get it cut down, they could become a liability to the city.

Nothing can be done about the trees on personal property.

8. 709 E Jackson St. property

The property was put up for auction and sold several months ago for \$2100.00. Before the sale was finalized the buyer backed out.

Bertolino received a bid from a Virden resident who like to put in a bid of \$2000.00. Consensus is to take the sale of 709 E Jackson St. to the Council for approval.

9. 315 W Hill House

This topic was discussed in Comments from the Audience.

10. Status of North End drainage

Bertolino asked for an update on this project as nothing has been said about it for a while.

Mayor Murphy gave a brief on the synopsis that he had received from Tracy Tavender. Mayor Murphy said that we have applied for a U.S. Army corps permit but have not received it yet. That's the only thing the grant signature is waiting on. Three weeks ago we were number five on the list. The project engineer continues to work on the project and anticipates going out for bids during the summer with construction beginning this fall after the crops are out. The completion of this job should take about 30 days.

11. Ameren light projects, police, ambulance, and city garages

This project is to put motion sensors in the four locations. At a cost of approximately \$3,640. Payback to the city will take about two years.

Recommendation made by Mottershaw, seconded by Boster to take to the Council a motion to proceed with the project at the four locations at a cost of \$3,640. Consensus passed

12. Property sales in Mill Creek

Dave Miller wants to sell some property in Mill Creek. Per Sangamon and Macoupin code, you cannot sell off less than five acers if outside city limits. Sangamon County said this areas is within the limits of Virden, so it is up to Virden on how to resolve the issue.

Discussion on platting, surveying, water hookup, sewer hookup, size of the roads, material roads to be made of, maintenance of roads, and cul-de-sacs size.

Bertolino stated that we need to look into that ordinances a little bit deeper before we do anything.

This topic was tabled to a later date.

13. Tree grant

Discussion

The grant is for 60 trees.

There are several things that Virden needs to do for the tree grant.

There needs to be a tree maintenance Ordinance put in place.

There needs to be a tree inventory. This will be put out for bids and only the trees on city property need to be counted, this would include the trees at City parks and trees on easements.

The tree grant will allow for the removal of up to 5 trees. A certified Arborist must certify that the tree is damaged or at the end of its life.

The city needs to decide on the procurement and the planting of the trees. The concern is will it be better to have one contractor to procure and plant the trees or two contractors, 1 to procure the trees and one to plant the trees?

The consensus was because there will be a warranty on the trees, it may be better just to have one contractor do the procurement and planting.

Trees must be purchased within 90 miles of where the planting is to take place.

The city will be sending up to three people to a Tree Seminar for tree care.

There is money in the grant to have one person certified as a tree Arborist, it is online training and costs is \$600.

Mayor Murphy stated that he had some samples to reference to for completing the above items. He also volunteered to do the online training if no one else comes forward.

Additional:

Gary Etter would like to close the Water Office May 22nd and 23rd for LOCIS 8 training.

Calloway would like the library sign to be relocated and the yellow stripes at the library repainted. Gary Etter said that he would get the sign moved and the painting of yellow stripes will be put on the list.

Boster inquired about the Richno sidewalk.

Gary Etter said that plenty of notice will be given before the work is scheduled as the fence will have to be removed by the owner

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Boster to enter into Executive session at 8:00 PM.

Consensus passed.

Motion to adjourn made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to adjourn at 8:30 PM

Motion passed

Jonathan J. Myint

City Clerk

Date Approved