

**Regular Finance Committee Meeting  
City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

Meeting called to order by Alderwoman Calloway at 7:00 pm.

**Alders present:** Bertolino, Neighbors, Karrick, Donley, Matrisch, Boster and Calloway

**Absent:** Carter

**Also present:** Mayor Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint and Bookkeeper/Treasurer Barry Liss

**Audience in attendance:** None

**Comments from Audience:** None

**Topics:**

**1. Approval of Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of 03-26-26**

**Motion** made by Calloway seconded by Karrick to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of 03-26-26

**Motion:** passed with all in favor

**2. Treasurer's report 03-26**

Barry Liss presented the March 2026 Treasurer's report

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Boster to send the March Treasurer's Report to Council for approval. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

**3. CD renewal**

Renewal of Water CD at Prairie State Bank in the amount of \$41,779.98. Discussion tabled until May's Finance Committee Meeting.

**4. Auditors for 2026**

Alderman Donley talked about his endeavors going thru the state in trying to find a new Municipal Auditor, however after numerous hours of phone calls and emails, no new Auditor who had availability could be found.

Mayor Murphy will contact present auditor, R. W. Hickman due to the lack of alternatives.

## **5. Possible sale of property**

Nina Ayers had called the Mayor and inquired about 233 W Jackson. Her son would like to possibly purchase the property from the city. He would then demolish the present house and rebuild on the lot.

Mayor Murphy consulted Craven to ensure compliance with tax sale rules and also ensure no court-order restrictions apply.

Craven's opinion was to demolish the house using the grant funds, then selling the lot.

The consensus is: do not sell "AS IS," due to risk of noncompliance.

Demolish first using the grant funds, then sell the clean lot.

**Additionally:** Asbestos testing for 233 W Jackson, 337 S Emmett, 433 S Springfield and 332 S Springfield.

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Bertolino to send to the Council a motion to authorize the Mayor to order asbestos testing for all four properties as they appear to be ready to be demolished, 233 W Jackson, 337 S Emmett, 433 S Springfield and 332 S Springfield.

**Discussion:** Testing will be paid for using grant funds

**Motion** passed with all in favor

## **6. Appropriations ordinance**

The Appropriations Hearing is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of May (prior to the Public Works Committee meeting).

City Manager Karen Burgess has submitted this information to be published in the Virden Recorder.

Additionally: A Special City Council Meeting will be scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of May (also prior to the Public Works Meeting) for the purpose of possibility of approving the Appropriation Ordinance and hiring of Summer Help.

Interview/s for the Summer Help position/s will be scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> of May (prior to the Police Committee Meeting).

**Discussion** on the proposed Appropriation budget which shows a deficit of \$33,600, (this does not include water).

Bertolino recommended that until a balanced budget is approved, all Discretionary spending come to an immediate stop.

**Discussion** on Water fund transfers to Corporate funds. Suggestion to add cash flow line item to water as an expense and to corporate revenue for transparency.

**Discussion** on additional cuts made in the Public Works FY27 budget by the Director of Operations

Appropriations Ordinance tabled until May.

**Four grants were discussed:**

1. Tree grant under Building and Grounds
2. Demolition grant under Admin
3. North End Pipeline grant under Streets and Alleys
4. Safe Route to Schools (SRTS) grant

Mayor Murphy will contact Stefanie Ballinger on how the SRTS grant should show in the budget.

**Overtime:** Discussion on the number of overtime hours within the Police/Public Works Departments, the need to monitor and document overtime without the appearance of micromanaging. Mayor Murphy suggested the possibility of him meeting monthly with the Chief of Police and Director of Operations to discuss overtime.

**7. Finalize FY27 budget:** Issue tabled until May

**Additionally**

Bertolino pointed out the A/C unit for the Council Chambers is worn out and is beyond economical repair. A replacement unit, to include gas heat may cost \$15,000 to \$30,000 and its unknown items like this is why the Council cannot obligate every dollar at this time.

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Boster to enter into Executive Session for Collective Negotiating at 8:31 pm. **Motion** passed with all in favor.

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 03-26-26. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Additionally: Waterline Improvements on Henderson and S Emmitt Streets.**

Engineering Fees in the amount of \$30,000 was approved and paid for in FY26 to get the project moving forward, actual work may not start till FY28.

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Boster to move the Appropriation with the accompanying budget, as is, to the Special Meeting called in May for the Appropriation hearing.

**Motion:** Passed with all in favor

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Karrick to adjourn at 8:52 PM.

**Motion:** Passed with all in favor.

Jon Myint City Clerk Date Approved: