

## **Administrative Committee Meeting**

City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Mottershaw at 8:03 PM.

**Aldermen in attendance:** Mottershaw, Bertolino, Neighbors, Mitchell, Schnetzler, Boster (Boster departed at 8:45) and Alderwoman Calloway

**Absent:** Alderman Donley

**Also in attendance:** Mayor George Murphy and City Clerk Jon Myint

**Audience:** Lynda Watters and Crystal Creasy

### **Comments from Audience:**

Crystal Creasy wanted to know more about the \$800,000.00 that was borrowed from the general fund. She wanted to know if that had to be paid back, and if it was put in the budget.

Answer was that the \$800,000 was not borrowed it is being taken from CD's, so the city did not have to take out a loan for the new water meters. It has not been put into the budget due to the fact that no agreement has been made on how it will be paid back into the accounts. A plan will be developed when the increase in the water from Otter Lake is received and the total cost of the meters has been agreed upon. A payback budget will then be developed which will include the increase in water, and meter replacement. Wherever the money comes from it will be put back into that account.

Mottershaw will be making sure that \$870,000.00 is included in the budget for the water meters and installation of those meters.

She also asked about the trash at 920 N. Dye St.

Answer was that the house has been bought, and the new owners are responsible for the trash.

Lynda Watters asked, why are the meters being replaced? She has two on her property and one is active.

Answer was that the water meters are at the end of their life and are no longer accurate. The error of the meters has always been to the customers benefit and the city has been losing revenue. The city is only replacing the meters that are active.

### **Topics:**

#### **1. Approval of Minutes (04/03/25)**

**Motion** made by Schnetzler seconded by Boster to approve Administrative Committee Meeting Minutes of 04/03/25

**Motion** passed with all in favor

## **2. Chicken petition**

Linda Watters presented her list of signatures for chickens and ducks and gave a short presentation. She had 127 signatures on paper (44) and online (83) from Virden residents who were okay with people having chickens. She also spoke on permits for chickens, egg sales, predators and how to handle complaints. She also stated that some residents are not for or against chickens, but they did raise questions.

Mayor Murphy explained the problems the city is having with chickens, whether it comes down to enforce the code or not enforce the code, but something definitely has to be done.

She was informed that three new council members were coming on and the new council will need time to research and come up with a decision which may happen in June

No decision on allowing chickens or enforcing the code was made.

## **3. Ordinance to require insurance deposit for future house fires where demolition is required.**

Mayor Murphy gave a brief on why the ordinance would be a good idea for the city of Virden and presented a rough ordinance for the committee's review.

**Motion** made by Murphy seconded by Schnetzler to send the ordinance to the old council for approval.

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy to rescind the motion

**Motion** made by Mayor Murphy to rescind the rescinded motion

**Consensus passed.**

**Discussion:** Who would be in charge of holding the funds? More advice from the Attorney is needed.

## **4. Ordinance to replace/renew cable/video data franchise**

What are the laws pertaining to cable service/video service, franchise fees.

Mayor Murphy presented an ordinance he received from Attorney Craven for review. 5% of the gross revenue is only collected from the cable video data service.

**Motion** made by Schnitzler seconded by Bertolino to send to the council an ordinance to replace/renew cable video data franchise.

**Motion passed with all in favor**

**5. Consider Route 66 Wayside sign: purchase through a grant**

Casey Claypool from Girard wrote a grant for the Wayside sign to be installed in the city of Girard, however, Girard City Council rejected it. She turned the information over to Mayor Murphy to see if Virden would like to have the sign. Virden will have to pick out the location for the installation and once installed, maintain the sign. Only 17 signs will be placed along route 66 in Illinois.

**Motion** made by Schnetzler seconded by Mottertshaw to approve sending the agreement on the Centennial Route 66 Directional Wayside Exhibition Project installation and maintenance of the sign to the City Council for approval.

**Consensus passed with all in favor**

**6. Culvert pipe code variance**

Joe Marco, contractor for the Maynerich Financial building is asking for a variance on the Virden code on culvert pipes. Under the present code culvert pipe installation will only be approved if 24 feet or less, however, he needs 60 feet for the driveway. Discussion on culverts and their length, road preservation and traffic.

**Motion** made by Schnetzler seconded by Bertolino take to the council a variance of the City's Culvert Pipe code for Maynerich Financial driveway.

**Consensus passed**

**Additional discussion:**

The Quit Claim Deed for 709 E Jackson came in and just needs signed.

429 S Emmett. Pat Humphries wants the city to hold off on purchasing and demolishing it. Joe Craven recommended the city go ahead and purchase the property.

Alderman Gary Mottershaw makes outgoing comments to the City Council. He closed with a statement from General MacArthur "I take my leave now but, I shall return."

**Executive Session:** None

**Motion** made by Mottershaw seconded by Schnetzler to adjourn at 9:22PM

**Motion passed**

Jonathan J. Myint  
City Clerk

Date Approved: