

**Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday May 4th, 2026**

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Murphy at 7:00 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- **The following Council Members were present:** Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Carter, Karrick, Calloway, and Matrisch
- **Absent:** Boster
- **Also present:** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, City Office Manager Karen Burgess, Bookkeeper/Treasure Barry Liss, Chief of Police Steven Snodgrass, Director of Public Works Gary Etter, and Attorney Joe Craven
- **Audience:** Donnie Neighbors

Approval of Agenda (05-04-26)

Motion made by Karrick seconded by Carter to approve the agenda as presented.

Yeas: Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors

Nays: 0

Absent: Boster, **Abstain: 0 Motion:** passed.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes (04-06-26)**
- **Approval of Bills Payable:**
- **Approval of Treasurer's Report (March 2026)**

- **Approval of Water Report (April 2026) and Gallons Report (March 2026)**
- **Request for Use of Public Property**
 1. Request from Thayer Community Church (North Mac Ministerial Association) to use the bandstand on Thursday May 7th for National Day of Prayer from 11:30 am-12:30 pm.
 2. Request for Boy scouts to sell pork chops on the island from 10:00-2:00 pm Saturday, May 2nd.
 3. Request from American Legion to change pork chop date from June 13th to June 20th (with car show)

Motion made by Donley seconded by Matrisch to approve the Consent agenda as presented. **Discussion:** Karrick wanted to ensure the change in the pork chop date for the American Legion would not interfere with the Fire Departments pork chop date.

Yeas: Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors
Nayes: 0 Absent: Boster Abstain: 0 Motion: passed.

Comments Audience: Donnie Neighbors spoke again on having a street sign installed in honor of his Uncle Paul Neighbors. **Response:** Joe Craven will draft up a blanket resolution and send it to the Council for final wording. Sign will be discussed in the Public Works Committee.

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Absent

Director of Operations:

1. Nothing Currently

Chief of Police:

1. Chief Snodgrass reported a juvenile shattered a basketball backboard at the West Park; it was captured on the camera. The replacement cost is approximately \$1,126.11. The city will be seeking reimbursement from the family.
2. The police tower sustained lightning damage during the recent storm affecting the radios, Internet, LEADS system, and the backup generator transfer switch. Repair costs just for the switch is going to be around \$4,700. The sirens could not be activated due to the radio system failure.

Altorfer, Lewis Electrical and Royell Communications were praised for their prompt response. A field adjuster has documented the damage, and an insurance claim is being processed. The tower has structural cracks and may require a replacement.

3 Emergency Weather Sirens was discussed: when lightning struck the tower damaging the internet and causing a power outage, the sirens could not be activated. It was recommended residents install a Weather App on their cell phones as the sirens are designed to only notify people outside.

City Office Manager:

1. Administrative Committee Agenda items are due 05-05-26.

City Attorney:

1. Mayor Murphy inquired about Pritzker Days (Paid Leave for All Workers Act) Joe Craven clarified that employees already receiving 40+ hours of paid time off annually are not entitled to additional Pritzker days.

2. Mayor Murphy spoke on the four properties under consideration for demolition using grant funds: 337 S Emmett, 233 W Jackson, 433 S Springfield and 332 S Springfield. Three are awaiting clearance from the State Historic Preservation Office. Title issues remain on 337 S Emmett. The 332 S Springfield house will be defaulted upon by 05-08-26.

3. Weed Abatement: The city may now mow unmaintained lots after a 5-day notice (posted or mailed) and file liens. A seasonal notice may be adopted.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk:

1. A follow-up inquiry was made on the request for Handicap Parking at the American Legion. Bertolino responded; The American Legion would use a moveable non-enforceable temporary sign in which they would be responsible for.

City Treasurer:

1. Nothing Currently

Mayor:

1. J.D. Street & Company, INC (ZX gas station) had requested a class A or G liquor license for gaming. When they were informed none were available,

they requested the city establish a “Wait List.”

Motion made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to table the request from J.D. Street & Company, INC about liquor license to the Administrative Committee.

Yeas: Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors
Nays: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Pass** Bertolino **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

2. Status of Auditor

Mayor Murphy spoke about the difficulties finding a new auditor. Most auditors are declining new clients. RW Hickman the current auditor is considering retirement and has recommended JEB. Mayor Murphy and Brentan Hickman will have an additional discussion later in the week.

Additionally Mayor Murphy reported he had discussed the water meter loan with the auditor Brentan Hickman and asked where it should show in the budget. Mayor Murphy will get together with Barry Liss to implement the recommended line item changes in the budget.

3. Allow mayor to order asbestos testing on prospective demo houses

Motion made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to allow the Mayor to order asbestos testing on prospective demo houses.

Discussion: Parkland Environmental did the last houses, Neighbors to send Mayor Murphy another perspective contractor's name tomorrow.

Yeas: Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors
Nays: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

4. Committee Appointments for FY 26-27

Mayor Murphy passed out the updated list of FY26-27 Committee Appointments noting the changes.

Discussion: on Dave Bounds attending the Macoupin County Emergency Management System at the Virden Fire House. Mayor Murphy will discuss this issue with Dave.

Motion made by Carter seconded by Donley to approve the Committee Appointments for fiscal year 2026-2027.

Yeas: Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors
Nays: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

Reports of Standing Committees

Finance:

- 1. Ordinance authorizing city expenditures pending adoption of annual appropriations ordinance.**

Motion: made by Calloway seconded by Carter to approve ordinance #2026- 02 an ordinance authorizing city expenditures pending adoption of annual appropriations ordinance.

Discussion: Mayor Murphy said, for the city to be able to spend money it must have approved appropriations but not an approved budget. To approve the appropriations a hearing must be advertised and conducted. The appropriations hearing is being advertised, and a special meeting will be scheduled after that hearing on 05-21-26 which will be prior to the Public Works meeting.

Yeas: Bertolino, Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors

Nayes: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

Police:

1. Hire part-time dispatch

Mayor Murphy appointed Hunter Seabolt as a part time dispatch.

Motion: made by Matrisch seconded by Calloway to approve the appointment of Hunter Seabolt as a part time dispatch effective immediately.

Discussion: None

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Matrisch, and Neighbors

Nayes: Bertolino **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** Karrick **Motion:** passed.

2. Hire full-time police officer

Chief Snodgrass reported that one of the two prospective police candidates has since backed out, leaving Brayden Fee, who has met all admission requirements for the academy . Next Academy start date is 18 May

Mayor Murphy stated that he would like to hire Braden Fee as full time police officer effective May 18th.

Motion: made by Calloway seconded by Matrisch to approve the hiring of Braden Fee as a full time police officer effective May 18th and sending him to the full time academy.

Discussion: none

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors

Nayes: Bertolino **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

Discussion on full time dispatch advertising, hiring, training, and promoting within (part time to full time).

Public Works:

1. Streets and Alleys

a. NW Drainage Bypass Pay Application #1. Current payment due is \$194,017.50 leaving a balance of \$729,269. Benton's people have been checking on the progress, no adverse conditions have been reported to Bill Sleeman

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to approve the pay application #1 of the North End Drainage Bypass Project in the amount of \$194,017.50 to EZELL Excavating

Discussion: Once approved, Bill Sleeman will be sent the paperwork, and in turn will send it to the grant people, who will then deposit money into the grant account, then Karen can write the check.

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, Bertolino, and Neighbors

Nayes: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

2. Building & Grounds

a. 30 ft External flagpole: the current price is \$2549.99

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve the purchase of the external 30-foot commercial flagpole not to exceed \$2,550 from United States Flag store

Discussion: This Flagpole will replace the dilapidated one by the police station.

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, Bertolino, and Neighbors

Nayes: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

3. Water

a. Water meters sold to Winchester The encoders on the 43 obsolete meters sold to Winchester were shut off by the company when new water meters were installed (this was discovered after the sale to Winchester). Reprogramming of the encoders is not possible per the company. The town of Winchester is requesting a \$30 refund on each of the 43 water meters sold to them.

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve refunding the town of Winchester \$30 on each of the 43 water meters sold to them for a refund total of \$1,290.

Discussion: None

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, Bertolino, and Neighbors

Nayes: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

Miscellaneous:

1. Plant it GEO tree inventory software

Motion made by Carter seconded by Donley to approve the purchase of Plant It Geo tree software in an amount not to exceed \$4,000 to be reimbursed by the Morton Arboretum Tree Grant

Discussion: None

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, Bertolino, and Neighbors

Nayes: 0 **Absent:** Boster **Abstain:** 0 **Motion:** passed.

Administrative:

1. Nothing Currently

Executive Session:

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to enter into Executive Session for Collective negotiating and Litigation at 8:26 pm.

Discussion: None

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, Bertolino, and Neighbors
Nayes: 0 Absent: Boster **Abstain: 0 Motion:** passed

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Donley to approve the Executive Session meeting minutes of 04-06-26.

Discussion: None

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, Bertolino, and Neighbors
Nayes: 0 Absent: Boster **Abstain: 0 Motion:** passed

Additionally: The Clerk handed out six rules that should be adhered to when the Council or Committee is in session. Karrick added a seventh one that only pertained to the Clerk.

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to adjourn at 8:51 pm.

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Matrisch, and Neighbors

Nayes: Karrick **Absent:** Boster **Abstain: 0 Pass:** Bertolino **Motion:** pass

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: