

Regular Public Works Committee Meeting

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday May 15th, 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:10 PM

Aldermen in attendance: Matrisch, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Karrick, Boster,
And Alderwoman Calloway

Absent: Alderman Carter

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

Audience: Rep From Handy Drones (not signed in)

Comments from Audience:

Topics:

1. Approval of minute (04/17/25)

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve the Minutes of
04/17/25.

Motion Passed.

2. Summer help

Motion made by Boster seconded by Neighbors to take the top two candidates,
who were interviewed for summer help next to the City Council meeting.

Motion passed with all in favor

3. East Park John Lewis Memorial Field

Cory McQueen wants to use the park for baseball and softball. As a benefit to the
Baseball Association, Public Works tilled the field. Public Works will till the field
one more time, then drag it. After that, the field will be turned over to the
Association for completion and maintenance. If any problems come up Gary
Etter, Director of Operations will be the contact person.

4. 331 W Holden asbestos and demolition bids

Parkland Environmental was contracted to do the asbestos test on 331 Holden and 932 Springfield St. 932 was unable to be tested due to safety concerns, 331 Holden the 2nd floor and the basement were also not tested due to safety concerns. Parkland Environmental recommended that when the demolition takes place that a wet method is used during the demolition. Virden fire department has offered to provide fire hoses and public works will provide one person to water down the houses as demolition proceeds.

Of the 10 sealed bids that were received one was withdrawn and remained sealed. The other 9 were opened and considered, Hays Excavating who gave the lowest bid will be recommended to the council for awarding the contract.

Motion made by Neighbors and seconded by Boster to recommend Hays Excavating be awarded the contract for the demolition of 331 W Holden St. in the amount of \$16,400.00 at the next City Council meeting.

Consensus passed with all in favor

5. Update on North End drainage

Mayor Murphy gave a history brief on the North End drainage project so the new Alderman would be brought up to date.

The city received the OK from the Army Corps of Engineers. Mayor Murphy signed the needed papers to keep the job moving.

6. Update on West Dean St. projects

IDOT has grants available, however the project must be shovel ready. Due to time constraints and not knowing all the hidden grant requirements, which would delay the project again, the consensus was to continue the project as previously planned.

7. Update on meter

Gary Etter reported that if everything keeps going like it has been, the meter system should be up and going by the end of July 2025

8. Water rate increases

Mayor Murphy went over all the costs of the water meter installation and the balance of the old meters and recommended a payback of 10 or 15 years.

Otter Lake is increasing the water rates 7.5% on July 1st 2025 and another 3% in March of 26.

Listed below is old water rates new water rates per 100 gallons, which will cover Otter Lake's two increases.

Seniors old rate \$0.57 new rate \$0.69 (income less than \$1,700 monthly)

Within city old rate \$1.04 new rate \$1.15

out of town old \$1.14 new rate \$1.27

Listed below is the meter charge, which will cover the new meters.

Seniors no charge

Within city old charge \$8 new charge \$11.00 per month

out of town whole charge \$13 new charge \$16.00 per month

This increase if approved by council will take effect on July 1st, 2025.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to send the 15 year plan to the City Council for approval.

Consensus passed all in favor.

9. Streetlight at the corner of Dye and Maltby Row

Bubba Mitchell was asked by Dickie Lowder to see if the streetlight could be installed at the corner of Dye and Maltby Row.

There never was the streetlight there before.

Due to the city's budget constraints Lowder's request will not be approved, however, if Lowder is willing to pay for the light and the installation the city will consider it

Additional:

Gary Etter requested that a new line item be put into the budget so that the money made from the Community Center would be kept for the cost to maintain the Community Center and the equipment. This request was made due to the refrigerator going out and funds had to be located to purchase a new one.

This item is tabled to the Finance committee meeting.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to enter executive session at 8:31 PM.

Motion Passed

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to recommend at the next City Council meeting, the city advertise for public works laborer position.

Motion passed

Motion made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve the executive meeting minutes of 17 April 2025.

Motion passed with all in favor

Motion to adjourn made by Boster seconded by Bertolino adjourn at 8:45 PM

Motion passed

Jonathan J. Myint

City Clerk

Date Approved