

**Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday June 1st, 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, Boster, Calloway, and Matrisch
- **Absent:** None
- **Also present:** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, City Office Manager Karen Burgess, Director of Public Works Gary Etter, and Attorneys Don & Joe Craven
- **Audience:** Bill Sleeman (Benton Engineering), Joseph Langley (Cured Catering), Ron & Angie Stevens (Palm Tree Pub), Kenny Williams (K&K), Mike Marsaglia, Nita Hamilton (Neato's Elements), Marc Woodruff (A Marc Above), Bill & Marsha Woodruff, and Zach Seabolt

Approval of Agenda (06-01-26)

Motion: made by Donley seconded by Carter to approve the 06-01-26 agenda as presented. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (Regular 05-04-26 and Special 05-21-26)**
- **Approval of Bills Payable:**
- **Approval of Treasurer's Report (April 2026)**
- **Approval of Water Report (May 2026) and Gallons Report (April 2026)**

- **Request for Use of Public Property**

1. Request from Virden Methodist Church to have Twyford BBQ on the island for a fundraiser Tuesday, June 30th 11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

2. Possible requests from VACC for Big Boy viewing July 18th.

3. Kenny Williams from K&K would like to block off Masterson from the bar to the down South for side by side run with beer tent on August 1st 12:00 pm to 5:00 PM

Discussion:

Kenny Williams presented his request to the City Council to block off Masterson St. from Jackson to Dean St. to accommodate approximately 200 vehicles for a side by side run. The event would run from noon to 5:00 pm with vehicles arriving at 2:00 pm. Kenny confirmed liability insurance was secure. Mayor Murphy had talked with the Police Chief; Chief was aware and did not anticipate this being an issue. Also Palm Tree and K&K would like to sponsor a craft show, with a band and food wagons October 3rd. Although this event is on private property Kenny did not want the city to be surprised.

Nita Hamilton of VACC spoke about the Big Boy Train Passing thru Virden and stopping in Girard, stating that she felt that thousands of people would be viewing the train and at least one third of them would be passing through Virden. She suggested the possibility of getting food venders and the American Legion to do a BBQ. She said Girard may be seeing 5,000 people, who would also be going to outlying communities. Mayor Murphy invited her to her back to the July City Council meeting when more solid information is available.

Nita Hamilton and Mark (from A MARC ABOVE took the floor again and presented their thoughts on ongoing efforts to revitalize Virden for its 175th anniversary and the different projects that could be included with the help of Art students from the surrounding schools.

Motion: Made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve the consent agenda as presented with the addition of the October 3rd K&K and Palm Tree outdoor event.

Motion: Passed with all in favor

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

Zach Seabolt Requested use of the square's front side for a second annual Cornhole tournament from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm August 1st. His partner Joey, of Cured Catering, would provide liquor licenses and insurance. Seabolt proposed setting up in

the asphalt area near route 4, not on the grass. He asked about alcohol regulations and whether a temporary festival license would be needed. The council suggested tabling the request for discussion at the upcoming administrative committee meeting on June 4th to address insurance, alcohol, service zones, and logistics.

Nita Hamilton talked about a couple ideas her and Mark were working.

1. A History Walk for the centennial

2. A Business Crawl

She ask about putting a photo booth at the square for the History Walk, Business Crawl, and the Centennial.

Mayor Murphy said more detailed information is needed before the council could approve her request.

Bill Woodruff gave an FYI, saying that on the 10th of June approximately 5,000 vintage cars will be passing thru Virden. Nita stated there may be a couple vendor food trucks out there. The Mayor questioned if extra police would be needed for traffic control. More discussion to be done at the Admin Committee meeting.

Mark from A Marc Above presented his ideas on beautification of the square and saying that he has the support of several Art classes from the surrounding schools and just received a \$2,000 donation to start his project.

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Bill Sleeman presented a Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code.

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Boster to approve Resolution 2026-4 for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code to spend MFT money in the amount not to exceed \$37,000. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Bill Sleeman requested the council approve the Preliminary Engineering cost of \$1393.50. (This cost represents 4% of the total cost as set by IDOT).

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the preliminary engineering for the MFT Rock and Oil Project in the amount of \$1,393.50 which is 4% of the total to Benton Engineering. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to approve the Local Public Agency

General Maintenance Estimate of Maintenance Cost in the amount of \$36,231, which includes the Engineering Fee of \$1,393.50. **Motion:** passed with all in favor.

Director of Operations:

1. Nothing currently

Chief of Police:

1. Absent (Excused)

City Office Manager:

1. Karen Burgess discussed the problems she has been having with paying the bills thru the Post Office in regard to the Ameren and BCBS bills. Karrick stated that with the ease of doing things online, it would be faster and more convenient and you would still get a receipt. **Motion:** Made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to allow the City Office Manager to pay Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance payments and Ameren payments online method as needed.

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Karen inquired about 233 W Jackson 2025 taxes. Mayor Murphy stated he has talked to the Tax people and the 2025 taxes are in the process of being taken care of.

City Attorney:

1. Don Craven talked about cities passing resolutions to ask the county board to change the zoning regulations to R1 rather than agricultural zoning.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to approve Resolution 2026-5 a resolution in support of Sangamon County Zoning Amendment. **Motion:** passed with all in favor.

2. Don explained the problems with 337 Emmett. Don expects to get the release from Williamsville State Bank today and he felt the city can make plans to take 337 Emmett house down. Also plans can be made to take down 233 S Springfield House court orders are in.

3. Mayor Murphy gave an update on 433 S Springfield St. Owners have consented to the demolition. Both owners have signed a Quit Claim Deed.

4. Mayor Murphy stated that 233 W Jackson is owned by the city.

5. Asbestos testing, Mayor Murphy had contacted Jamie Austiff and Parkland Environmental about asbestos testing. Austiff claims that a house that has had a

fire cannot be tested for asbestos, you have to treat it as if it has asbestos, and there has to be a certified asbestos person on site when the demolition occurs. They can do that the cost would be \$1000 a day. There seems to be confusion in the standard. Mayor Murphy has contacted Dave Stowers at Parkland Environmental but has not heard back yet.

6. Discussion about resale of tax sale properties; how much can the city sell the lots for? Craven's response was, only incrementally, not profit motivated, only recoup every expense related to the property.

7. Bertolino asked about 222 Hill St, the owner has been paid by the insurance company and has yet to demo the house. Craven will send a "Consent to Demolish" and the owner will be responsible for cost incurred.

8. Discussion on the house on Springfield St for clean-up, the court order had been received. More discussion on who will do the cleanup (due to health safety concerns) and police as a third party witness will need to be done in committee.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk:

1. Nothing currently

City Treasurer:

1. Absent (Excused)

Mayor:

1. Discussion on a meeting with VSD (Kim Ball) Mayor Murphy Alderman Matrisch with Rick Maguire as mediator.

- 2.

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance:

1. Water CD XXX 9279 at PSB being moved to Warren Boynton bank.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Donley to reinvest money from CD ending in 9279 at PSB and invest it into a CD at Warren Boynton for 3.85% for 15 months. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Police:

1. Excused Absence

Public Works:

1. STREETS & ALLEYS

- a. Pay application #2 for Northwest Drainage Project (\$294,605.10)

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Donley to approve pay application certificate for payment #2 in the amount of \$294,605.10. **Discussion:** Bill Sleeman confirmed this is grant money.

Motion: passed with all in favor

- b. **Discussion:** on Change order #1 (\$42,012) for Northwest Drainage Project. Possibility of having contractor do ditch clean out from the inlet to Union St. Bill Sleeman said it may be possible however contractor will not pay for crop damage. **Motion:** made by Bertolino seconded by Neighbors to approve the contract change order #1 for the Virden Northwest Drainage Bypass Project in the amount of \$42,012. **Discussion:** If not approved Bill Sleeman said it would probably go to court. The main cause for the change order is due to State delays in obtaining the additional \$200,000 in grant money. More discussion on fuel cost.

Ayes: Calloway, Neighbors, Matrisch, Bertolino, Mayor Murphy

Nayes: Karrick, Carter, Boster, Donley, **Absent:**0, **Abstain:**0

Motion: passed

2. Building & Grounds

a. Purchase of Tornado Siren on Linder

Mayor Murphy is looking into two different grants that may pay 35-75% of the cost of a new siren.

b. Purchase of Air Conditioner for Community Center

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to waive the bids for the purchase of an HVAC system for the Community Center. **Discussion:** Karrick inquired as to why the bids are being waived. Boster replied, the city has a known source that is known to be qualified to do the work. **Ayes:** Calloway, Neighbors, Matrisch, Bertolino, Carter, Boster, Donley, **Nayes:** Karrick, **Absent:**0, **Abstain:**0, **Motion:** passed

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Donley to award the bid for the HVAC system for the Community Center not to exceed \$18,000 to Adam Devries to be paid for with cash on hand. **Discussion:** on if Devries was licensed for HVAC work. Response from the Director of Public Works was yes, he has done other HVAC work for the city as well. **Additionally:** this will be a gas furnace to replace the baseboard heaters which should save the city in heating costs. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

3. Parks:

a. Mulch for Parks

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve the purchase the playground Mulch in the amount of \$2400. **Discussion:** this is for 90 tons of certified playground mulch and the price includes delivery. **Motion:** passes with all in favor

Miscellaneous:

1. Nothing currently

Administrative:

1. Nothing currently

Executive Session:

Motion: Made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to enter into Executive Session for Collective Bargaining and semi annual review of Closed Session Meeting Minutes at 8:48 pm. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to keep all Executive Session meeting Minutes from December 2025 to May 4th, 2026, sealed. **Motion:** passed with all in favor.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of 05/04/26 of the City Council. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Karrick seconded by Carter to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Ayes: Calloway, Neighbors, Matrisch, Bertolino, Carter, Boster,

Nayes: Donley, **Absent:**0, **Abstain/Passed:** Bertolino, **Motion:** passed

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: