

**Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday July 6th, 2026**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Note: Mayor Murphy spoke on this being the 250th birthday of the country and us being a free country, we can always vote to change things that we want to change and that trickles down to the state level and the local level in most cases.

Roll Call:

- **The following Council Members were present:** Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Carter, Boster, Calloway, and Matrisch
- **Absent:** Karrick
- **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 Don Craven
- **Audience:** Juanita Hamilton, Donnie, and June Neighbors

Approval of Agenda (07-06-26)

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the agenda as submitted. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Regular 06-01-26 & Special 07-02-26)**
- **Approval of Bills Payable**
- **Approval of Treasurer's Report (06-26)**
- **Approval of Water Report (06-26) and Gallons Report (05-26)**
- **Request for Use of Public Property**
 1. Request from Johnson & Johnson Mobile Veterinarian Clinic (Jacksonville)

to set up on the island on Thursday, July 30th from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM

2. Request from Virden United Methodist Church to have Twyford BBQ on the island for a fundraiser from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM on Wednesday, July 29th and Friday, August 14th.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Donley to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted. **Motion:** passed with all in favor

COMMENTS FROM AUDIENCE:

Mayor Murphy read the proposed Resolution number 26-6.

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Boster to approve Resolution No 26-6, a resolution honoring Paul Littleton Neighbors.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Donnie Neighbors thanked the council and stated he would be establishing a section in his store as a museum, to also honor his uncle Paul.

Juanita Hamilton spoke on a 4X8 foot Route 66 sign she would like to put on the square. It was recommended she bring more information to the next Public Works Committee Meeting.

Juanita also inquired about blocking off Masterson St. from East Jackson to East Prairie (9:00-12:00) so people could observe the Big Boy train passing thru on the 18th of July. Her request was approved; Public Works will put barricades at the corner of the road and she will have to place them and remove them after the event.

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

Bill Sleeman spoke on the topics for the City Engineer

1. Northwest Drainage Pay Application #3

Discussion: Bertolino was concerned about the 6 ft fence on the concrete structure not being high enough, as the drop to from the top of the fence to the bottom of the box could be 16 feet and kids, deer, or crop debris may get into the drain line. Sleeman stated there is wire rope and angle iron installed however nothing will stop some debris from getting into the drain.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve pay estimate application requests #3 for the Northwest Drainage Project for a total amount of \$333,773.55 with the city's portion being \$160,885.58.

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

Nayes: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Additionally: Bill Sleeman spoke on the Township wanting an inlet installed in the ditch on Cemetery Rd. Ezell bid \$4950, which Bill thought was too high. Garry Etter will be walking the project with the Engineer, Contractor and possibly the Mayor on Monday and get information to bring to the next Public Works Committee meeting.

2. Benton Invoice for Grant Administration

Bill Sleeman turned over a refund check in the amount of \$6,000 to the city, then turned in an invoice for \$13,500 which will be refunded by the grant.

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Neighbors to approve the payment to Benton Engineering for a total of \$19,500 for 65% of the grant administration costs for the North End Drainage Bypass Project.

Discussion: Two separate invoices will be given to the city, one in the amount of \$6,000 and one in the amount of \$13,500 for a total of \$19,500, which will need to be paid separately. This cost will be refunded to the city by the grant.

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

Nayes: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** passed with all in favor

3. Benton invoice for Construction Observation

Bill Sleeman turned over an invoice for Construction Observation totaling \$20,816.40 adding there maybe another \$2,000 cost by time the project is completed (\$25,000 was initially estimated). This is not a grant reimbursable item.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Bertolino to approve the payment to Benton Engineering in the amount of \$20,816.40 for Construction Observation of The North End Drainage Bypass project.

Discussion: none

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

Nayes: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** enthusiastically passed with all in favor

Director of Operations:

1. Nothing currently

Chief of Police:

1. Nothing currently

City Office Manager:

1. Karen informed the Council that the cost of sending out Certified mail is now \$11.00 each. It was recommended that a \$20.00 administrative fee be added to cover the cost of the invoices.

City Attorney:

Mayor Murphy inquired about the Solar Fields that are proposed for Sangamon County. Craven reported a comprehensive plan is still being worked on.

1. Sale of property 222 Finis St.

City acquired this property approximately 6 years ago through a tax sale and Demolished the house. Until lately no one has shown an interest in buying the property. A nearby resident has now shown an interest in the property. The city would like to get \$2,500 for the property, however the interested party only bid \$1,500. Mayor Murphy questioned the Attorney if the city could ask closing cost plus the \$1,500.

Craven said the sale of surplus property has to go out for bids or the property has to be appraised. He was not sure on exactly how to advertise the sale of the surplus property since the city does not have a local newspaper. He recommended putting the sale on Facebook with a minimum asking price of \$2,500. He will check on how to advertise and how long it would have to be advertised before a sale. He will also check into the closing costs and the resident will have to resubmit a bid.

Chief Snodgrass will find out if someone is living in the old truck camper in the lot next to this one.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk:

1. Wanted to remind everyone that Economic Impact Statements past due if they have not turned one into the County Clerk.

City Treasurer:

1. Nothing currently

Mayor:**1. Approve RFP for tree planting and maintenance**

Additional changes are needed on the RFP (Request for Proposal). If Morton Arboretum approves the changes he will e-mail them to everyone and request permission to send them out for bids. (Email approval is being requested due to time constraints no funds are required to send the RFPs out).

2. Approve RFPs (Request for Proposal) for abating asbestos and or demolition of four properties

Mayor Murphy is expecting the testing results from Jamie Austif. Mayor Murphy met with him when he inspected 337 S Emmett, asbestos was suspected. Due to the condition of the house and location of the suspected asbestos a wet demolition will need to be done. The house next to the car wash was not checked as Jamie deemed it too dangerous to test and it will also require a wet demolition. Mayor Murphy will write up the RFPs for the houses for asbestos removal/demolition if no asbestos is found and email the results to everyone. Mayor Murphy recommends requesting demolition bids for each house and a package bid for all four houses.

3. Approved purchase of properties through county tax sales

The County list of Property Tax Sale will be published in August or September. Craven will keep an eye out for the list.

4. Vet clinic on website and or Facebook page

The Vet Clinic wanted to know if the city would put a note about them on the City's website and or Facebook page. After a discussion it was decided that the City would not use the City's website or Facebook to advertise businesses, citing that if you do for one you would be obligated to do for all

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance:

1. Nonunion wages will be discussed in the Finance Committee.

Police:

1. Nothing currently

Public Works:

1. **Water**

- a. **Approval of Water Conference**

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve sending two Employees to the Water Conference 9-11 September 2026 at a cost not to exceed \$490.

Motion: passed with all in favor.

- b. **Shutoff Agreement with VSD**

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve Resolution 26-7, a water shutoff agreement with the Sanitary District.

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

Nays: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Miscellaneous:

- a. **Morton Tree Grant Ordinance**

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Donley to approve Ordinance 2026-4 an Ordinance amending title 6, chapter 3 of the city code.

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

Nays: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Administrative:

1. **Prepackaged single serve drinks for class G**

Discussion: Class G liquor license which shall permit the retail sale of beer, wine and other single served alcoholic liquors, excluding unmixed spirits, sold in their original package for consumption only on the premises.

Motion: made by Matrisch seconded by Neighbors to approve the language change in ordinance number 2026-5, amending title 3 to the City Code of Ordinances of the class G liquor license.

Additional Discussion: on the amount or percentage of alcohol in a prepackaged single served package was further discussed, no definitive conclusion could be made.

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

Nays: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** passed with all in favor

2. Approve Ordinance Amending Title 3, Chapter 6 of Solicitors and Peddlers Code

Discussion: The sticker is to be designed and issued by the City Manager.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter, to approve Ordinance 2026-6, amending Title 3, Chapter 6 Pedaling and Solicitors Code.

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

Nayes: 0, Absent: Karrick, Abstain: 0, **Motion:** passed with all in favor

Executive Session:

1. None

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: