

**Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday August 3rd, 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, Bookkeeper/Treasure Barry Liss, Chief of Police Steven Snodgrass, Director of Public Works Gary Etter, Attorneys Don & Joe Craven and Engineer Stefanie Ballinger
- **Audience:** Juanita Hamilton, Marc Woodruff, Mike Marsaglia

Approval of Agenda (08-03-26)

Mayor Murphy added for discussion; Under Attorney, #2 Gallons Readings and under Mayor, Request for Bleachers

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to approve the Agenda as amended. **Motion** passed with all in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (07-06-26) & SPECIAL (07-16-26)**
- **APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE**
- **APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT (JUNE)**
- **APPROVAL OF WATER REPORT (07-26) AND GALLONS REPORT (06-26)**
- **REQUEST FOR USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY**
 1. June 19, 2027, City Park (square downtown) Fred Brintenstine Car Show
 2. Request from Virden Methodist Church to change approved date of August 14

Twyford BBQ to Thursday, August 27th.

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

Comments from Audience

Nita Hamilton and Mark Woodruff from the Virden Historical Society presented a comprehensive plan to revitalize the Virden square in preparation for the Route 66 Centennial and the upcoming Virden 175th celebration. Their proposal included: Pollinator Garden Development, Mosquito Control, Bush Removal, Maintenance Plan and Visual Enhancement. The project requires forming a formal committee under the Historical Society to qualify for Bee City certification which would bring national recognition in conservation and education. Landscaping plants and flowers will be provided by the Historical Society there would be no expense to the city; the City's part would be to only remove unwanted trees and bushes. Additionally the Photo sign placement is shown on the handout and needs approved. If the initiative falters maintenance would revert to the city landscaping. The Director of Operations stated that he had walked the area and is very supportive of the plans.

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Calloway to designate the Virden City Square as the official Bee Pollinator Home and allow the Historical Society and Roots & Renewal to renovate, maintain the City Square as submitted, at no cost to the city, and to allow the planting of flowers and installation of photo sign to begin as soon as possible.

Discussion: 1. Work is to be coordinated with the Director of Operations.

2. In 2027 spraying of pesticides on the square will need to be cut by 25%.

Motion: passed with all in favor

1. Approve placement of photo fixture on city square (see above motion).

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Review and Approve proposal from Louis Marsch, Inc for MFT oil and chip.
Engineer Stefanie Ballinger proposed accepting a materials contract with Louis Marsh Incorporated for \$30,631.25 to cover oil and road materials. A more cost effective slag (\$65 per ton instead of \$85 per ton for crushed rock) alternative locally sourced from Granite City was introduced.. Stefanie stated that she has quadruple checked the calculations, so last year's situation does not happen again.

Gary Etter spoke with Louis Marsh who will provide and apply a test sample of the slag for one half of a city block for evaluation.

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve the proposal for materials and approve the award for MFT for rock and oil in the amount of \$30,631.25 to Louis March incorporated. **Discussion:** Boster stated for the record that he seconded the motion due to Stefanie quadrupling the check on the numbers. **Motion:** passed with all in favor.

Additionally: Stefanie stated that the final payment for the sidewalk project has not been issued and a final walk thru with the Contractor and State has not been done. When the final walk thru with this is scheduled Gary Etter and the Field Engineer will be notified.

Director of Operations:

1. Gary Etter reported a recent main water valve failure at Laughlin's requiring emergency bypass and overnight pressure monitoring for three nights. The valve blew out on Tuesday night and was rebuilt with urgent overnight shipping and a guy out of Missouri on Friday. The system is now fully operational. Additionally Gary added, the Fire Department was kept up to date on the water main pressure.

Chief of Police:

1. Bertolino inquired about a resident who had dumped concrete on their property in which the neighbors were complaining. Chief Snodgrass reported that he had already spoke to the resident and the resident was given 30 days to get rid of the dumped concrete. Chief Snodgrass said he would continue to follow up with the resident. Mayor Murphy added that the concrete was dumped on the 17th of July.

City Office Manager:

1. Election Packets

Election Packets for the upcoming election have been received from Sangamon County but not from Macoupin County which will send theirs out in a couple more weeks. Craven added, due to the not having a local newspaper Virden may do their posting in the Auburn's/Carlinville's newspaper and on the city's website. Since Virden is in two counties Craven will check the posting requirements.

City Attorney:

1. Tax Sale properties

Joe Craven reported, the Macoupin County Tax Buyer wants to continue the

relationship with Virden in helping getting the town cleaned up in regard to the houses that need demolished. Virden can no longer be a priority buyer. The houses however can be advertised as "Pending Demolition" as long as Virden has taken the first couple steps i.e., title search, fix or flatten letter. Any advertisement may also include "purchaser may be responsible for demolition."

Bertolino inquired on the 225 W Jackson St trailer. Craven will follow up on the status of the property.

2. Gallons Readings for the VSD

Discussion: on if gallon readings are still needed since the IGA has expired (July 31st) and the VSD is now doing flat rate billing. Craven's advice was, don't send it unless it's requested.

Discussion: on the requirements for seniors discounts (which will have to be done again in November or December).

Craven stated the Sanitary District has not agreed to dismiss their lawsuit even though the city has agreed to do whatever they have asked. A motion to dismiss was filed on August 3rd of 2026. The VSD may be trying to hold off a few months to see how the shutoffs are working, however they do not like the idea that Public Works will not do shutoffs during adverse weather or that Virden will charge the VSD the same amount to do a shutoff as Virden would charge a water customer for a shutoff (\$25).

3. Building and Zoning

Brief discussion on Sangamon and Macoupin counties working on mile and a half zoning. State law gives municipalities zoning and building code authority. This issue will be revisited at a later date.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk:

1. Nothing currently

City Treasurer:

1. Nothing currently

Mayor:

1. Class G gaming licenses

Three businesses have their Gaming Licenses, and they have all paid for their machines. Two of the three may be opening this week.

2. Alex Barnes the Athletic Director is requesting to use the bleachers from the park and to have them moved for one season for a trial to see how they work out moving fans closer to the field. Consensus was to allow the school to borrow the bleachers for one season at no cost since it was for the Virden school children. Garry Etter will coordinate with Alex Barnes on moving the bleachers.

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance:

1. Non-union raises

Mayor Murphy spoke on the nonunion wage formula, which was base wage, plus new percentage, plus step, equals new wage amount.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to approve the nonunion Pay increase for 2026 as submitted effective May 1st, 2026.

Yeas: Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Donley, Karrick, and Neighbors

Nayes: Matrisch, Calloway,

Absent: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion: passed

Additionally: Mayor Murphy stated council will be working on the budget at the next finance meeting

Police: Nothing currently

Public Works: Nothing currently

Administrative: Nothing currently

Executive Session: None

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Bertolino to adjourn at 8:01 pm.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: