

Regular City Council Committee Meeting  
City Of Virden  
City Council Chambers  
Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Council Members were present:** Carter, Bertolino, Neighbors, Donley, Karrick, Boster, Matrisch and Calloway

**Absent:** None

**Also in attendance:** 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:** Ryan Anderson, Stefanie Ballinger and Terry Davis

**Topics:**

**Approval of Agenda (09-02-25)**

Boster requested that under Police, #3 be added Police Staffing and MOU for hiring/retention.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the adjusted agenda.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

## **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes (08-04-25)**

**Approval of Bills Payable:** (Parkland Environmental Admin and MB Construction to be approved separately)

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

### **Approval of Water Report (July 2025) and Gallons Report (June 2025)**

### **Request for Use of Public Property**

Request from Bill Castagno of Blend Adopt a Pet to use the 4-way of Jackson St. and Route 4 on 9/6/25 from 9am-2 pm with a rain date of 9/13/25 from 9am to 2 pm for collection of money for Adopt a Pet.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve the Consent Agenda with the exception of the two bills payable as removed.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

### **Comments from the Audience**

Terry Davis-Otter Lake Water Commissioner presented the findings of the Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) Substance Report.

PFAS chemicals discussed

EPA acceptable PFAS level is 4 parts per trillion.

EPA testing at Otter Lake shows no contamination.

Otter Lake will not be joining the lawsuit (DuPont, Chevron, and others) as no contamination has been detected; the door is open to potentially join in the future if needed.

Filtration upgrades mandated for the affected water plants by 2029 (possibly extend to 2031).

Updates to be provided at future meetings as information arises.

# Reports of Supervisors

## **City Engineer:**

1. Resolution to commit \$16,000 from corporate funds for the Dean St. improvement.

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to approve Resolution 2025-1 committing \$16,000 from the corporate fund for the Dean St. improvement project.

**Discussion:** Mayor Murphy stated that, after looking at what money we had left in the MFT for this and for the Rock and Oil, we thought it would be best to take that amount out of corporate. This will keep the MFT from getting too low. We knew from the start that some of the Dean Street Project was perhaps going to have to be paid for with other funds besides MFT.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

1. Correction in oil calculations process explained; the error was acknowledged, and Benton Engineering (Stefanie Ballinger) took the responsibility for the error.

**Motion** made by Boster second by Carter to approve Resolution for Improvement 2025-2 to commit \$279,796.57 of Motor Fuel Tax fund to the Dean St. Project.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

## **Additionally**

A meeting with the contractor and the city will be scheduled soon.

Construction should begin by the end of September 2025.

## **1. Safe Route to School**

Agreement with IDOT for cost sharing and payment process was outlined.

A Federal Grant of \$250,000 (which is 80% of the project) has been awarded.

The city's 20% portion is estimated at \$90,548 plus any cost overrun.

The job will go out for bids on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

A better cost estimate will not be known until the bids are received.

ADA ramps and sidewalk connections to be built.

Discussion on past project delays due to environmental issues.

The construction start date is projected to be early in 2026.

IDOT will be paying the contractor and will bill the city for its portion plus anything over the approved grant.

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Donley to approve the Joint Funding Agreement with Safe Route to School for the \$250,000 grant and to commit the city to fund \$90,548.

**Discussion:** It was noted that the last several project's Final Cost was about 10% over the initial cost estimate. This cost overrun will have to be planned in the budget.

**Ayes:** Calloway, Neighbors, Bertolino, Boster, Matrisch, Carter, and Donnelly

**Nayes:** Karrick

**Motion** passed

**Additionally:** This will be Resolution #2025-03

**1. Update on Northend Drainage Project**

Prebid meeting is set for September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**Director of Operations:**

1. Nothing Currently

**Chief of Police:**

1. Nothing Currently

**City Office Manager:**

1. Nothing Currently
- 2.

**City Attorney:**

**1. Paris Solar CBA with city of Virden**

**Discussion:** An agreement with Paris Solar LLC owned by Cypress Creek Renewables) to pay the city \$10,000 upon plant operation startup, in exchange for the city not enacting restrictive zoning/regulations.

Project to be built on leased farmland (20 year lease with 4-5 year extensions possible) with sheep grazing and native plant restoration planned.

A decommissioning bond is required by Illinois to ensure site cleanup after the project life.

Power to be supplied to Ameren grid; local residents can subscribe for up to 10% discount.

Construction to start very soon (this fall).

Project expected to use local union labor when possible; construction to last 9 to 10 months.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve CBA with Paris Solar LLC as presented.

**Motion** passed unanimously

**2. Liberty Utilities Gas Franchise Agreement**

Resolution 2025-08 was approved granting Liberty Utilities rights to provide/sell natural gas install/maintain, necessary infrastructure, and use public right of way.

City granted 6000 terms of gas per year: similar to previous agreements.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve an ordinance 2025-08 granting franchise by the City of Virden, County of Macoupin, Illinois, to Liberty Utilities (Mid States Natural Gas) Corp. D/B/A Liberty Utilities, its successor and assigns, for the rights to supply, furnish, sell, and distribute natural gas to the city and to all persons, businesses, and industries within the city and the right to acquire, construct, install locate, maintain, operate, and extend into, within, and through said city all facilities reasonably necessary to supply, furnished, sell, and distribute gas to the city and to all persons, businesses, and industries within the city and in the territory adjacent thereto and the right to make reasonable use of all streets and other public places as may be necessary, and fixing the terms and on and conditions thereof.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

**Additionally:** Liquor Licenses, who can get one, residency, dates of renewal, state and city codes was discussed. (see #2 under Finance for more information)

The area by Waverly and Prairie street that has long weeds, the landowner may possibly say that this area is a garden, at which time the city cannot give a citation to.

## Reports of City Officials

**City Clerk:**

1. Nothing Currently

**City Treasurer:**

1. Nothing Currently

**Mayor:**

1. Nothing Currently

## Reports of Standing Committee

**Finance:**

**1. Purchase of 233 W Jackson**

**Motion** made by Karrick seconded by Neighbors to approve the purchase and signing the purchase contract for 233 W Jackson St. for the full amount of \$811.00 (\$715.00 for the purchase and \$61.00 for recording).

**Discussion** On grant funding status and the city's demolition and cleanup budget was reviewed.

Pre-approval for grant demolition cannot be applied for until the property is owned by the city.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

**2. Raise liquor license and other fees**

The city code on Liquor License and other fees need to be reviewed and updated.

Application procedures clarified: when multiple applicants arrive simultaneously for limited licenses, a lottery or objective selection is needed.

Resident/manager requirements under the city code were reviewed for all licenses.

Recommendation to communicate requirements to all license holders for renewal, with managers'/owners' city residency and reporting of changes emphasized.

Age Requirements for selling and serving alcohol clarified: 21 to bartend, wait staff may serve at 19.

Issue tabled to a later date possibly to the Finance Committee meeting, however, any changes must be completed and approved no later than 1 October.

### **3. Approved grocery sales tax ordinance**

**Motion** made by Carter seconded by Boster to approve Ordinance 2025-09, an ordinance implementing a Municipal Grocery Retailers Occupation Tax and a Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax in the amount of 1% beginning January 1st, 2026.

**Discussion** This is not an additional tax. It is just replacing the state tax that ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

### **4. Amend 1-8A Of city code**

An amendment to remove the requirement to list banks eligible for city investments was discussed.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Donley to approve Ordinance 2025-10 an ordinance to amend 1-8A-4-F of the City Code of Ordinances which allows removing the list of banks which monies may be invested.

**Motion** Passed with all in favor

**Police:**

**1. Nuisance property, 231 E Stodder**

Public Works went in and put all the junk/trash that was scattered in the lot next door into one pile and mowed the weeds and grass.

A 16 foot deep small pond was found.

The weed/grass violation was not complied with.

Stephanie Do of Do Realty Services (listing Agent) will be contacted.

**2. Hire full-time police officer**

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve the appointment of Gino Serra as a full time police officer with the City of Virden as of September 8<sup>th</sup> pending background investigation.

**Discussion:** Bertolino wanted to know if he is replacing someone or whether he is a sixth officer, noting a sixth officer was not budgeted for.

Boster responded he will be a sixth officer, and a loss of one officer is expected.

**Ayes:** Calloway, Boster, Matrisch, Carter, Neighbors, Donley

**Nayes:** Bertolino, and Karrick

**Motion** Passed

**3. MOU with Police FOP**

The MOU for recruitment, retention, and incentive program has been finalized and is ready to be sent to the Union.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Callaway to approve the MOU with the FOP.

Under the advice of the Attorney and direction of the Mayor, this issue has been tabled to the next City Council Meeting, regular or special.

**Public Works:**

**1. Streets and Alleys**

**a. Four way stop at intersection of N/S Ring and E Dean St.**

This issue was discussed in detail at the last Public Works Committee meeting.

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Carter to approve Ordinance 2025-11 authorizing the installation of a four way stop sign at the intersection of Dean and Ring St.

**Ayes:** Calloway, Boster, Matrisch, Carter, Neighbors, Donley, and Karrick

**Nayes:** Bertolino

**Motion** Passed

**b. Sinkhole ordinance**

This issue has been tabled to a later date.

2. Building and Grounds Nothing currently

3. Parks Nothing currently

**4. Water**

**a. Approve change request #1, MB Construction**

Discussion: There were several inconsistencies on the invoice that differed from the original contract and a change order should have been submitted.

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve Contract Change Order #1 from MB Construction in the amount of \$5,460.

**Motion** Passed with all in favor

**b. Approve pay application #2, MB Construction for \$94,826.15**

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Bertolino to approve pay application #2 for MB Construction in the amount of \$94,826.15

**Motion** Passed with all in favor.

**5. Miscellaneous**

a. Citywide cleanup Saturday September 27th for Wards 1&2, and Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup> for Wards 3&4 from 8:00 am to 11:45. Items for disposal are to be brought to the Dean St. transfer station.

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Donley to approve citywide cleanup on Saturday September 27th for Wards 1&2 and Saturday October 4th for Wards 3&4. Hours to be from 8:00 am to 11:45 am.

**Ayes:** Calloway, Bertolino, Matrisch, Carter, Neighbors, Donley, and Karrick

**Nays:** Boster

**Motion** Passed

**b. CPR Class**

Six people from the Public Works Department will be attending the CPR training.

The cost is \$60.00 per person, for a total of \$360.00 for the training.

**Motion** made by Bertolino seconded by Karrick to approve CPR training to 6 Public Works employees for a cost not to exceed \$360.00

**Motion** Passed with all in favor

**Additionally**

A water leak was discovered at 411 N Springfield St.

The leak was repaired by Public Works.

**Administrative:**

1. Approve payment for asbestos testing and abatement of 911 N Noble to Parkland Environmental Services.

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Donley to approve the payments to Parkland Environmental Service, \$15,675 for asbestos abatement and \$650 for asbestos testing for 911 N Noble St. To be reimbursed by the grant.

**Discussion** The next place that will need testing is 337 S Emmit.

Cost may be around \$1,500 for the test

**Motion** passed with all in favor

**Executive Session:**

1. None

**Adjournment:**

**Motion** made by Boster seconded by Karrick to adjourn at 8:48 pm.

**Motion** passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint  
City Clerk

Date Approved: