

**Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Tuesday September 8th, 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, Carter, Boster, and Matrisch
- **Absent:** Donley and 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 Attorneys Don & Joe Craven
- **Audience:** None

Approval of Agenda (09-08-26)

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Bertolino questioned the \$114 bill for the Police Department shirts, which were ordered for Dispatch. Chief Snodgrass explained, when they were hired, initial shirts were never purchased for them and up to this point they have been wearing old (second-hand) shirts. They do get a clothing allowance to maintain the shirts but should have received new shirts when hired. Two shirts are for the recently new hire.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Regular 08-03-26)

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAYABLE

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT (July 26)

APPROVAL OF WATER REPORT (08-26) AND GALLONS REPORT (07-26)

REQUEST FOR USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

1. Request for BenId Adopt A Pet to collect on September 12th 9:00 am to 1:30 pm at the four way of Jackson and Springfield.
2. Request permission to hold North Mac High School Homecoming Parade on Sunday, September 27th, at 3:00 pm. The school is willing to cover any costs incurred by the City due to increase employment hours this may cause.
3. Request from Virden UMC to use island on Friday, September 18th and Friday, October 23rd between the hours of 11:00 am to 1:30 pm for a fundraiser using Twyford BBQ.
4. Request to close off 1 block of Masterson St at K&K for side-by-side fundraiser on October 10th for about one hour (probably noon to 1:00 pm)
5. Hank and Blank Car Show Saturday October 17th 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
6. Request for the Virden American Legion to use the town square for the July 4th, 2027, celebration for July 1st, 2nd, & 3rd with a rain date of the 4th from 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm (for any questions call Donnie Neighbors.)
7. Trick or Treating October 30th and October 31st 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. **Discussion:** In 2025 the school paid the city a total of \$664 for Public Works and Police. Cost would probably be about the same this year. Bertolino wanted everyone to know, the City needs to watch the scheduling of the use of the City Square and the use of the 4-way stop, as there could be a hazard created with all the traffic if both are scheduled at the same time. **Motion:** passed with all in favor.

Comments from Audience: None

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Absent

Director of Operations:

1. Nothing currently

Chief of Police:

1. Part time Dispatch has been released on her own.
2. There has been a big improvement at 832 North Springfield St.
3. We are taking a zero tolerance on the dropping/dumping of concrete. One person has been taking 45 days so far to get the concrete cleaned up, and if not cleaned up, court date is in two days.

City Office Manager:

1. Karen Burgess looked into Donley's inquiry on utilizing LOCIS 8 for employee timekeeping. After talking to Kim from LOCIS 8, Karen believes it would create more work than it is worth however, Kim will put together a price quote for the city.

City Attorney:

1. **Kratom Ordinance: Motion:** made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Boster to approve Ordinance Number 2026-8 Amending Title 5 of The City Code to outlaw Kratom.

Yeas: Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Matrisch, and Neighbors, **Nayes: 0,**

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

2. Donation of Surplus Property (Bicycles) Discussion: on donating them, or selling them are bids required? What is the process? Attorney Joe Craven recommends the city just dispose of the bicycles. Bertolino stepped up to take the disposal of the bicycles at the police station for action.

3. Contractor list for mowing nuisance properties: Attorney Don Craven recommends the City makes a list of local contractors willing to do the mowing and get a rate from them. Joe Craven added normally only Public Works projects over \$25,000 need to go out for bid.

4. Social Media Policy for Employee: The question arose, can the city stop or regulate city employees from commenting on social media and how are other towns handling the issue. The Attorneys did not believe surrounding municipalities had a policy but believed the city could get by, by letting employees know only public information should be shared and not to disparage the City or employees especially on city time and this could become an issue during times of bargaining. The Attorneys will do more research on this issue.

5 Streaming Medias: Discussion: Attorney Craven stated Carlinville looked into a streaming provider for a proper docking platform. The cost estimate was 20 to \$30,000. Carlinville decided to forgo the program. Mayor Murphy conveyed Virden does not have that type of money.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk:

1. Nothing currently

City Treasurer:

1. Nothing Currently

Mayor:

1. **Approve permission for Route 66 Virden Historical Society Roots and Renewal Committee to apply for Bee City USA designation and stewardship for the Virden square.**

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to approve permission for the Route 66 Virden Historical Society Roots and Renewal Committee to apply for Bee City USA designation and stewardship of the Virden square. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, and Matrisch, and **Nayes:** Neighbors, **Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

2. **Appointment for vacant ward one City Council seat:** Appointment tabled to a later date.

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance:

1. **Approve 2026-27 Budget:**

Discussion: The \$84,000 transferred from water to corporate is now treated as an expense within the water department but is not counted as revenue in corporate totals to prevent misrepresenting available funds.

The city must now pay for sewer services after its previous intergovernmental agreement came to an end in which VSD provided free sanitation services.

The projected surplus is \$126,965 broken down Corporate \$2,290 surplus, Water \$3,400 surplus and MFT \$100,000 surplus.

Staffing reductions in public works now with only three union employees contributed to lower labor costs and improved projections.

The council acknowledged that while this is the current projection actual spending during the year could reduce the surplus.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to approve the 2026-2027 budget as presented. **Yeas:**, Neighbors, Boster, Carter, and Matrisch, **Nayes:** Bertolino, **Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

2. Elected officials compensation raise \$50.00 per month starting after election 2027.

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to increase the salary \$50.00 per month for Elected Aldermen, starting in 2027. **Discussion:** This is only increasing the salary from \$150 to \$200 per month, and only for those four Aldermen elected in 2027. This will be Ordinance No 2026-7 An Ordinance Amending Title 1 of the City Code of Ordinances

Yeas: Neighbors, Boster, Carter, and Matrisch, and **Nayes:** Bertolino, **Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

3. Bookkeepers compensation raise of 3% retroactive to May 1st, 2026

Discussion: when the nonunion raises were discussed and approved, the Bookkeeper was overlooked. This issue was discussed and approved in the last Finance Committee meeting. **Motion:** made by Carter seconded by Boster to increase the Bookkeeper's compensation by 3% effective May 1st, 2026.

Yeas: Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, and **Nayes:** Bertolino, **Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

Police:

1. 3-yr New Hire Police Agreement

Discussion: This is the agreement discussed in the last Police Committee meeting. This agreement will go into effect when signed, additionally the person is not fully hired until this agreement is signed and other prerequisites are satisfactorily complete it.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Matrisch to approve the Virden Police Department Agreement for Training and Uniform Reimbursement for Police Officers prior to employment.

Discussion: focused on whose responsibility it would be to have the potential candidate sign the agreement as the Council thought it was happening in the past, but it was not. The Agreement is required to be signed by four people before the hiring process is complete. The Chief of Police will ensure that all four signatures

are obtained (signatures required are the Candidate, Notary, Mayor, and Police Chief). **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes:** 0 **Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain:** 0, **Motion:** passed

Public Works:

1. Streets and Alleys

a. Core sampling on County Line Rd. Discussion: This was discussed at the last Public Works meeting. Director of Public Works request approval of funding of \$2,000 for core sampling in three locations to assess the road's structural base.

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve the Director of Public Works to pay up to \$2,000 for core sampling of County Line Rd. in three locations.

Additional discussion: Core sampling quote was for \$1,500 to \$2,000, motion is for \$2,000, additional funding should not be needed. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes:** 0 **Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain:** 0, **Motion:** passed

b. Virden NW Drainage Bypass Change Order #2

Change order #2 was discussed and focused on the fence pole bracing additional rails and barbed wire on the inlet drainage box however, the Council decided the quality of work done in the concrete at the bottom of the drainage box was a bigger and more important issue. Council concurred not to pay the change order or Pay application #4-final (topic c) until satisfactory work was completed. Attorney Craven recommended having a third party, possibly a Concrete Engineer to look at the issue.

Change Order #2 and Pay application #4-final tabled to the next Public Works Committee meeting. Mayor Murphy will notify Sleeman.

c. Virden NW Drainage Bypass Pay application #4-final: See above action.

2. Building and grounds

a. Opening of Tree Acquisition, Planting, and Maintenance sealed bids and possible award of such. Discussion: Zoom meeting only had 2 interested parties (Paul's Tree Farm and Green View Companies). Only one bid was received for \$29,140 for Tree Acquisition, Planting from Paul's Tree Farm and, \$35,000 each year for the next three years for Maintenance. There are still some unanswered questions, Mayor Murphy will contact Evelyn at Morton Arboretum for more detailed information.

3. Parks:

a. Camera install at East Park

Discussion: When the pole was knocked down during the storm not only was the pole destroyed but two cameras were also destroyed. Chief Snodgrass

recommended when cameras are replaced a third one is needed. The bid from Royell for installing three cameras and the wire is \$1410.10. Public Works has the money in their budget. Insurance should cover the cost of 2 of the cameras. The third camera and wire installation will need to be paid for by Public Works.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the purchase of three cameras and wire and the installation of the cameras and wire at the East Park at a price not to exceed \$1,500. Discussion: the insurance claim on the pole will be discussed at a later date. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes: 0 Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

4. Water

a. Director of Public Works reported that VSD did not send a water shutoff list for the month of August. VSD stating, no Intergovernmental Agreement exists therefore they are not ready to provide shut off list. Attorney Don Craven recommended that the Senior Water Clerk call each month and request a list.

5. Miscellaneous:

a. Citywide cleanup Saturday October 3rd and Saturday October 10th

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Matrisch to approve Saturday October 3rd and Saturday October 10th as City Wide Cleanup Days. Items are to be hauled to the transfer station between the times of 8:00 AM to 11:45 AM. **Discussion:** Wards 1 & 2 will be on Saturday October 3rd and Wards 3 & 4 will be on Saturday October 10th there is a list of allowable/ not allowable items available on the City's website, Facebook and at the Water office. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes: 0 Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

Administrative:

1. 2027 Paydays

2. 2027 Employee Holiday Schedule

3. 2027 City Council/Committee Schedule

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the Paydays, Holiday Schedule, City Council/Committee Schedule that was presented at the Admin Committee by Karen Burgess Officer Manager. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes: 0 Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

Executive Session: None

Motion: made by Matrisch seconded by Boster to approve the City Council Executive Session Meeting Minutes of June 1st, 2026. **Yeas:** Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes: 0 Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Matrisch seconded by Boster to adjourn at 8:25 pm.

Yeas: Bertolino, Boster, Carter, Neighbors and Matrisch, **Nayes: 0 Absent:** Donley and Karrick, **Abstain: 0, Motion:** passed

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: