

## **Public Works Committee Meeting**

City Of Virden

City Council Chambers

Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> 2025

Meeting called to order by Alderman Bertolino at 7:30 pm

**Alderspersons in attendance:** Calloway, Carter, Neighbors, Karrick, Donley, Matrisch, and Bertolino

**Absent:** Alderman Boster

**Also in attendance:** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Jon Myint, and Director of Operations Gary Etter

**Audience:** Rick Maguire

**Comments from Audience:** Rick Maguire talked about the Park Board and Virden Baseball Association that no longer exists; it is now the North Mac Baseball Association. The Virden Association has disappeared over the past years, and he would like to bring it back. He questioned on how the Association could get funding from the city. He did say that to bring the Association back it would need: the equipment in Girard to come back to Virden, a few volunteers who he may know to help maintain the fields (after Public Works does their initial clean-up), support thru funding from the city and possibly an Alderman to be a liaison to the council.

Alderman Bertolino added, since in the past few years there has been little interest for a Baseball Association, only basic funds to maintain the fields have been allocated in the Park budget.

Discussion: on the difference between a Park Association/Board and Park District.

Garry Etter gave a brief history on how the Park Board got things done in the past. Park Board requests (e.g., wish list for improvement and how funds were allocated). In the past a list for consideration was presented to the council.

Mayor Murphy went over the present \$25,500 budget for the parks. He also said that old city code relating to a park board appears to have been dropped but could be reinstated.

## Topics:

### 1. Approval of Minutes 10-16-25

**Motion:** made by Carter seconded by Martrisch to approve the Public Works Meeting Minutes of 10-16-2025

**Motion:** passed with all in favor

### 2. Customer Service Agreement-Republic 139 N Dye

**Discussion:** Republic would like the Mayor to sign a Customer Service Agreement for the dumpster at 139 N Dye St,  
The need for a contract was questioned and is a signed contract really Needed?

It was recommended that the City Manager contact Republic and have all the city dumpsters put under one Agreement for efficiency.

### 3. DCEO Grant/North end Drainage Timeline

**Discussion:** on rebidding and grant funding.

David Hayes with Benton Engineering relayed to the Mayor, that if rebidding is done, DECO may pull \$200,000 from the grant.

A public hearing will be required (scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> of December).

The city will have to pass a resolution to show support of the additional funds.

DCEO is also requiring:

1. The city accept the bid from Ezell Excavating before the 31<sup>st</sup> of December.
2. Ezell must submit insurance certificates and bonds for the contract.
3. The city is to review the insurance certificates and bonds.
4. The contractor to submit shop drawings and start construction before the first of the year.
5. The project is to be completed by the start of the planting season. The city is to discuss with the landowners on when their planting season will start. At present, the projected planting season may be the 1<sup>st</sup> of March.

**Discussion** on hauling the dirt (approximately 6000 cubic yards) away.

Bertolino may have a local area near the jobsite where the dirt could go if it would save the city money.

### 4. Parks Discussed in Audience Comments

### 5. VSD and IGA

**Discussion** on ongoing disputes about the city's responsibility for water shutoffs in case of unpaid Sewer bills (approximately 200).

A review of the VSD ordinance found no explicit obligation for the city to perform water shutoffs.

The city's current intergovernmental agreement (IGA) specifies no requirement for debt collection or shutoffs on the VSD's behalf; this is valid until July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

Consideration of policy changes to clarify guidelines for water shutoffs due to weather and holidays, possibly using policies from other towns.

There was debate on whether and how to pursue a new agreement with the VSD after the current one expires.

There was frustration over the relationship history and the public's perception that disagreements have had a negative effect on the community.

Suggestions to consider having VSD handle all their own billing and customer service since it is possible for them to install Sewer Meters.

Some council members advocated for minimal collaboration others suggested continued dialogue for the customer's sake.

The council agreed and gave the Mayor the authorization to attempt to set up an exploratory meeting consisting of the Mayor, City Attorney, and the VSD President and one attorney regarding the possible future of agreements and shutoffs but were skeptic about a positive outcome.

Discussion on the community's frustration with the lack of transparency and oversight, over not just the Sanitation District but, also with the Ambulance District, and School Board.

There were suggestions to organize a town hall, to collect public feedback, concerns and questions, directly from the residents. With subsequent meetings inviting representatives (e.g., city, sanitation, school and, ambulance) to address these topics.

There was a consensus that the meetings should be organized with clear agendas to keep discussions civil and productive.

## **6. Dean Street**

The Dean Street Project is complete.

There was a recap of recent improvements on the Dean St. and associated alleys inconsistencies which were traced back to the engineering plans.

The Director of Operations expressed his dissatisfaction on the way the

engineering company handled the contract and problems.

There were complaints about project administration especially relating to the engineering contract missing critical planned elements which if added to the end of the contract would only lead to future problems and additional cost in which the city was not consulted.

Council members expressed their frustration and repeated issues suggesting seeking and reviewing historical project records from the engineering firm and discussed the possibility of switching to a different engineering company.

Concerns were expressed on the upcoming Drainage Project and what problems and additional cost may be incurred.

**Executive Session:**

**None**

**Additional:** None

**Motion:** made by Karrick seconded by Calloway to adjourn at 8:46 pm.

**Motion:** passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint  
City Clerk

Date Approved: