

Regular City Council Committee Meeting
City Of Virden
City Council Chambers
Monday December 1st, 2025

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, City Engineer Bill Sleeman and Attorney Joe Craven
- **Audience:** none

Approval of Agenda (12-01-25)

Motion: made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Approval of Meeting Minutes (11-03-25)

Approval of Bills Payable:

Approval of Treasurer's Report (10/25)

Approval of Water Report (11/25) and Gallons Report (10/24)

Request for Use of Public Property

1. Route 66 Centennial celebration dates were changed for this event from

October 9th and 10th to October 10th and 11th, 2026

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to approve the Consent Agenda.

Discussion: Mayor Murphy inquired if the payment to R. W. Hickman in the amount of \$22,990 was the full amount. It was confirmed by Karen Burgess that the \$22,990 was the full amount.

Motion: passed with all in favor

Reports of Supervisors

City Engineer:

1. Approve resolution of support for funding of the Northwest Bypass Drainage Project pending review by DCEO. The city will receive \$730,000 in the form of a grant from DCEO for the bypass project. The city of Virden will also have to commit approximately \$200,000 in local funds.

Motion: Made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter, to approve commitment of local funds resolution 2025-4 for the Virden Bypass Drainage Project in the amount of \$200,000.

Discussion: This motion is only for the resolution.

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

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Award the contract for the Northwest Drainage Bypass pending review by DCEO

1. After review of eight bids there was discussion on the contractors qualifications and the need for oversight, including cost and staffing for onsite engineering. Bill Sleeman reported the reference checks on Ezell Excavating were satisfactory in their past work; some concerns were noted such as distance and familiarity. There were some concerns about additional oversight cost (\$20,000-\$25,000 estimated). Critical engineering checkpoints, and lessons learned from prior projects were also discussed.

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Neighbors to approve the award of the contract for the Northwest Bypass Drainage Project to Ezell Excavating in the amount of \$923,287 pending review by DECO.

Discussion: Mayor Murphy inquired on the winter temperature and the curing of the concrete. Bill Sleeman stated that there are notations in the

specifications that covers this issue to protect the concrete.

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

Nayes: Karrick **Absent:** 0 **Abstain:** 0

Motion: passed

Additionally: The problems and concerns on the Dean St project was brought to the attention of Bill Sleeman. Although the project is completed, the Director of Operations stated he is not happy on the quality of the engineering and work performed (even though the work was done per engineering specifications).

Director of Operations:

1. Nothing currently

Chief of Police:

1. Nothing currently

City Office Manager:

1. Nothing currently

City Attorney:

1. Joe Craven gave an update on the houses located on South Springfield St and the lack of response from the insurance companies/banks and owners. He stated that it may be necessary to bring the matter before the court to obtain an order. On the 233 West Dean St house he is still waiting for the county to sign the deed.
2. Mayor Murphy asked about the next steps in regard to the Virden Sanitary District (VSD). A proactive approved process was discussed, and the Council concurred that the Attorneys should seek a hearing date.

Reports of City Officials

City Clerk: City Property List

1. The City Clerk reminded City Officials that an inventory of all city owned property costing \$100 or more is due by the end of December.

City Treasurer:

1. Nothing currently

Mayor:

1. Appoint Administrative Committee Chairperson

Mayor had accepted the resignation of the Administrative Committee Chairperson (Craig Neighbors) and recommend Joshua Karrick for the position

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Carter to appoint Joshua Karrick as the Admin Chair

Motion: passed with all in favor

Reports of Standing Committee

Finance: R.W Hickman FY2024-25 audit

1. **Motion:** made by Matrisch seconded by Karrick to approve the 2024-25 City Audit from R. W. Hickman as presented

Discussion: Mayor Murphy approved Karen Burgess' idea of seeking other Audit Companies.

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Tax Levy

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Matrisch to approve ordinance 25-17 Tax Levy for the city of Virden tax year 2025.

Discussion: The amounts approved will be reviewed and verified by Macoupin and Sangamon counties.

The levy is for: General Corporate Purposes \$96,750, Social Security taxes \$73,960, Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund \$42,750, Police Protection \$14,647, for a total amount of \$228,107.00.

Yeas: Calloway, Carter, Donley, Karrick, Matrisch, and Neighbors

Nayes: Bertolino

Absent: 0

Abstain: Boster

Motion: passed

Police:**1. Part-time dispatcher pay increase**

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Donley to approve the increase of the Part-time Dispatch pay from \$15.00 to \$17.00, then to \$18.00 when released to work on their own, to go into effect immediately.

Discussion: was done in the Police Committee

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. Old Hardee's building

A complaint received by Alderman Bertolino about a banging electrical door panel at the old Hardee's building. During his investigation he noted that several areas had appeared to have been vandalized. The Police Chief reported about a recent apprehension of two individuals however, he is finding it difficult to charge them due to the owner cannot be identified or located to sign a complaint. Bertolino stated he would do a minor fix to keep the door from banging. Boster wants to have Public works do the repair then the city could put a lien on the property.

Public Works:

1. Bertolino complimented and thanked the Public Works Department on their hard work doing snow removal from the streets and alleys after Virden received 13 inches of snow.

Administrative:**1. ICRMT Insurance Renewal Of \$142,022**

Payment to be paid 25% at signing and the balance in 6 equal payments.

Motion: made by Boster seconded by Donley to approve the ICRMT insurance renewal of \$142,022 at the 25/6 payment plan.

Discussion: on why the insurance did not go out for bid. After researching by Mayor Murphy and Alderman Karrick it was discovered that, if the bids are requested the present insurance company must be notified 90 days in advance. Karrick will have scheduled to start researching bid request in June 2026.

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

Nayes: Bertolino and Karrick, **Absent:** 0, **Abstain:** 0, **Motion:** passed

2. Approve BCBS renewal health insurance policy G532 BCE blue choice preferred gold PPO in the amount of \$924.63 per employee per month through American Central Insurance Services with the increase being funded 60% by the city and 40% by the employee.

Motion: made by Calloway seconded by Karrick to approve BCBS renewal health insurance policy G532 BCE blue choice preferred gold PPO in the amount of \$924.63 per employee per month through American Central Insurance Services with the increase being funded 60% by the city and 40% by the employee.

Discussion: This will increase the employee monthly contribution from \$80.03 to \$99 and some change. Per contract the city has to pay 60% and employees pay 40%

Motion: passed with all in favor

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Bertolino to enter into Executive session at 8:37 pm to approve Executive session minutes and Semiannual Review of Executive Session minutes.

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

Nayes: Boster, **Absent:** 0, **Abstain:** 0

Motion: passed

Executive Session:

1. ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Discussion of Minutes of closed meeting

Motion: made by Mayor Murphy seconded by Carter to approve Executive session Minutes of 11-03-25

Motion: passed with all in favor

2. ILCS 120/2(c)(21) Semi-annual review of minutes

Motion: made by Carter seconded by Matrisch to keep the Executive session minutes already approved sealed and not to release them (for year 2025).

Motion: passed with all in favor

Adjournment:

Motion: made by Karrick seconded by Carter to adjourn at 8:43pm.

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

Motion: passed with all in favor

Jonathan J. Myint
City Clerk

Date Approved: