**Regular City Council Meeting**

Official Proceedings

City of Virden, IL

Virden City Council Chambers

Monday, May 1, 2023

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor George Murphy on May 1, 2023, at 7:09.

**Swearing in of New Elected Council Members by City Clerk Shelly Boster**

* Alderperson Ward 1 Carolynne Calloway, Term: 2023-2027
* Alderperson Ward 2 Mark Bertolino, Term 2023-2027
* Alderperson Ward 3 Lisa Cunningham, Term 2023-2027
* Alderperson Ward 4 Evan Ibberson, Term 2023-2027

**Appointment of New Council Member for vacant Ward 3 seat.**

Appointment of Anthony Boster was made by Mayor Murphy to fill the vacant seat for Ward 3 for the remainder of the term.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Mitchell to approve the appointment of Anthony Boster to Ward 3 vacancy.

Appointment passed with all in favor.  ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

**Swearing in of Appointed Council Member by City Clerk Shelly Boster**

* Alderperson Ward 3 Anthony Boster, Term: remainder until 2025

**Attendance**

* **The following Council Members were present**: Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors
* **Absent:** None
* **Also present were** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Shelly Boster, Bookkeeper/Deputy Treasurer Barry Liss, Chief of Police Steven Snodgrass (late), Public Works Director Gary Etter (late), Office Manager Madonna Lackey, Attorney Don Craven, and Attorney Joe Craven
* **Guest:** Terry Davis, Joshua Ronan, Michael Maurer, and Judy Hendricks

**Comments from Audience**:

1. Terry Davis (Otter Lake Water Commission)
   1. Project for water tower will start week of labor day in September 2023 and completed October 27, 2023.
   2. Rt 104 project they are still procuring easements for that. We hope to have bids collected by December 2023 and start in April 2024.
   3. The quality of water is caused by algae bloom. In March we got a mark of 13 when tested. If below 20 will not notice the quality of the water. In April it peaked at 510, it is down to 100 now. They have used extra chemicals and UV. We have ordered a new anchor for the machine that has helped with water quality. It should be in on Thursday.

**REPORTS OF SUPERVISORS**

**City Engineer**: Not present

**Director of Operations**: None

**Chief of Police:** Mottershaw: Is Royell finished? Snodgrass: Yes. They just have a few odds and ends. Murphy: I was a little disappointed about the flow of traffic. Snodgrass: We were on a service call. We had two burglary calls. We hadn’t noticed the traffic.

Mottershaw: How will the clothing allowance work with the two new employees that went to academy? I was just wondering how it would work because if they don’t pass, they are no longer employed. Snodgrass: I wasn’t sure how you wanted to handle it. Normally they would get it on May 1. Ibberson: I would think that it would need to be given after they finish the academy.

**City Office Manager:** None

**City Attorney:**

1. Stoddard Street

D. Craven: City is the owner. The deed has been recorded.

1. Old Jed Building

D. Craven: We sent a 15-day letter. We did go ahead, and filed a suit, had them served and they have 30 days to respond.

1. Corner of Lincoln and Dye

Murphy: I received a call from a demolition person regarding the house that had a tree fall on it on the corner of Lincoln and Dye. He was inquiring about a demolition bond ordinance. Can you look into that? I think it is something that the city should have. It sounded like the insurance company had to put a bond down to ensure it would be taken down.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Clerk:** None

**City Treasurer:**  None

**Mayor:**

1. **Permission for Fred Britenstine Car Show to use the City Square (north & south sides) and Island on Saturday, June 17, 2023.**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Calloway to approve Fred Britenstine Car Show to use the City Square (north & south sides) and Island on Saturday, June 17, 2023.

Discussion: Murphy: I assume they need areas blocked off. They will need to coordinate with selling pork chops and adopt-a-pet that are also scheduled that day. Also, will need proof of insurance.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Approve committee appointments**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Boster to approve committee appointments for May 1, 2023-May 6, 2024.

Discussion: I plugged in new council members where the old members were. We will try this for a year.

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Mottershaw;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Approve other appointments**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Calloway to approve other appointments.

Discussion: There has been discussion on moving the FOIA officer but that has not been determined. I left it with Madonna at this time.

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Mottershaw;* ***Absent:*** *None*.

1. **Resignation/advertise for custodian.**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to approve advertising for part-time custodian with applications to be due on May 17th with interviews on May 18th.

Discussion: I received a resignation from Christina Williams as of May 5, 2023. Madonna: Where do we want to advertise? Mottershaw: Facebook and website.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Possible grant for pot holing machine.**

Murphy: We have been discussing getting a pot holing machine. I have discussed it with Benton and Associates. The USDA does have grants that we think this machine will qualify for. The grant would be up to $30,000.00

1. **Parks Initiative update.**

Murphy: Jim Wright and Lisa Cunningham were looking at talking to representative to get Virden declared as a distressed community. We had a meeting with Wayne Rosenthal. It sounded promising. Cunningham: Jim has reached out again to DNR and a few other legislative people. They are working on changing options. Murphy: I think we need to talk with Greg Ellis again to see if we want to move forward. Cunningham: Parks Initiative group raised $7,000.00 with trivia night and $700.00 when we were collecting on the corners. They are working hard to raise funds to help support.

1. **Contact Information**

Murphy: We have a contact sheet to fill out. Please fill this out with your information.

1. **Request from North Mac Ministerial Association to use bandstand on the square on Thursday, May 4, 2023, for National Prayer Day.**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Ibberson to approve North Mac Ministerial Association to use bandstand on the square on Thursday, May 4, 2023, for National Prayer Day.

Discussion: Mitchell: They will need proof of insurance. Murphy: They didn’t say if needed electricity. I will call on proof of insurance. Etter: I will check with them regarding electricity.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Supplemental MFT documents- 2023 Rock and Oil**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Boster to approve 2023 MFT Supplemental General Maintenance for $84,200.00.

Discussion: Mottershaw: Budget appropriations will include these amounts. Cunningham: The county is incorrect it says Morgan. Murphy: I will change it to Macoupin.

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Mottershaw;* ***Absent:*** *None*

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Finance:**

1. **CD Due in May**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino, to approve to cash in CD 70000012 from CNB bank and place back into general fund for the amount that it is on that day.

Discussion: None

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Calloway;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **CD Due in May**

Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Ibberson to invest $500,000.00 CD for 13mo special rate at 4.75% with Warren Boynton Bank at Modesto on condition to secure with bond with monthly interest payment made to the general fund. The signers for the CD will be George Murphy, Barry Liss, Gary Mottershaw, and Craig Neighbors.

Discussion: Mottershaw: We did not come to a recommendation in committee. Warren Boynton in Modesto is offering a 13 mo. CD rate of 4.75%. FNB in Virden is 1 yr. at 3%. Boster: FDIC $250,000.00 is guaranteed. Why are we placed in one bank, and do we know if they will insure over the FDIC amount? Mottershaw: $250,000.00 is guaranteed by FDIC. The bank will usually pledge a government bond to cover any amount over the FDIC amount. I spoke with Tristan at Warren Boynton, and they will for municipalities pledge to cover over FDIC amount.

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Calloway and Cunningham;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Budget Appropriations**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Mitchell to approve ordinance 2023-6 appropriation ordinance for fiscal year 2024 going from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2024.

Discussion: None

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

**Police:**

1. **None**

**Public Works:**

1. **Streets & Alleys:**
   1. **Advertise for summer help**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to approve advertising for summer for public works employment being June 1 through August 31 with applications being due by May 15th with interviews on May 18th.

Discussion: None

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Building & Grounds:**
   1. **None**
2. **Parks:**
   1. **Approval of tennis court bids**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to waive bidding on repairing of the tennis courts in East Park.

Discussion: Etter: The plan is to fill the cracks and go over with a 2-inch overlay. The estimate included painting. PH Broughton is known for their work over the others.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mitchell to accept PH Broughton’s bid for the repairing of the tennis court at East Park not to exceed $45,000.00.

Discussion: None

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

* 1. **Approval of bids for pavilions**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Mitchell to waive bidding on work of the pavilions on East and West Park.

Discussion: Boster: What does the repair entail? Bertolino: West Park strip the roof off, replace the purlins, and put new metal roof on at the West Park. At the East Park we are replacing the metal roof. Ibberson: Any electrical work? Bertolino: No nothing like that. Cunningham: What is the time frame? Mottershaw: We will have Etter contact them. We don’t have a time frame yet.

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Cunningham;* ***Absent:*** *None*

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to approve Iliana Steel to do the work on the pavilions for East and West Park not to exceed $60,000.00.

Discussion: We have worked with this company before, and Public Works feels comfortable with their work.

Motion passed with majority in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *Cunningham;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Water:**
   1. **Approval to purchase new water meters**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mitchell to approve the purchase of 48 new water meters not to exceed $11,000.00.

Discussion: Murphy: Is this from Midwest? Etter: Yes

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Miscellaneous:** 
   1. **None**

**Administrative:**

1. **Electric Rates**

Mottershaw: I want to take a closer look at this and discuss it at Admin committee meeting.

1. **House on Stoddard**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to approve public works to demolish and haul off the house at 135 Stoddard Street not to exceed $10,000.00.

Discussion: Ibberson: Is there a reason for a trackhoe over doing it with a backhoe? Etter: It is easier to get up on the material and move around in the tight space.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

**Other Business:**

1. **None**

**Executive Session:**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Bertolino to enter executive session to discuss buying and selling of property at 8:22 pm.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

1. **Buying and selling of property**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to exit executive session at 8:55 pm.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

**Adjournment:**

Motion made by Boster seconded by Calloway to adjourn at 8:58 pm.

Motion passed with all in favor. ***Ayes:*** *Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Ibberson, Mitchell, Mottershaw, and Neighbors* ***Nays:*** *None;* ***Absent:*** *None*

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Shelly Boster

City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: 6/5/2023