

Regular City Council Meeting
Official Proceedings
City of Virden, IL
Virden City Council Chambers
Monday June 3, 2024

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor George Murphy at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

- **The following Council Members were present:** Calloway, Mottershaw, Mitchell, Bertolino, Neighbors and Boster

- **Absent:** None

- **Also, present were:** Mayor George Murphy, City Office Manager/Deputy City Clerk Karen Burgess, Police Chief Steven Snodgrass, Public Works Director Gary Etter, Attorney Don Craven and Attorney Joe Craven

- **Guest:** Roderick Boulanger, Aaron Matrisch and Mike Marsaglia

Approval of Agenda (6-3-2024):

Murphy said on Finance, the non-union employee raises, he'd like to do that after executive session. Then under Water, the contract with VSD, he'd like to do that after executive session also. Mottershaw says under Finance to add discussion on CD Renewal. Motion made by Mitchell seconded by Neighbors to approve the Agenda (6-3-2024) as amended. Discussion: None
Motion passed with all in favor. **Ayes:** *Bertolino, Calloway, Mitchell, Neighbors, Boster, and Mottershaw;* **Nayes:** *None;* **Absent:** *None*

Approve Consent Agenda:

Mottershaw would like to remove Bills Payable. He has 4 of them to talk about. Mitchell says the Methodist Church is going to have a BBQ truck over there where the legion has their pork chops. Murphy asked if it would interfere with theirs because they are on Saturdays. No.

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Regular Meeting 5/6/24)**

- **Approval of Bills Payable:**

- **Treasurer's Report:**

- **Water Report (2024 Gallons report and 2024 Collections report):**

- **Requests for use of Public Property:**
 - Methodist Church wants to reserve island for the following days:
 - Friday June 28th from 11am to 1:30pm
 - Friday July 12th from 11am to 1:30pm

Twyfords BBQ truck will be selling. Sponsored by the church. They want the space where the legion cooks chops.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Bertolino to approve the Consent Agenda other than the bills payable.

Discussion: None

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

Bills Payable:

- Mottershaw talked to Don Craven about one of his bills. They got the labor rates wrong on Joe's hourly rate. He says to go ahead and approve to pay them once we get the corrected amount.
- Prairieland Title sent us a bill and doesn't have much on it. It's \$300. He thinks we need to find out what that's about. Murphy says we added 3 properties for them to do after we had the others done.
- Midwest meter we have a bill here for 56 meters that were ordered. We need to discuss the ones that are on back order. Pokey says he already looked into it today.
- What did we end up voting up to on the Water Loss search? Was it \$1,500? It sounds right. We already had one bill for about \$1,500. We just got another bill for \$1,460. Murphy says he doesn't have a problem holding that until next month.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Neighbors to approve bills payable with the exception of Benton and Associates invoice in the amount of \$1,460 and approve paying Craven and Craven bill once corrected.

Discussion: None

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

Comments from Audience:

1. Aaron says he was curious about the open seat for Ward 4. He called about it 3 months ago following up on it. Murphy asked for his number so he could talk to him about it.
2. Roderick says he owns 331 W. Holden, and he is going to start working on it again. He's been gone a while, and he plans on being a productive member of society. Bertolino asked how long it would take him. He says it took 2 ½ years to build the one on Dye and Holden. Bertolino asked if he's going to mow the grass there. He says yes. Don says he thinks there are liens on that property. He says to send him a bill and he will pay on it. The first thing he plans on doing is mowing and then get the roof lined out. Don asked for his number and will let him know what they are. Mottershaw asked him once he knows what they were to contact the Mayor and Chief to let them know how he plans on handling them.
3. Mike wants to know what the status is on the agreement with the Sanitary District. Murphy says we will be discussing it in executive session. Legal issues. We are not doing their billing right now because they haven't signed a contract. The bills that just went out reflect that. Mike also asked about the empty seat. Murphy says he is working on it. Mike brought up according to State Statute, you have 60 days to fill it and it's been more than 60 days. Discussion went back and forth about appointments. Don says to move on.

REPORTS OF SUPERVISORS

City Engineer:

1. None

Director of Operations:

1. None

Chief of Police:

1. None

City Office Manager:

1. Bertolino says he has a question for Karen. Karen says she might have an answer. He wanted to know how the archives guy went. She says she got it back to where she can get rid of a bunch of stuff. She called Affordable Shred, and she is waiting on another tote. Once she has time, she will start moving a lot of records. Bertolino asked if it was good to have him come in. Yes, 2 ½ hours. Bertolino says if she would like help when she gets it lined out, he'd be more than happy to help. She found out there was stuff supposed to be disposed of last time that wasn't.

City Attorney:

1. Sanitary District, but it will be discussed in closed session. Muphy says the thing you sent for the Carlinville Hospital, we just need to send to them and have them sign and notarize it. Yes and for the next month an ordinance considering the annexation.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS

City Clerk:

1. None

City Treasurer:

1. Mottershaw says he talked to Karen and Barry is going to do the Treasurer's Report when he gets back. He asked Karen to print it, put it in everyone's mailbox and email everyone.

Mayor:

1. **Hire part-time summer help for Public Works**

Murphy would like to hire for part-time summer help. He'd like to appoint Jordan Hampton.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to approve the appointment of Jordan Hampton as part-time summer help for Public Works at \$14.00 an hour effective immediately.

Discussion: None

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

Murphy would also like to appoint Jacob Bickel.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to approve the appointment of Jacob Bickel as part-time summer help for Public Works at \$14.00 an hour effective immediately.

Discussion: Mitchell asked about getting it straight with the bank about cashing summer help checks. Boster said he thought we had to have direct deposit. Mottershaw says they would have to have an account at the bank. Murphy thought any new employee going further has to be a direct deposit. Yes.

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

2. Consider help with grant for demolition

Murphy says we have a problem building on Jackson St. The owners basically won't take ownership of it and do the right thing. He's been looking for grants. There has been one that has come up called Rebuild Illinois Downtown and Main Street. It appears that that building would fall under a possibility for this grant. First the city would have to own it, then decide to demolish it and then put parking there or a park or something to make it a public place. This grant he would need help with, so he called David Hays. Murphy asked if we got an estimate on tear down if that would affect the grant. Dave said no, you'd need to get some kind of estimate first. The problem with this grant is we would have to pay 25% of it. He didn't ask Dan how much it would be to write up the grant. He doesn't think it'd be over \$2,000. He asked the attorneys if we go after a grant for something like this is that taking responsibility for it. No, we recognize what's there. We don't have to own the property to apply for the grant, just pay Benton and Associates for writing the grant. Bertolino asked if there is any money in the budget for it. No, it wasn't put in the budget. Bertolino asked if this would be awarded in 2024. Murphy says generally speaking when they award these grants they give you at least 1 year – 1 ½ years to spend the money. Mottershaw says we got that \$131,000 grant but budgeted \$175,000 and we appropriated \$200,000. Bertolino says we might as well. Murphy says the first step is to get an estimate and then approve spending up to a certain amount with Benton and Associates to apply for the grant. Murphy asked about getting Triple Crown to do an estimate. Pokey said he could contact the guy who did the building for Wonaroski, Triple Crown and he doesn't know about Rick Flowers. Mitchell says you might want to check with Paco from Girard. His real name is Chad.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to approve Benton and Associates to write grant application for Rebuild Illinois to tear down the Jed's building to spend up to \$2,500.

Discussion: None

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

3. Take action to further pursue water loss solution

We had a meeting with Gordan Eden. There seems to be 100 gal per minute un-accounted for. Pokey says Gordan believes it could possibly be a ¾ inch line running full blast, a crack in a 2 inch, or a hole in a 4 inch. Basically, he says we have a leak. He also thinks there is a problem with the meters too and at the end of their life. This is to just have them do more work to try and figure out where this leak or these leaks might be. He thought he could get it done in a few days with the help of the city. He thought he could get it done for \$5,000. We talked about spending up to \$7,500. Our crew is going to try and narrow it down by shutting off valves.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mottershaw to allow up to \$7,500 to continue the search for answers to the water loss through Gordan Eden.

Discussion: None

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

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance:

1. Budget and Appropriation

Adjustments were made for the non-union raises and the cuts were made to each department. Each department getting raises, we made cuts in that department to cover the raises. Boster asked if we could go over this after the non-union raises because we don't know if that will pass. Yes.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to approve Ordinance number 2024-5 Appropriation Ordinance Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the City of Virden, Illinois.

Discussion: None

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

2. Amazon pay by invoice

Mottershaw makes a recommendation to give it a try.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to allow the city to use Amazon pay by invoice and to make it nontaxable.

Discussion: The main advantage is you can order things from Amazon through Amazon, but you don't have to pay for it at the time with the credit card. Mottershaw says we will have the normal vendor too. Karen told him she would check at the time she needs to order something she will see which one has the best price.

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

3. Non-Union employee raises

Steven was \$2.00 and everyone else was 75¢. Boster would like to remove Ryan and vote on him separately, so Calloway can vote.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mitchell to approve pay increase as of June 3rd for Steven Snodgrass at \$2.00 an hour, Dave Bounds at 75¢ an hour, Gary Etter at 75¢ an hour, Jessica Selhime at 75¢ an hour and Karen Burgess at 75¢ an hour.

Discussion: Bertolino says we work months on this and because someone gets their feelings hurt or whatever with this pay situation, we always add something to this thing. He talked about the council turning down a pay raise for an employee because it isn't May. May came we gave raises and spent time on a budget. Now it's June and we are doing raises again taking money out of the budget to accommodate the raises. To be able to do this, he thinks the budget must be padded per se. We say one thing one time and another another time. Mottershaw says he's starting to have second thoughts about where he stands on this based on that.

Motion passed with majority in favor. **Ayes:** *Mitchell, Calloway, Boster, and Mayor Murphy;* **Nayes:** *Bertolino, Mottershaw, and Neighbors;* **Absent:** *None*

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mitchell to approve pay raise increase as of June 3rd for Ryan Calloway at 75¢ an hour.

Discussion: Bertolino says the same comment as before. Boster says to Calloway that this has no benefit to her individually. He doesn't think she should have to abstain from it. Murphy says if it doesn't affect her household, she doesn't have to abstain.

Motion passed with majority in favor. **Ayes:** *Mitchell, Neighbors, Calloway, Boster and Mayor Murphy;* **Nayes:** *Bertolino and Mottershaw;* **Absent:** *None*

4. CD Renewal

Karen called Mottershaw that it got lost in the shuffle to put the CD renewal on the agenda that we

got coming due on the 16th. Don says to do a special meeting on Thursday.

Police:

1. Transmission Repair

It was sent to Main Street, and they said it was misfiring due to the transmission. Mitchell took it to Sterling. He test drove it and put it on the machine and said it was the torque convertor. In order to replace it, it takes 11 hours to pull it, put a new one in and put it back together. Anywhere from \$1,500 to \$1,700. He's asking for \$2,000 just in case. Mitchell said he could get it in the middle of June, but if we wanted to put it in one of his holes up there and if there is a cancellation, he could get it in sooner. Bertolino wants to know if it's a new one or refurbished. It's new.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Mitchell to approve up to \$2,000 to be spent on the marked Explorer to replace the torque convertor through Sterling in New Berlin.

Discussion: None

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

Public Works:

1. Streets & Alleys:

a.

2. Building & Grounds:

a.

3. Water:

a. Contract with VSD

Talking about it in executive session.

b. Meter Replacement

Tabled until Thursday

4. Parks:

a. None

5. Miscellaneous:

a. None

Administrative:

1. Approve Frontier Boring Permit

Mottershaw is recommending for it to be tabled until next month. Pokey had to shut them down today because they were working in an area that hadn't been permitted yet. They also need to change from one side of the street to another. They have to give updated plans for that. Don says this isn't going to end well for them.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to table the Frontier boring permit until next city council meeting.

Discussion: None

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

2. Purchase of 709 E Jackson

Mottershaw says for closing we have to write a check for \$3263.70.

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to draft a check for \$3,263.70 to Prairieland Title for purchase of 709 E. Jackson on Wednesday.

Discussion: None

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

Other Business:

1. None

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Mitchell to enter executive session at 7:56 pm to approve executive session minutes, to discuss collective bargaining, pending litigation and appointment.

Discussion: None

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

Executive Session:

1. Approval of Executive Session meeting minutes (5ILCS 120/2 (c) (21))
2. Collective Bargaining (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(2))
3. Pending Litigation (5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(11))

Motion made by Murphy seconded by Neighbors to exit executive session at 8:57pm.

Discussion: None

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

Adjournment:

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to adjourn at 9:09pm.

Discussion: None

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

Karen Burgess
Deputy City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: