**Regular City Council Meeting**

Official Proceedings

City of Virden, IL

Virden City Council Chambers

Monday, July 3, 2023

Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor George Murphy on July 3, 2023, at 7:00.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

* **The following Council Members were present**: Bertolino, Boster, Calloway, Cunningham, Mottershaw, and Neighbors
* **Absent:** Ibberson and Mitchell
* **Also present were** Mayor George Murphy, City Clerk Shelly Boster, Deputy Treasurer/Bookkeeper Barry Liss, Chief Snodgrass, City Office Manager Madonna Lackey, Director of Public Works Gary Etter, Attorney Don Craven and Attorney Joe Craven
* **Guest:** Terry Davis, Mike Marsgalia, and Tess Lane

**Approval of Agenda (7-3-2023):**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Calloway to approve the agenda as amended (7-3-2023).

Discussion: Addition of agenda item #6 Fiber wire in City Square park under Mayor as discussion only. Remove #1 under Admin.

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

**Approval of Meeting Minutes (Regular Council Meeting 6-5-2023)**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Calloway to approve Regular Council Meeting Minutes for 6-5-2023).

Discussion: None

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

**Approval of Bills Payable:**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Calloway to approve bills payable.

Discussion: Line item 01-02-4002S needs to come out of Safe Routes to school in amount of $6,819.34. Whalen Tree service for $3,500 part comes from corporate.

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

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to approve treasurer’s report for May 2023

Discussion: None

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

**Water and Gallons Report (May 2023 Gallons report and June 2023 Collections report):**

Motion made by Mottershaw second by Calloway to approve May 2023 Gallons and June 2023 Collections report.

Discussion: None

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

**Comments from Audience**:

1. Tess Lane: I came in to see how these meetings were run. I was also wondering about the house across the street from me and when it can be taken down.
2. Terry Davis: The water tastes better.

**REPORTS OF SUPERVISORS**

**City Engineer**: Not present

**Director of Operations**: None

**Chief of Police:** None

**City Office Manager:** None

**City Attorney:**

1. New Existence (Old Jed’s Building): The city has sued New Existence to fix it or flatten it. A letter was received from their attorney stating the LLC does not have the money to take it down and would like to hand over the property to the city. LLC has no personal liability with no other equity or monies. It is a building that is either going to fall in on itself and may take surrounding buildings with it or it have it taken down. It is a no-win situation. The city has declared it as a safety issue and if the city doesn’t do anything the city could be liable. Dilapidated buildings/houses are going to be discussed in the Administration meeting regarding how the city wants to proceed.
2. Cat Property: An owner is opening his home to cats. We did not make any movement in courts regarding this issue in the past. There is not a place to take them. The only option is to take to have spayed/neutered with the city paying for it and they have to be released back. Previously we did have an order that he had to close the doors. This trailer is at the corner of Masterson St and East Hill Street. The attorney will take it back to court and ask the judge for a site visit.

**REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS**

**City Clerk:** None

**City Treasurer:**

June Treasurer Report the water cash for the month of June was $73,685. Two months year to date the water cash is $131,950. Water operating balance is $82,845 as of noon today. The Sanitary District was paid $68,000 plus a Otter Lake bill for $44,000. Court account has about $55,000. Currently there is not enough cash to transfer to the general fund to pay Sanitary and Otter Lake. We are not generating enough to cover operating expenses. This will be discussed further in Public Works.

**Mayor:**

1. **Request from Katrina Spencer with Virden Church of the Brethren to hold a “tent meeting” a traveling minister praying for small communities and their people on the Square on August 26, 2023, from 5:00-8:00 pm.**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Calloway to approve request from Katrina Spencer with Virden Church of the Brethren to hold a “tent meeting” a traveling minister praying for small communities and their people on the Square on August 26, 2023, from 5:00-8:00 pm. to include electricity if needed with proof of insurance.

Discussion: No rain out date given. It will be two tents one 20x30 and one 15x15

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

1. **Request from American Legion Auxiliary to hold “Taco Monday” on the Island on September 18, 2023, and October 16, 2023, from 3:30 until sold out.**

Motion made by Boster seconded by Calloway to approve request from American Legion Auxiliary to hold “Taco Monday” on the Island on September 18, 2023, and October 16, 2023, from 3:30 until sold out to with proof of insurance.

Discussion: None

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

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1. **Request from American Legion Auxiliary to hold “Fall Festival” (picnic, bring your own games, snacks, drawing, pumpkin painting, and hopefully much more- All Free) on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from noon to 4:00 pm on the square.**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Calloway to approve request from American Legion Auxiliary to hold “Fall Festival” on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from noon to 4:00 pm on the square to with proof of insurance.

Discussion: They will be responsible to clean up after

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

1. **Declare 135 E. Stoddard St. property as surplus property.**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Mottershaw to declare 135 E. Stoddard St. property as surplus property.

Discussion: Cole Excavating did the work, and it looks great and was very quick.

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

1. **Hire custodian.**

The person hired has backed out. This will be placed on public works committee meeting.

1. **Fiber wire in park (added to agenda informational only)**

Per Royell the city can set up an account for fiber wire. We will get a monthly charge fee. Chief Snodgrass mentioned that a CAT 6 wire could be run from the Virden Police Departments internet to avoid having to place fiber wire and open another account. This will be discussed further at Public Works.

**REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

**Finance:**

1. **Water fund.**

See Reports of City Officials: City Treasurer

1. **Employee payroll check cashing policy at Prairie State Bank and Trust**

Prairie State Bank and Trust called asking permission of employee can cash payroll check. It is their policy that the individual needs to have an account with them to cash any checks. This will be discussed at Finance meeting.

**Police:**

1. **Post Road and Illini Trail stop signs and speed limit signs (2 each)**

Terry Davis: The corner is a problem. The person that the driveway is straight off that turn does not stop and goes straight ahead. She has almost T-boned people before. Also, by the time people make the turn they are in the other lane of traffic because they are not coming to a stop. Word of mouth isn’t going to stop semi. There needs to be no semi signs.

D. Craven: To limit parking and through traffic that would need to be changed by ordinance. To change the speed limit that would need to be changed by ordinance.

Motion made by Boster seconded by Calloway to approve 2 stop signs to be placed northbound lane of Illini Trail and eastbound lane of Post Rd.

Discussion: Alderman Mottershaw stated he feels it is the semi’s that are the issue. A sign for no semi’s should be the first step. Terry Davis: It is an uncontrolled intersection. If there is an accident will the city be liable since it is an uncontrolled intersection. D. Craven: No

Motion failed. ***Ayes:*** *Boster and Calloway,* ***Nays:*** *Bertolino, Cunningham, Mottershaw, and Neighbors;* ***Absent:*** *Ibberson and Mitchell;* ***Abstain:*** *None*

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Calloway to approve two 20 mph signs to be placed upon entering Post Rd and entering Illini Trail. Ordinance will be drawn up at the next council meeting.

Discussion: None

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

**Public Works:**

1. **Streets & Alleys:**
   1. **None**
2. **Building & Grounds:**
   1. **None**
3. **Parks:**

**None**

1. **Water:**
   1. **Declare old jetting machine as surplus property**

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Neighbors to declare old jetting machine as surplus property and place in auction at Ladage Auction House.

Discussion: None

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

1. **Miscellaneous:** 
   1. **Purchase of mosquito spray and weed killer**

The city uses 12-15 gallons per spray and currently sprays on Thursdays. We currently have one ¾ of a drum in stock. Inquiring to get two more 55-gal drums of the mosquito spray at $3,850. Also, would like more weed killer. It runs $200 per 5-gal pail. We use this for parking lots. Suggested to purchase five 5-gal pails for $1,000.

Motion made by Bertolino seconded by Boster to purchase of two 55-gal drums of mosquito spray at $3,850 and five 5-gal pails of knock-out weed killer at $1,000 for total price of $4,850.

Discussion: None

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

**Administrative:**

1. **None**

**Other Business:**

1. **None**

Motion made by Mottershaw seconded by Boster to enter executive session to discuss buying and selling of property at 8:08 pm.

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

**Executive Session:**

1. **Buying and Selling of Property- 5ILCS 120/2(c)(6)**

During executive session, motion made by Murphy seconded by Mottershaw to exit executive session at 8:14 pm.

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

**Adjournment:**

Motion made by Calloway seconded by Boster to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

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

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Shelly Boster

City Clerk

Date Minutes Approved: August 7, 2023