

# **City of Virginia**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Called to Order: 7pm

Roll Call: Martin, Andrews, Stanbridge, and Shaner all answered present. Behrends and Werner was not present.

Agenda Approval: Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the agenda and Alderman Shaner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Giovannini stated we are very close to getting the audit report, once received, they will do subsequent filings for the TIF reports, etc.

### **Guests**

#### **Public comment:**

Eric Whitford, Tanner Force, Dennise Minor, Pat Noltensmeier

### **Monthly Reports**

**Police Chief:** no report

**Fire Chief:** 2 wrecks on 78, served Biscuits and Gravy Saturday morning of the BBQ, Havana National Bank donated \$1875 in honor of their 150<sup>th</sup> year celebration. June 21<sup>st</sup> will flush hydrants around town.

**Superintendent of Water Report (Dylan Cook):** hypo pumps coming in, one more thing on EPA checklist to complete and then will be done with that. Mayor Clark stated he delivered response on Thursday at the EPA

**Superintendent of Street Report (John Ratliff):**no report

**Park Board:** Alderman Andrews stated the soda machines/slushie machines have been worked on and are now up and running. There is a new hotdog roller for concessions, will get another for pool. Pickles, popsicles, and nacho cheese cups for chips will be available this year at the concession stand. Park is looking to purchase an ice machine for up to \$200. An incident occurred that someone tried to light the dinosaur park on fire, there is an investigation pending. They have access to review the cameras. A 3 wheeler and tractor for the diamonds need to be purchased, the current ones haven't worked in a few

years. All 25 trees have been planted. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the Spooktacular this year, log cabin days will be the weekend before. Tiling the fields has been discussed and looking to do that after the seasons are over. Doyle Plumbing is working on the motor/pump for the pool, hopefully opening the end of next week but no firm date as of now. The pool will charge \$4 admission with 3 years and under free. Fees for parties have increased slightly depending on the length. They will get AC for the break room, water is on, lifeguards are being hired, speaker for music/announcements, new pool rule sign, looking at pool grant. Next board meeting: June 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm.

Mayor Clark stated let the record show Alderwoman Werner arrived

**TIF:** Alderwoman Martin stated no applications out right now, don't have money yet. Should be getting total for the year soon. TIF program started in 2011, depending on when tax funds were counted, 2034 or 2035 when that will end, can appeal to IL assembly can extend another 12 years. Have good projects going right now. Mayor Clark asks when we need to appeal? Alderwoman Martin not sure. Mayor Clark states Beardstown extended their years ago but it is older than ours. Around \$157k last year, should be a little more than that this year.

#### **Attorneys Report**

Attorney Laegeler stated need to discuss grocery tax, if want to extend need to pass ordinance, set to sunset this year. Return to work resolution is required, will have that prepared for next meeting.

#### **Mayors Report**

Mayor Clark states there is a alcohol license application from Cass County Fair for June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> for the concert and rodeo. Asks council consensus, council is fine with issuing. Aveyo Solar wants a permit for tomorrow to walk the streets and see if they can sell their product. Got 3 IDs and a picture of all 4. Alderwoman Martin asks if we can get that on FB so that people know. No objection to this. Caseys, Little Mexico, Caraway came in with renewals and they have been issued

#### **Aldermanic Reports**

**Werner police** committee reviewed expectations of positions, \$24 an hour part time wage, will review current ordinance and discuss again at next meeting. Needed more accurate numbers. Reviewed police squad status, Durango possibly need new battery, need new tire. Taurus having issues with lights and radios draining battery, due to sitting an extended amount of time suggested an oil change. Will discuss current applicants further pending openings. Part Time job posting and Chief of police, wants to review previous posting and let council review.

#### **Behrends**

**Shaner** ditch on Broadway has standing water, talked to guys to cut a ditch to cut the water. Resident asked about sidewalk, city pays for materials and homeowner pays with the labor. Beardstown St storm main busted, dug it up and will finish soon. Kent Andrews house main break, will get down there and put patch down. IDOT speed sign still out there, discussed if anyone notices signs that faded/damaged/broken can take a piece of yellow ribbon around it. Culvert on Union St is messed up and will try and get it fixed this summer. Gridley by packing house, will put it out for bids and possible start next summer (concrete). Need to get two salt spreaders, old dump truck sold and getting another small dump truck as it is on its last leg.

**Stanbridge** postponed meeting for water/sewer, thank all the volunteers and city employees for the BBQ, and thank to the BBQ committee another stellar weekend

**Andrews** ordinance meeting postponed as well. Looked into grocery tax, it's been recommended by former treasurer it is already there and should remain. Need to have that done by Oct. Thank streets guys, they did a great job cleaning up, fixed holes and detriments for handicap access. Seeing a lot of stuff in Ward 2 where grass is not cut/lawn taken care of, need to pay attention to that.

**Martin** gotten complaints about barricade still there on Illini/Main, they are getting sick of it being there. May 19<sup>th</sup> Dylan went to Tommys property and they found the problem, need to get that wrapped up. Martin stated she has done research on what other cities pay for chiefs/workers, very interesting so will have good police meeting when Behrends gets back. Building: had a leak, stains on ceiling not from roof, leak around the cupola, company from Athens came today, caulking is worn out with weather so got that sealed today. Hope that solves problem, then will address replace tiles. Got 2 estimates, lowest \$9100 with 45 years' experience, will have to be on next months agenda to approve expenditure. Lights balanced out in front office and hallway; Steve Hill put LED lighting in office. Replacing council room with LED lighting and use what bulbs have left in offices. List of maintenance small items that are being worked on right now like painting. Talked about starting maintenance, paint a few rooms every year to catch up. HVAC needs to be on regular maintenance program as well.

#### City Clerk

**Nothing to report**

#### Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2025-6 – An Ordinance Establishing the Position of Deputy Mayor**
- B. Appoint Deputy Mayor**

With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Alderman Shaner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The council appointed Alderman Kent Andrews as Deputy Mayor, Alderman Shaner made the motion and Alderwoman Stanbridge seconded. The vote was unanimous with Alderman Andrews abstaining.

#### Old Business

- A. Discuss and Consider Damage to Prairie Rows Quilting and Crafting**

Eric Whitford still waiting on second quote, haven't heard back from them, has one more can contact that is working in town. Will have more information. Other person will send quote as well, should arrive in the mail. Mayor Clark states when you secure your quotes, will do TIF app. Whitford asks if he will need to provide funds ahead of time. Mayor Clark states that is how TIF works. Alderwoman Martin asks what is city liability? Mayor Clark states Littleton did demo and we don't have contract with them. Attorney states Littleton's is liable for the cost, need to start to file a demand against Littleton's for damage caused during project, Whitford needs to do that. Alderwoman Martin states city and TIF contract with Littleton's because they hauled the debris, it was much cheaper with that. Not sure where record is. Attorney states this is a dispute between Eric and Littleton as they were an independent contractor therefore they are liable. Whitford stated the city impounded/condemned the building that was attached to his

building. Whitford states why should he have to hire a lawyer to fight Littleton's when the city initiated the demo? Whitford states the city is saying he needs to go through the TIF board and then he will incur costs. Attorney responded that it would be different if it was a city employee and have to go after the company who caused the damage. Whitford concerned about the expense out of his pocket for this, don't have financial reserves to fund that. Still needs to wait for two more bids, council can table for now and then discuss later. But would like the council to think if it was councils' business was damaged how they would feel if they had to pay out of pocket. Mayor Clark states will table and discuss later, continue to get your bids.

#### New Business

**A. 1% Grocery Tax (January 1 to December 31)**

With nothing further to discuss, Alderman Andrews made a motion to approve the 1% grocery tax and Alderwoman Stanbridge seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**B. Right of Way on Creek (Beardstown St. to Main St.)**

Mayor Clark asks attorney if had a chance to work on this? Mayor Clark states we have some utilities that go along the creek. Attorney states need to identify property owners and need to approach them individually. Alderwoman Martin asks we don't have right of way? Mayor Clark replied not that he is aware of. Alderwoman Martin states there has been extensive sewer work down there, there was a hole that washed, north of Health Dept, east side of bridge, should have an easement. Alderwoman Martin states she can see the pipes so knows it is city pipes, they are eroded. Alderwoman Stanbridge can check some deeds. Mayor Clark states that McClure told him he wanted this because we didn't have it. Attorney asks how long has it been there? Mayor Clark states some has been there like 50 years. Attorney asks if there is anything that hasn't been there for 30 years? Mayor Clark isn't sure. Alderwoman Stanbridge will let Attorney know

**C. COBRA Letter**

Attorney drafted a letter terminating benefits, if no pay it gets terminated. Unpaid for May and June. April payment was just paid. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge approved the termination of COBRA benefits and Alderwoman Martin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Approve Hiring of Public Works Director**

Clark asks Force if wants to be public works director. Force stated that he accepts the position. Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the hiring of Tanner Force as Public Works Director and Alderman Andrews seconded. Alderman Shaner and Alderwoman Werner voted yes; Alderwoman Martin voted no. Vote stands 4-1 in favor.

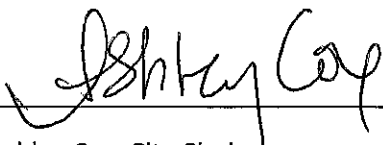
**E. Appoint Public Works Director**

Appoints Tanner Force as Public Works Director

At 742pm, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to adjourn the council meeting and Alderman Shaner seconded. Motion was unanimous.



Steve Clark, Mayor



Ashley Cox, City Clerk