

City of Virginia

August 11th, 2025

Regular Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 7pm

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Not present

Guests

Eric Whitford, Barbara Nowack, Terry Ayres, Pat Noltensmeier, Ronnie Paul

Public comment:

Brenda Nowack:

Nowack stated she is from Ashland and has been a grant writer for 40 years. She works with municipalities, Indian tribes, dept of defense, railroad companies, etc. She needs an idea of what kind of grant that we are interested in. Will then look for grants that are available and what you are eligible for. Grant writer tries to make sure the loopholes filled; grant writer will work with you to make sure that you are following the grant budget and helps with the paperwork. Alderwoman Martin states we need to replace a large piece of playground equipment at the park. Alderwoman Martin asks if Nowack has ever done the safe passage to school grant, Nowack replied no. Alderwoman Martin stated housing is a big one, EPA is a big one too, we have a lot of work to do to bring things back up to where they should be. Alderman Andrews asks if there is a listing of grants that are available? Nowack responded that time is important, a lot of times they will come out and the deadline is two weeks or so. The state comes out every Friday with a list of grants. Alderwoman Martin states there are a lot of seminars on them, but they are time consuming. Alderwoman Martin suggests to pay someone a couple of hours to look for grants and we would get that money back if we got the grants. Alderwoman Martin states each department needs to think about their needs and what needs to be done in the future and then look for grants. Nowack states you have to have special codes to get into the federal grant system but she was not able to get in it because it is tied to someone's telephone. Alderwoman Martin thanks Nowack for the work she did with helping to get the police grant.

Terry Ayers:

Ayers stated Beardstown St vehicles are parked on both sides and it's hard to get through. Ayers states it should be a through street not where you have to stop. There are all kinds of traffic down Beardstown St.

Monthly Reports

Police Chief: Trying to get feet wet, training and meeting with other chiefs and sheriffs and get back in the swing of things

Fire Chief: wreck at Shiloh, gas leak with Ameren, car fire, 2 lift assists

Public Works Director: planned to remove 5 trees around the city, committee was informed for Illini, Cheston, Cass, Job, and Union. Talked to Dylan Okeefe, he will take them down. Bids for hot water pressure washer, 4 bids, 1 from Home Depot stuck out easy clean brand. It would be usable for water and street dept, just looking for approval

Park Board: Alderman Andrews states the pool is open, fairly busy, leak not as bad as what they thought, they are going to go through Labor Day, afterschool and weekends to try and make up some time. They are planning the Spooktacular right now, ball diamonds are good. Next meeting: August 20th 7pm

TIF: no new applications, 440 got their last payment, Snedeker's still have a payment coming this year, no total yet as to how much money will have, will know after Sept

Attorneys Report

Attorney Laegeler states she is looking forward to working with the new chief and getting ordinance compliance back on track

Mayors Report

Mayor Clark stated that Snedeker doing 2025 fall client conference Sept 24/25 in Peoria. Alderman Behrends is interested in this; all is paid for by SRM. Mayor Clark wants to appoint a personnel committee, first job to scrub employee handbook, Andrews, Behrends, and Stanbridge will be the committee.

Aldermanic Reports

Werner have a new chief in town and looking forward to what he will bring to Virginia

Behrends asking about the manhole, property where weeds are taller than a standing person

Shaner boys are working hard. Martin states potholes on villa drive. Potholes need to be refilled.

Stanbridge not present

Andrews thanking everyone for a good job they are doing, glad we got a team assembled.

Martin firehouse: all tucked pointed, found roof damage where guttering pulled away from wall. A truck had hit the inside wall and there was a little damage there. Mayor approved additional work to be done

while they were there. Got everything repaired, now ready to scrap. Have volunteers coming to paint, Jason French and Tommy Knous will assist with this. Scraping: want to hire someone to do that? It is hand scraping. Or do we want to see if can get volunteers? Stock stated they could probably get volunteers from the fire department. Alderwoman Martin thought maybe could use some city guys too. Will be a good expense to prime and paint. Mayor Clark states to see what we can do to get people to volunteer. Will paint on Sept 6th. Attorney Laegeler states will provide volunteers with a release so that the city isn't liable if something would happen. Mayor Clark asks Attorney Laegeler to go ahead and draft a letter and send to Paula. Might need to buy some scrapers and some glasses. Nowack asked if prisoners could help? Mayor Clark states not sure what the status is of the prisons. Mayor Clark will follow up in regards to prisoners. HVAC: repair was done, took care of our ac on this side of the building and took care of the leaking. It was condensation coming off of the AC that couldn't keep up with the humidity in the room. Still have a 22-year system that are going to need to be replaced. Talked to Scrantons today to see if could get a better price on 2. There will be a discount in the spring according to Scranton's. Ameren energy discount has dropped 175 dollars. The extra money from the roof, that was supposed to come out of the \$40k and it didn't, it must have come out of the general fund. HVAC system will be the next big thing, will have to be done. Either need to do it now or do it in the spring. Got a new bid today and it is good for 60 days. Flooring: gave us an estimate, \$600 to patch tile, Cameron Hager from Ashland. If anyone knows anyone else would be happy to accept other bids. Should probably sell the doors too because they are taking up a large amount of space. Mayor Clark is fine with Hager quote, council agreed. LED lighting: eligible to get the bulbs for free, went to Springfield electric, want to charge \$9.39, Ameren states don't get them from there will give another retailer to get them, Gem City Electric, can get the for free. Think need 5 cases.

City Clerk

Nothing to report

Consent Agenda

Old Business

A. Approve 2nd reading of an ordinance implementing a municipal grocery retailers occupation tax and a municipal grocery service occupation tax

With nothing further to discuss, Alderman Andrews made a motion to approve the implementing of a municipal grocery retailers occupation tax and a municipal grocery service occupation tax, Alderman Behrends seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discuss and take action damage to prairie rows quilting and crafting

Mayor states have a letter from the Whitford's with two bids. Alderman Andrews thinks need to be taken care, it was promised and it hasn't been done yet. Mayor states 1st bid would have to furnish all brick; 2nd bid will get the brick they need. Whitford: Less one requires a lift to be provided as well and NO debris removal, and going to use his electricity. Alderman Werner stated it needs to be taken care of. Bare Masonry is complete, he did our firehouse work too, very easy to work with. Mayor stated that Littleton's stated he was cut loose by former mayor, Attorney Laegeler asks as in the job was done? Alderwoman Martin stated former mayor told

council we need to get someone to grind off the front to make this straight, but it never did happen. Alderman Andrews made a motion to approve Bare Masonry, Alderwoman Martin seconded. Council members Behrends and Werner voted yes, Shaner voted present.

C. Discuss and take action rights of way along creek (Beardstown to Main)

Attorney Laegeler is working through information still. No immediate work needs to be done right now. Tabled.

D. Discuss and take action on quotes for 2 trucks one for public works director and one for water dept

Public Works Director Force found a few in Belleville, will give us \$19,000 for the water truck. Difference will be under \$19000 for both pickups. \$18224.00. 2020 and 2019 trucks. With nothing further to discuss, Alderman Behrends made a motion to pursue the purchase of the two new trucks, Alderwoman Werner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Discuss and take action on quotes for equipment-work shell for Water Dept

Mayor states this will be so the back of the truck its enclosed, has shelving, etc. can put equipment in and do work out of. PWD Force states a used one was \$1000. Alderman Andrews did think about you should always have your tools with you everywhere you go and there is no room for that in that truck right now. With nothing further to discuss, Alderman Shaner made a motion to approve the work shell for the water department, Alderman Andrews seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Discuss and take action on fees for city dump use

Mayor states about charging fee for commercial guys that dump wood out there, tree services. Alderman Martin asks how much fee would be? Mayor states \$50 a month? Alderman Behrends asks for all tree services including local? Mayor states for any commercial company that is going to dump out there. Alderwoman Martin states they were supposed to be banned. Alderman Andrews clarifies that if there is a business using it that they would pay a fee. Mayor asks to table it due to needing to do more research.

New Business

A. Discuss and take action on Supplemental Appropriation

Attorney has a copy but it needs to be tweaked a little. Alderman Andrews made a motion to approve the Supplemental Appropriation, Alderman Shaner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Discuss and take action on an ordinance authorizing the sale of surplus property

Attorney states this is authorizing the sale of the truck. With nothing further to discuss, Alderman Andrews made a motion to approve the sale of surplus property, Alderman Behrends seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Discuss possibility of liquor license for MaryFlor Mexican Restaurant-all licenses are out

Mayor states MaryFlor approached for license but she is not present. Tabled.

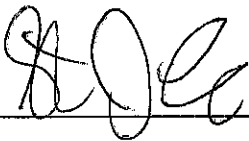
D. Discuss and take action on AMEREN and INTEGRITY rates

Mayor states information is in the council packet. Alderwoman Martin states there is a guy that comes every year and makes suggestions as to what we can do. Will do more research and table for now.

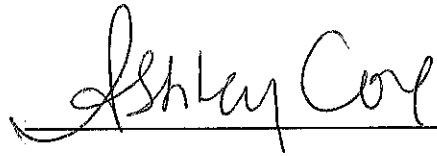
E. Barb Nowak – Grant Writer Presentation

See Public Comment.

At 807pm, Alderwoman Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Alderwoman Werner seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Clark", written over a horizontal line.

Steve Clark, Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Cox", written over a horizontal line.

Ashley Cox, City Clerk