

City of Virginia

March 9th, 2026

Meeting called to order: 7pm

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- II. **Call to Order**
 - a. Roll Call: Andrews, Stanbridge, Shaner, Behrends, and Werner present. Martin not present
- III. **Approval of Agenda**
 - a. Alderwoman Stanbridge approved the agenda, Alderman Andrews seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**
 - a. Alderwoman Stanbridge approved the minutes, Alderwoman Werner seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- V. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. No report
- VI. **Approval of Monthly Bills:**
 - a. Alderwoman Stanbridge approved the monthly bills, Alderman Shaner seconded, motion carried unanimously.
- VII. **Guests: Terry Ayers, Mike Lowe**

Alderwoman Martin joined the meeting at 709pm
- VIII. **Public Comment:**
 - a. **Terry Ayers:** 421 E Illini St basketball thing there been there for a couple of years with concrete blocks, its right on the road. If run off the road someone is going to hit it. Just need to move it out of the way.
 - b. **Mike Lowe:** ditches are full of leaves and trash, need to be cleaned out. Drains can't drain if they are full, flooding issues before in years past. Dead animals on Front St, if someone can come and get the dead animal.
- IX. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. **Police Chief (Kink):** 19 speeding tickets, 21 other citations, 13 calls for services, 36 traffic stops. We could sit out there and write tickets all day long, it is unbelievable. Once they hit that stop sign, they just floor it. Would like to give them a heads up on Facebook. Wes got one last night, 73mph. We will continue to sit out there for traffic control.
 - b. **Fire Chief (Stock):** 2 brush fires, 1 vehicle fire
 - c. **Public Works Director (Force):** fixed main break on Washington/Job, received road salt for the year, Quentin is back to the park for the summer, IRWA is coming on Wednesday will start orientation, turned in a few grants to Barb for review, motors and pumps

getting back up, had to order new one, rebuilt ones should be here Wednesday, Ameren will be cutting down a tree on Cass St sometime soon

- i. **Park Board:** no official meetings but should be March 18th
 - ii. **TIF:** no report
 - iii. **Cemetery:** no report
 - iv. **Library:** no report
 - v. **Animal Control:** Alderman Andrews stated animal control can now write violations of ordinances regarding animals. Next meeting April. 25th 6pm. Will sell extra truck. Working on continued education in Bloomington
- d. **Attorney's Report:** working on several ordinance violations that the chief has sent, everything else will be addressed through the agenda. This is likely my last meeting in person for a while, will be reachable by phone
- e. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Clark stated there was a ITRT survey, we need a safety committee. Right now, streets committee will be safety committee as well. Tanner will head, need to develop safety policy/manuals. Aggertt Solar farm was issued building permit, no further update. Code enforcement officer, contacted Mt Sterling's officer, he is open to coming over here a day a week, Chief and Mayor will meet with him for more definite information. Water: spoke to Jeff Cosner when Tanner goes to water tower to work for them, they are willing to pay him a wage while he is there whether that be direct or reimbursement. Eric finished calculation on where our water rate should be per 1000gal. Water committee need to look at impact for the city so we can propose a plan to do an initial increase and then subsequent in the years after that, step plan so we can meet our goal rate. Energy assistance is for water and waste water, spoke to Steve at IRW is going to be leaving, new guy will be starting end of march. They will come in and look at water plant, drinking water that requires electricity, and look at waste water and give suggestions on energy efficiency. March 28th electronic drop off, postings on what you can and can't bring out there. Tomorrow could be an interesting day, remind citizens sirens are not for when you are at your house, they are for people outside who need to seek shelter. Ask Chief Stock when last time storm spotter training, Chief stated been a few years. Tanner stated CCHD does it once a year. Mayor feels it is beneficial. April 18th Virginia Open, will need trash cans and road blocks. IL Gaming board overpaid the city so they will take that back in the next month or so.
- f. **Aldermanic Reports:**
- i. **Werner:** police committee meeting March 4th, got budget proposal, discussed continuing county contract
 - ii. **Behrends:** finance meeting March 2nd to review budget, thanked everyone who participated.
 - iii. **Shaner:** Streets met about the budget as well, feeling good about it. Thanks to Kent for his help.
 - iv. **Stanbridge:** Tanner took care of most of the water/sewer. Who runs the Facebook page? Paula, there is a service for the county called the Genasys can pin point your

location to give warnings pertinent to you. Will forward the information to Paula so she can get it on Facebook.

- v. **Andrews:** thank streets, water, fire, police doing outstanding job. We are headed for success. PWD doing fantastic job, appreciate that. Working on ordinance for police department that will be coming up. Thank Chief Kink for writing tickets. Ord meeting short discussion on snow emergency, city clerk position from elected to appointed, nuisance ordinances, been working on the budget as well. Personnel met with Bushue on the 25th, we have quite a few things being reviewed so that will be forthcoming
- vi. **Martin:** complaints burning leaves after 4, need to post reminder again on the time/wind restrictions. If there is high wind alerts, Dustin is good about posting that. Between city and fire dept we can get on top of it because it will be full force soon with the nice weather. Tanner and I had discussion about city shed needing silicone seals, is that building or street committee topic? Mayor states building. Martin asks if Tanner talked with Wes Cooksey, Tanner stated he is giving us a bid of \$3100 for the shed. In May our firehouse is 60 years old, our dept is much older than that but would like to do a little something to celebrate of the building. Maybe can contact Donnie Reynolds and do a little write up on the fire dept. Think it would be nice to do something for them to recognize them and our fire department.
- vii. **City Clerk's Report:** nothing to report

X. Consent Agenda

XI. Items Removed from Consent Agenda for Further Discussion: none

XII. Old Business

a. Discuss and Take Action on City Clerk Position

- i. Martin asks why we can't just open that up to Virginia mailing address, seems like restrictions make it hard to get people. Attorney states if you changed to appointed you wouldn't have to have a residential requirement. Election code won't approve someone to run for the election that doesn't live in city limits. Other municipalities have the city clerk in house. Attorney states you need to do a resolution, if passed, file with county clerk so that they are aware does not have to administer the election. Mayor states without a resolution tonight we need to wait for next month, asks attorney to devise a resolution.

XIII. New Business

a. Discuss and Take Action on City Budgets (Cemetery, Park, Library) 1st reading

- i. Mayor states this is first reading; we can make changes if needed. With nothing further to discuss Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve city budgets 1st reading, Alderman Behrends seconded, motion carried unanimously.

b. Discuss and Take Action for FY27 City Budget

- i. Defer any questions to Alderman Andrews. Andrews stated he and Paula are going to go through each account to streamline them better. If we can get that

done then Locis can start flowing better and also make it easier to be understood when reviewed. Have a long way to go but we are getting there. By hiring the PWD, it has saved us a lot of money to where we are on the right track going forward. With nothing further to discuss Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve FY27 City Budget, Alderman Behrends seconded, motion carried unanimously.

c. Discuss and Take Action on Park Agreement 1st reading

i. Clark states you have half of the agreement, supposed to be front and back, page 4 has highlighted section on paragraph 3. That was the only thing that stood out. Atty stated the rest was just bringing it up to legal format. There was a space holder agreement for park board to pay park director. Clark states last year were \$10,000 per year. Clark asks if that is all the salaries including summer help, Andrews states yes but that doesn't look right. Andrews states don't have all information here with me. Clark states this has to do with their reimbursement to us. Andrews states he hasn't talked to Chris but to me that is the entire expense for all salaries. Stanbridge asks shouldn't we keep it the same as last year? Martin asks if we can approve with it the same as last year? Reimbursement for us is \$10,000 for park director like last year. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the 1st reading of the Park Agreement, Alderman Andrews seconded, motion carried unanimously.

d. Discuss and Take Action on Cemetery Agreement 1st reading

i. Martin asks same as last year? Clark believes so. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Martin made a motion to approve the 1st reading of the Cemetery Agreement, Alderwoman Stanbridge seconded, motion carried unanimously.

e. Discuss and Take Action on Hiring Vendor for Disposal of Local Records per Illinois Local Records Commission

i. Clark states there is a young lady who has experience, min wage 20 hours a week so that we can determine what we need to keep and don't need to keep. Clark states 8 weeks top. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to hire vendor for disposal of local records per Illinois Local Records Commission, Alderman Andrews seconded, motion carried unanimously.

f. Discuss and Take Action on Fire House Roof Repair

i. Clark states we have 1 bid; I think we need more bids. Other person did not submit bid as he does not do those kinds of roofs, gave reference of a company that could do the work. 1 bid is from Campbell Construction for \$50k. Attorney wouldn't want a committee to accept a bid; they can make a recommendation but the council needs to be approved. Attorney asks will readvertise or just solicit? Martin asks do we have to without a public notice? Tabled.

g. Discuss and Take Action on Fire Hydrant Flushing

- i. PWD and Mayor have talked about doing it spring and fall. Martin states will have to notify people. Stock flushed last June, we have done it 3 times, didn't do it last November. PWD and Fire Chief will decide and let council know. Tabled.

h. Discuss and Take Action on Resolution for Community Action Project – Sewer Plant Improvements

- i. This was due at the end of the month but then changed it to today. Mary Miller stated that we can apply for a grant to do waste water improvement projects. Tanner spoke to Barb about it, but council needs to pass a resolution in support for that project. So that is what this is, it states the council supports. Andrews states we need a plan of action in place regardless. Clark states think should still send it in because it was on them that they moved up the deadline. Attorney states the resolution gives flexibility in determine what using funds, only thing required is repairs and improvements to waste water. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the resolution for Community Action Project-Sewer Plant improvements, Alderman Andrews seconded, motion carried unanimously. The grant expired before resolution passed.

i. Discuss and Take Action on Resolution for 2008 Chevrolet Truck to Surplus

- i. Clark stated the pick-up truck that Cass donated to the city is now broke. Andrews states the radiator has cracked. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the ordinance for 2008 Chevrolet Truck to Surplus, Alderman Behrends seconded, motion carried unanimously.

j. Discuss and Take Action on Intergovernmental Agreement for Policing 1st Reading

- i. Attorney states this is the most recent copy that she has, but has never seen signed copy. Recalls discussion about ordinance enforcement, Werner states that was taken out. Martin asks if Devron reviewed, attorney states probably not, just sent this over today. Werner states things will just need to be tweaked to match last year's agreement. Attorney suggests approving sending to sheriff dept for their input so that we can get that going. Andrews asks it has to go to the county board so that will slow it down. Andrews asks the reasons for this. Clark states so that he can supplement his hours when someone is unable to work. Clark states it is on chief to schedule, 20 max per week, probably won't see that. Kink just states need people to help fill in. There will be training that Chief is going to, this agreement is cheaper in long run rather than us hiring another officer. Everything is taken care of by the county, they already know this town, don't have to train, we have same equipment, feels that this is a win/win. Andrews just wants to know there is a number put in for that and when the budget is out, the budget is out. Andrews wants it to be a line item in the budget so that we know exactly what we are spending and can watch it. Stanbridge asks if this is in lieu of hiring another officer, Kink states doesn't want to hire. This is more of a renewal than anything. Attorney did suggest the cure period to 30 days to align with meetings, suggests

pass 1st reading, send over to county/sheriff then can finalize at April meeting. With nothing further to discuss, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the 1st reading of the Intergovernmental Agreement for policing, Alderwoman Martin seconded, Werner voted present, motion carried.

XIV. Executive Session

XV. Action to be taken following Executive Session

- a. Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to approve the Public Works Director Salary to \$85k effective next FY. Alderman Andrews seconded. Alderman Behrends and Alderwoman Werner voted yes, Alderwoman Martin and Alderman Shaner voted no. Motion carried.

XVI. Adjournment

- a. At 825pm, Alderwoman Stanbridge made a motion to adjourn the council meeting, Alderman Shaner seconded, motion carried unanimously.



Steve Clark, Mayor



Ashley Cox, City Clerk