

**City Of New Virginia**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

The Council met in regular session on Monday April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 7:13 p.m. for the April council meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin, Bailey, Galivan Taylor and Truman present.

Minutes from the March meeting were approved.

**Old business discussed:** After discussing other possible options regarding the water drainage of the alley at 510 Pine Street with Steve Savage, the original recommendation (take out the sidewalk, do dirt work to make a rounded swell and place a culvert under the driveway on the west side of the house at 510 Pine Street) at the March council meeting was determined to be the best option. Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to do the alley drainage project at 510 Pine Street at a cost of \$975.00. A roll call vote was taken: 4 ayes, 0 nays, Taylor abstained from voting. Motion carried.

The request for the lot at 304 Main Street be split so the pole building is separated from the house was further discussed. There was nothing found in the zoning ordinance stating that this request cannot be done. There are two other property that a split has been done in the past. The property owner of 304 Main Street will be advised the split of the lot is ok to do and that the split must be ten (10) feet west of the pole building.

A letter drafted regarding junk vehicles/machinery and storage safety issues was reviewed. The letter will be sent by certified mail.

Two other properties on Grand Avenue were discussed regarding the accumulation of junk vehicles/machinery.

Mayor Strange met with an InRoads Representative to look over and discuss potential street work. Mayor Strange sent a map with the Representative with proposed projects but has not heard back as of this April meeting.

**Citizen Input:** There have been complaints about dogs running loose around town. There will be a notice placed in the Tri Corner Express with pertinent sections of the Ordinance about dog tie-up and dogs running at large.

A council member was informed that the gate in the fence that was installed last summer at GAMP Park is locked. The gate will be unlocked but will be re-locked during truck pull events.

Garrett Gobble was present to introduce himself as a candidate running for the Iowa House of Representatives District 22. More information about Gobble can be obtained by calling or texting 515-639-0136 or sending an email to [garrettgobbleforiowa@gmail.com](mailto:garrettgobbleforiowa@gmail.com)

**Water Utilities discussed:** A council member had a citizen concerned about the minimum amount of the water bill and that they never use the 2000 gallon minimum and wondered if an adjustment could be made to the minimum bill. The minimum bill is set and will not be lowered. The minimum bill is \$29.15 water, \$30.00 sewer and \$4.00 recycling for a total minimum bill of \$63.15.

**Fire Department Business:** Fire Chief Zuercher advised there is a large pothole forming in front of the fire station where the concrete apron meets West Street. InRoads will be contacted about filling the pothole in with asphalt when they street work in town.

Chief Zuercher advised a black mold issue was discovered in the back storage room area. The fire department will do overhaul training to remove the sheetrock. Chief Zuercher has contacted some sheetrock workers to get bids for installing new sheetrock.

Discussion was held regarding paying fire department personnel for entering fire reports and EMS non-transport reports in the Image Trend software. After thorough discussion and consideration of this request, Galivan moved, seconded by Taylor to approve paying \$15.00 per fire report and EMS non-transport reports starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Chief Zuercher advised the Mayor and Council of fire safety issues regarding an apartment fire at 704 West Street. There was not a fire extinguisher located in the first floor hallway. There is a fire extinguisher bracket located on the wall near the washer & dryer but the fire extinguisher is gone. Some tenants voiced concerns about smoke detectors not working and/or smoke detectors not present. Chief Zuercher has contacted the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding the above fire safety issues at this apartment building.

**Law Enforcement:** – The report summary from the Sheriff's Office for the month of March was reviewed. Deputies received or initiated 32 calls for service during the month of March. Officers spent in excess of 38 hours in the city for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 222 miles within the city limits for the month. Five citations and/or warnings were written for traffic violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper.

The 2024-25 fiscal year budget plan was finalized to complete information required in the Notice Of Public Hearing – Proposed FY2024-25 Budget Form. Galivan moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the Proposed FY2024-25 City of New Virginia Budget for publication and to schedule a public hearing for the City of New Virginia Proposed FY2024-25 Budget for Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Galivan to pass & approve Resolution #2024-03 – A RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OF THE SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

There was one bid received for the 2024 mowing season. Galivan moved, seconded by Taylor to accept and approve the mowing bid of R & R Mowing Services for the 2024 mowing season: mowing Lion’s Park, Old Settlers Park, fire station, library, Hen House, welcome signs, City right of way southeast corner of Broadway & Border Street at \$450.00/month. GAMP Park east half at \$450.00/month, west of GAMP Park at \$325.00/month. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

There was one letter of interest received for the City Treasurer Position. After reviewing the letter and resume, Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to approve Kim McWilliams for the City Treasurer Position. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

A letter requesting dissolution of the New Virginia Playground Committee and the need to place two BBQ grills in Lion’s Park was reviewed. Taylor moved, seconded by Bailey to approve the dissolution of the New Virginia Playground Committee and funds currently in the New Virginia Playground Committee checking account be transferred to the City of New Virginia by the Treasurer of the New Virginia Playground Committee. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**GAMP UPDATE**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

The new cleaning people have started cleaning the GAMP building.

The golf disc course is planned to be completed by the end of April, first part of May depending on the weather.

**KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM**

The April meeting is tomorrow, as well as the Trail Committee meeting.

There are several events being planned for in 2024. One of the first events will be a kite flying event April 21<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of April 28<sup>th</sup> & May 4<sup>th</sup> city-wide garage sales. July Old Settlers booth will be Christmas in July event to pre-sale Country Christmas Home Tour tickets. September – End of Summer Social Date: September 29<sup>th</sup>. October – Scarecrow Stroll/contest and Trunk or Treat. December – Country Christmas Holiday Home Tour Friday December 6<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7p.m and Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 4p.m.

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**ELF CLUB**

No new updates.

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The new driveway culvert at 813 East Street is not set to flow correctly. It needs to flow to the north. The property owner will be contacted about this.

It was discussed another dumpster is needed for Old Settlers. Jim Sims will be contacted about this.

Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Galivan moved, seconded by Bailey to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**There is a special council meeting scheduled for Monday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 to approve FY2024-25 City of New Virginia budget.**

The May council meeting is scheduled for Monday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. **May meeting date – Monday May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Baughman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk