

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 25, 2014**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Gary Krause, Mark Rahr, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, and Terry Noble present. Alderpersons Jeff Clifton and Tom Wilson were excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Fire Chief Steve Skrede, Public Works Director Steve Clark, Attorney David Jenkins and Engineer Sarah Grainger

2. Approval of the January 28, 2014 Regular Council Minutes – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2014 Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – none

4. Appointment of Library Board Member – Mike Koppa - Motion by Alderperson Krause/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the appointment of Mike Koppa to the Library Board to fill a vacant seat with the term expiring 4/30/2015.

5. Operator licenses (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Rahr to approve operator licenses for James Cocchiola, Diana Gwilt, April Nerison and Rayna Dearborn. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Temporary picnic license requests – St. Mary’s Catholic Church (2 requests) and Viroqua Fire Dept (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Krause to approve the following requests for temporary Class B picnic licenses: St. Mary’s Catholic Church Youth Club Fundraiser on 3/15/14; St. Mary’s Parish/Joseph Club Annual Picnic on 6/8/14 at Eckhart Park and Viroqua Fire Department event on 3/15/14. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Capital budget expenditure on aerial purchase for thermal imaging camera (Public Safety) Severson stated it will cost \$11,700 to have a new thermal imaging camera installed on the new aerial while the electrical is being done during building. This was missed in the original specs and the current one is 18 years old. This would be added to the original capital expenditure purchase. Motion by Alderperson Rahr/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the budget expenditure for the thermal imaging camera. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Department report – Fire Department – Steve Skrede – Skrede presented the 2013 Fire Department Annual report to the Council and answered questions.

9. Approval of USDA grant application for Rock and N. East Avenues (Public Works) Grainger stated the Rock Avenue project is scheduled for 2015 and N. East Avenue for 2016 and it would be beneficial to put both projects on one application. This is a grant/loan program that does not lock us into an interest rate and can refinance at any time. They require Council approval to apply and also a notice in the newspaper. Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the USDA grant application. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Ordinance regarding connecting private sewer systems to the municipal system – First Reading (Finance) This ordinance was revised to change the number of installments from ten to five and the interest rate from eight percent to an amount not to exceed fifteen percent. This gives the City more options with the changing interest rates. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Rahr to approve Ordinance 14OR002 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Resolution for special assessment for sanitary sewer system hookup – S917 State Hwy 14 – tabled from 1/28/14 (Public Works/Finance) this property near our well #6 site was required to hook up to the City Sewer at a cost of \$7300 and are requesting a special assessment over five years. The interest rate on the resolution was prepared according to the old ordinance at eight percent; however a four percent rate is more in line with current

rates. Motion by Alderperson Krause/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve resolution 014RS003 regarding the special assessment and amend the interest rate to 4%. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Resolution regarding Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) for Fire Department (Public Safety)

Thompson stated this is a statewide system to have access to any equipment across the state. This will allow us access to more resources and formalize the mutual aid process. The Fire Chief would still have discretion on whether equipment is sent. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve resolution 014RS004 for the MABAS agreement. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Payment of bills. – Motion by Alderperson Krause/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 02/21/14 in the amount of \$1,940,473.20 and additional bills report date 02/25/14 in the amount of \$29,599.43. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Possible closed session per Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1)(c) – considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Request for wage increase consideration

a. Sewer Operator Position b. Street Foreman/Operator c. Heavy Equipment Operator

The Council did not go into closed session.

15. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the following wage increases: \$1.50/hour – Al Budworth (Sewer Operator); \$1.60/hour – Todd Kirking (Street Foreman/Operator); 75 cents/hour – Al Larson (Heavy Equip Operator) Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Second Period for Public Comment – Severson stated the pool evaluation has been handed out and will be made available to the public. They are planning a Committee of the Whole for Burbach Aquatics to report to the Council.

17. Adjournment -

Motion made by Alderperson Rahr/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk