

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
February 26, 2013**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Chuck Steinhoff, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Mark Rahr, Gary Krause, Terry Noble and Jeff Clifton present. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Fire Chief Steve Skrede, DPW Steve Clark, Attorney David Jenkins, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Pastor Allen & Mary Skrede, Mandi & Adam Onlikowski, Jeanne & Terry Barr, Lucy Schwem, Dan Arndt, David & Marcy Allen, Jesse Wangen, Kimberly Hanson, Roddie Torgerson, Chad Wagner, Joseph Wirts, Ben Quackenbush, Sherry Jackman, Lena Kvigne, Colleen Kissinger, Ben DeLine, Chad Wirts, Drew & Geri Shonka, Marjorie Macasaet, Mike Bankes, Donald Greven, and Keith Rocklewitz.

2. Approval of the February 12, 2013 Regular Council Minutes - Motion by Alderperson Steinhoff/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2013 Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment - none

4. Public Hearing on Conditional Use application for 804 South Main Street for church – Believers Fellowship Church (Rev. Allen & Mary Skrede) (Plan Commission) – Mayor Fanta stated that the Plan Commission unanimously recommended approval of the application. Dan Arndt representing Believers Fellowship Church stated they have been members of the Viroqua community for 32 years with 90-100 members and are asking the Council to follow the zoning ordinance that is already in place. If anyone was coming forward to fill this vacancy as a restaurant the church would gladly step aside but this is not happening. Mike Bankes stated this location would be more valuable as a restaurant and meeting place. Pastor Skrede stated they bring a lot of business into town on Sundays and would be willing to rent the area out to others but would not allow alcohol or smoking. Drew Shonka asked if the Church has the means to keep the building up unlike their previous location. Other ministers and residents in the area spoke in support of the Church. Alderpersons Bekkedal and Hubbard stated that there were no negative comments said regarding the Believers Fellowship Church and that the people they had spoken to felt it would be better served as a restaurant than a church and it hasn't been marketed very long and for the general welfare of the community this needs to be considered.

5. Discussion and action on Conditional Use application – 804 South Main Street – Alderperson Thompson asked to hear from Legal Counsel Jenkins. Jenkins stated by ordinance, this is listed as a suitable place for a church as a conditional use and an acceptable reason to deny would be needed. There is no precedence regarding using the general welfare of the public as a reason to deny in any Wisconsin court cases that he has found and neither had Dan Arndt.

Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Hubbard to deny the conditional use application for 804 South Main Street. Roll call vote five in favor, four against. Motion carried. Alderpersons Polsean, Steinhoff, Rahr, and Noble voting no.

6. Operator Licenses (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Steinhoff/second by Alderperson Rahr to approve an operator license for Karen Lee for Pizza Hut. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Action on Temporary Class “B” license – American Legion Baseball (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Steinhoff/second by Alderperson Rahr to approve a Temporary Class “B” beer license for the American Legion Baseball at the Park Bowl for the specific dates listed as home games and tournaments on their schedule between June 1st and August 11th, 2013. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Prior to action on items eight through eleven a motion was made by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Polsean to table items eight, nine, ten, and eleven brought in by the Historic Preservation Commission pending signatures from each of the property landowners that they approve and understand the process of Historic Designation of their properties and develop a form for all nominations to sign. Voice vote taken with one no vote

heard. Alderperson Hubbard voting no. Motion carried. Alderperson Noble stated he would like to see signatures on all designations unless it is an emergency rescue situation on a property so that everyone knows what is in the ordinance.

8. Designation of Viroqua Historic Landmark at 102 North Main Street – Fortney Hotel

9. Designation of Viroqua Historic Landmark at 526 East Decker Street – Viroqua Electric Light Co/MGE

10. Designation of Viroqua Historic Landmark at 225 North East Ave – Tobacco Pool Warehouse #2

11. Designation of Viroqua Historic Landmark at 518 Walnut Street – Eckhart Tobacco Warehouse/Forgotten Works

12. Payment of bills. – Motion by Alderperson Krause/second by Alderperson Clifton to approve the payment of bills on report date 02/22/13 in the amount of \$1,784,857.09 and additional bills report date 02/26/13 in the amount of \$7,530.32. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Second Period for Public Comment – Alderperson Krause asked about the status of the boulevard meetings and Severson stated that the Public Property committee will be meeting next week to start looking through the ordinance.

14. Adjournment -

Motion made by Alderperson Steinhoff/second by Alderperson Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk