

FEBRUARY 27, 2007

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons David Tryggstad, John Bjerke, Gary Krause, Weston Mack, Roger Hatlem, Gail Frie and Terry Noble present. Alderpersons Suhr and Polsean were absent. Also present were City Administrator Jeff Gohlke, Clerk John Severson, City Attorney David Jenkins, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Nancy Bekkedal, Vernie Smith, Greg Cheesebro, Matt Vogel, Peg LaMartina, Danielle Oftedahl, Tom Wilson, Emily Valentine-Grimm, Claire Champion, Scott Champion, Tim Hundt, Bill Burke, Trish Dougherty and Mike Banks.

2. Approval of the February 13, 2007 Council Minutes.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggstad. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

3. First period for public comment.

None.

4. Public Hearing – City of Viroqua Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Fanta opened the public hearing on the City of Viroqua Comprehensive Plan at 7:38 p.m. Jeff Gohlke introduced the Comprehensive Plan and reviewed the five year process that produced the plan. Mr. Gohlke thanked the Commission members, Mayor Fanta and others that contributed to the project. Vernie Smith recommended adoption of the plan and commented on the importance of the plan to the City. Jeff Gohlke stated that on October 12, 2006 the Commission by resolution recommend adoption of the plan. Tom Wilson commented on the importance of the plan custodian and continuing use and review of the plan. Mayor Fanta closed the public hearing.

5. Ordinance to adopt the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Viroqua.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve Ordinance No. 07OR001, an ordinance to adopt the comprehensive plan of the City of Viroqua, and waive the second reading. Seconded by Alderperson Frie. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

6. Parking at Congress Street well site.

Various individuals exchanged ideas with the Council to accommodate parking and gardens at the site. Alderperson Frie commented that he felt the Council could come up with a workable arrangement.

7. Vernon County Tourism request for donation.

The Council reviewed a request from the Tourism Council for a \$350.00 donation. Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to donate \$350.00. Seconded by Alderperson Frie. Alderperson Noble spoke against the donation saying that the taxpayers of Viroqua are already supporting it through county taxes and City taxes for Viroqua Tourism and the Viroqua Partners which support the County program. Although it is a very good cause, Alderperson Noble said that asking the City taxpayers to support the program again is not right. Additional discussion took place. On roll call vote Alderpersons Bjerke, Krause, Mack, Hatlem and Frie voted aye. Alderpersons Noble and Tryggstad voted nay. Motion carries.

8. Well #5 repairs – informational.

Jeff Gohlke reported that at its February 21, 2007 meeting the Public Works Committee reviewed a proposal from CTW Corporation for various alternatives for repairs to the well. The Committee selected and is implementing option #3 which would reconstruct the well with a 10" liner from a depth of 570ft to 780ft at an estimated cost of \$51,900 with test pumping to develop the well costing about \$21,000. Jeff Gohlke noted that Tom Goethel of CTW Corporation is a Professional Engineer and that other engineering cost would not be incurred. Other options were reviewed with the Council for their information.

9. Assessor recommendation.

On February 21, 2007 the Finance Committee interviewed Associated Appraisal Consultants, Milde Appraisal Services and Appraisal Services & Data Processing Sys for assessment services. The Finance Committee is recommending Appraisal Services & Data Processing Sys. Motion by Alderperson Frie to authorize Jeff Gohlke to negotiate a contract with Appraisal Services & Data Processing Sys and bring it back to the council for approval. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. On roll call vote all voted aye. Motion carries.

10. Approval of Water Operator job description and posting.

Alderperson Frie noted that the draft job description handed out at the last meeting had not changed and the Personnel Committee is asking for approval of the job description and authorization to post internally. The job description adds supervisory responsibilities to the position and a 50 cent per hour raise. Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve the job description and post it. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

11. Operator licenses.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve operator licenses for Ronald S. Klingbeil, Andrea M. Lee and Rebecca J. Adams as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. Seconded by Alderperson Bjerke. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

12. Police Union agreement.

Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve the Tentative Agreement for successor to the 2006 Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Viroqua Professional Police Association. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

13. Resolution regarding charges for leacheate.

Jeff Gohlke introduced the resolution involving leacheate received from the Vernon Co. Landfill. The cost of the two tanks at the WWTP of about \$45,000.00 has been recovered through fixed charges prior to 2006. The resolution credits back \$6,516.00 of fixed monthly charges billed when the landfill was not delivering leacheate and revises the rate that will be charged for leacheate. Motion by Alderperson Mack to accept the recommendation of the Finance Committee and approve Resolution No.07RS003. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

14. Ordinance regarding leacheate received at the Waste Water Treatment Plant – first reading.

Jeff Gohlke informed the Council that the ordinance implements the changes discussed in Resolution No. 07RS003. Motion by Alderperson Krause to approve Ordinance No. 07OR002 and waive the second reading. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

15. Memorandum of Agreement – on call wages.

The Memorandum is for implementing the on call agreement with the Public Works Union. An answering service has replaced the pagers. The city no longer pays \$150.00 per week on call wages and employees receive a minimum of two hours pay if called out. Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve the Memorandum of Agreement. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

16. Payment of bills.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to approve payment of bills as presented on approval report dated 02/23/07 in the amount of \$1,405,503.48. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

17. Second period for public comment.

None.

18. Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to adjourn the Council meeting until 7:30 pm March 13, 2007. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

John Severson
Clerk