

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
March 12, 2013**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Chuck Steinhoff, Cyndy Hubbard, Mark Rahr, Gary Krause, Terry Noble and Jeff Clifton present. Alderperson John Thompson was excused. 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, Utility Clerk Nancy Bekkedal, Engineer Sarah Grainger, Jennifer Wieman, Pastor Allen & Mary Skrede, Mandi & Adam Orlikowski, Jeanne & Mattie Barr, Lucy Schwem, Dan Arndt, David & Marcy Allen, Kim & Chris Hanson, Roddie Torgerson, Lena, Patty, Steven, & Olivia Kvigne, Colleen Kissinger, Chad Wirts, Josh Hansen, Robin & Wayne Clark, Kathy Overbo, Emily Ruud, Tricia Skrede, Keith Rice, Rhenea & Dennis Glick, Wendy & Jordyn Skrede, and Angie Starkey.

2. Approval of the February 26, 2013 Regular Council Minutes - Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Steinhoff to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2013 Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment - none

4. Presentation of mayoral veto on Conditional Use permit denial for Believers Fellowship Church to Council for potential override – City Clerk Polhamus read the veto letter presented to Deputy Clerk Jodie Oliver on March 2, 2013 from Mayor Fanta and stated the veto would stand unless there is a 2/3 vote to override by the Council. There were no motions to override therefore the veto stands.

5. Possible reconsideration of Conditional Use application for Believers Fellowship Church – 804 South Main Street – Mayor Fanta opened the floor up for comments. Alderperson Bekkedal stated he would like to give it more time for others to have the opportunity to purchase as discussed in the letter received from Viroqua Chamber Main Street. Clerk Polhamus read the letter received from Emily Rozeske, Executive Director to those present as requested. Bob Bland from WCCU stated they would oppose a six month hiatus as they would still have to pay the taxes, insurance, and utilities during that time and they are a willing seller with a willing buyer right now which is in the best interest of their members. Bland was asked if WCCU had done any marketing of the property and he stated it was listed for six months prior to foreclosure by the owner to try and sell the business but not by WCCU. Dan Arndt stated it is possible it could take 30-60 days for the Church to be ready to move forward with the sale but there is no language in Viroqua's code that would allow the Council to put a timeframe on the conditional use. Attorney Jenkins stated the Council can take action, refer this to committee, or table it. Believers Fellowship Church, however could take this matter to Board of Appeals at any time and it would not have to come back to Council. Alderperson Hubbard stated she feels that it would be best for the general welfare of the community to have this as a banquet facility. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Rahr to grant the conditional use permit for Believer's Fellowship Church at 804 South Main Street. Alderperson Polsean asked for a written ballot and Attorney Jenkins stated that each Alderperson would have to sign their ballot. Alderperson Polsean rescinded his written ballot request and a roll call vote was taken with six yes votes, one no vote, and one abstention. Alderperson Hubbard voting no and Alderperson Bekkedal abstaining. Motion carried.

6. Approval of Mayor appointment to Viroqua Housing Authority – Mark Rahr Mayor Fanta stated this appointment is to replace Chet Lee. Motion by Alderperson Clifton/second by Alderperson Steinhoff to approve the appointment of Mark Rahr to the Viroqua Housing Authority Board. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Fanta stated the Historic Preservation Commission is not ready to proceed with items seven, eight, and nine and asked for a motion to table these items. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Steinhoff to table items seven, eight, and nine until the Commission is ready to proceed with the designations. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

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

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

10. Payment of bills. – Motion by Alderperson Krause/second by Alderperson Steinhoff to approve the payment of bills on report date 03/08/13 in the amount of \$97,954.67 and additional bills report date 03/12/13 in the amount of \$14,424.28. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Department Reports – Public Works – Steve Clark and Sarah Grainger – Engineer Sarah Grainger and Public Works Director Steve Clark presented their 2012 Department report to the Council and answered questions during the slide presentation.

12. Second Period for Public Comment – none

13. Adjournment -

Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Steinhoff to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk