

MARCH 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 Tryggestad, John Bjerke, Gary Krause, Weston Mack, Roger Hatlem, Gail Frie, Robert Suhr and Terry Noble present. Alderperson Polsean was absent. Also present were City Administrator Jeff Gohlke, Clerk John Severson, City Attorney David Jenkins, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Vernie Smith, Thelma Halverson, Steve Burke, Barb Burke, Dave Halverson, Richard Kilen, Kevin Burke, Ann Burke, Sheila Sherwin and Karl Lavold.

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

Motion by Alderperson Krause to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting as amended. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

3. First period for public comment.

None.

4. Public hearing – Application of Kevin Burke to permit the use of property at 618 Madison Street for commercial use.

Mayor Fanta called the public hearing to order and reported that the Plan Board had held a public hearing on the request and was recommending denial because it does not fit into any permitted or conditional uses listed in R2. Those in attendance were invited to comment. Richard Kilen, owner of the property, discussed the limited uses available to him in the R2 district. Mr. Kilen felt that Kevin Burke's requested use as an automotive repair shop was less intrusive than the previous use as a machine shop. Alderperson Frie commented that we need Kevin's business in Viroqua but it's not allowed in the district. Jeff Gohlke discussed the other uses allowed in the district and suggested the building could be adapted for different uses. Alderperson Frie asked if a machine shop is still a viable use of the building. Mr. Kilen thought it was in use as a machine shop until last June or July. Dave Halverson spoke against the use being in a residential area and questioned whether it was an active business within the last year. Karl Lovold expressed concern about the vehicles parking up and down the street. Mr. Burke responded that he would have a lot more room in the building. Alderperson Krause commented that he felt it did not belong in a residential area. Alderperson Noble commented on the zoning code and although he felt the code needed to be reviewed in its entirety did not support any type of spot rezoning. Jeff Gohlke added that the Comprehensive Plan includes a recommendation for an overall review of the zoning code and that there was concern about the integrity of the residential districts. Alderperson Frie said he would make a motion to table it and think about it more, but can't think of a way to make it fit and is not ready to vote against it and destroy the value of the building. Additional discussion took place. Motion by Alderperson Frie to table the item and refer it back to the Plan Board for further consideration. Seconded by Alderperson Suhr. Seven Alderpersons voted aye on voice vote. Alderperson Noble voted nay. Motion carries.

5. Alcohol licenses.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve operator licenses for Sandra Johnson, Chasity Eitland and Brian Skattum as recommended by Public Safety. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggestad. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries. Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve a Picnic license for Viroqua Junior Partners as recommended. Seconded by Alderperson Bjerke. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries. Alderperson Mack presented a Picnic license application from Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School which was just received and had not been before the Public safety Committee. Alderperson Hatlem expressed concern that the application was late and that this has happened before. Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve a Picnic license for Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School. Seconded by Alderperson Noble. On roll call vote Alderpersons Bjerke, Krause, Mack, Frie, Noble and Tryggestad voted aye. Alderpersons Hatlem and Suhr voted nay. Motion carries.

6. Resolution regarding HOUSING AMERICA 2007.

Jeff Gohlke introduced the resolution which supports affordable housing for all Americans. Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve Resolution No. 07RS005. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

7. Referral of old swimming pool site to the Redevelopment Authority for study and determination of future use.

Alderperson Frie reported that Finance recommended the referral to assess uses and determine, among other things, if it should be removed from the list as a future City Hall site. Alderperson Hatlem asked the property be appraised to determine value. Alderperson Noble suggested that any money from the sale of the property should be used for the kids. Motion by Alderperson Frie to refer the site to the Redevelopment Authority. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

8. Public Works project update – informational.

Alderperson Frie reported that Davy Engineering reported on the nutrient removal study at the WWTP. A meeting with DNR officials and the Public Works Committee will be scheduled. Arndt Enterprises, Inc. had the low bid of \$54,139.00 for painting the Industrial Park Water Tower and was awarded the contract with CWEA recommendation. Excel Energy's extension of poles and arms for future three-phase power to the HWY 56 lift station site at a cost of \$8,146.75 was approved. April 2, 2007 is the start of construction at Broadway and Rock for HWY 56, Phase 2 Project.

9. Personnel committee recommendation – Water Operator position.

Alderperson Frie reported that the Water Operator job description had been posed for a month and that Greg Marsh was the only applicant. Motion by Alderperson Frie to offer the position of Water Operator to Greg Marsh as recommended by the Personnel Committee. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

10. Possible closed session under Wis. Stats 19.85 (1) (c). Consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Steve Clark.

Motion by Alderperson Frie to adjourn to closed session. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

11. Reconvene in open session.

The Council reconvened in open session as noted on the agenda. Motion by Alderperson Frie to eliminate the position of Street Superintendent and create the position of Public Works Superintendent and promote Steve Clark to that position with Department Head status and a \$5,000.00 increase in yearly wages with General Fund and the Utilities sharing the cost of the position. Seconded by Alderperson Suhr. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

12. Payment of bills.

Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve payment of bills as presented on payment report dated 03/23/2007 in the amount of \$13,543.74. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

13. Second period for public comment.

None.

14. Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to adjourn the Council meeting until 7:30 pm April 10, 2007. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries..

John Severson
Clerk