

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2008**

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, Marc Polsean, John Bjerke, Gary Krause, Weston Mack, Roger Hatlem, Gail Frie, Jeff Clifton and Terry Noble present. Also present were Administrator Jeff Gohlke, Assistant Administrator Matt Giese. Clerk John Severson, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Public Works Superintendent Steve Clark, Parks & Recreation Director Dan Stalsburg, Attorney David Jenkins, Ann Vogle and David Iverson.

2. Approval of the August 12, 2008 Regular Council Minutes.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve the August 12, 2008 minutes as amended. Seconded by Alderperson Polsean. All voted aye on voice. Motion carries.

3. First period for public comment.

Don Iverson , 638 E. Court St., informed the Council that water runoff from a neighboring property is eroding his yard and asked if the City had an ordinance dealing with such situations. Attorney Jenkins responded that he was not aware of any ordinance that would address the problem but would review the matter. Motion by Alderperson Polsean to refer the matter to Public Property. Seconded by Alderperson Frie. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

4. Operator licenses.

Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve operator licenses for Taylor Brevik, Amy Schultz, Shirley Due, Jonathon Sullivan and Casey Johnson as recommended by Public Safety. Seconded by Alderperson Tryggstad. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

5. Alcohol license premise change. Organic Zone LLC.

Alderperson Mack reported that the Organic Zone was moving from 215 S. Main to 213 S. Main within the Viroqua Public Market complex. Anthony Macasaet, owner, was present and answered questions from the Council. Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve the premise description change for the Organic Zone LLC. Seconded by Alderperson Frie. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

6. Fire Department purchase – jaws of life.

Fire Chief Steve Skrede requested that \$9,500 remaining in the Fire Capital Equipment Account be used to purchase a new Jaws of Life. Total cost will be \$ 24,405 with the balance being paid from funds raised by the Volunteer Firefighters. Motion by Alderperson Frie to approve the request. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

7. Petition for advisory referendum.

John Severson reported that he had received a petition requesting that the following proposed resolution, in the form of an advisory referendum, be referred to a vote of the electors in the form of the question

“Shall the next state legislature enact health care reform legislation by December 31st 2009 that guarantees every Wisconsin resident affordable health care coverage as good as what is provided to state legislators. The petition was certified by the Clerk as sufficient in regards to the number of elector signatures and as to proper form. Motion by Alderperson Frie to place the advisory referendum question on the November 4, 2008 ballot. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

8. Ordinance regulating heavy traffic. First reading.

The Council discussed the proposed ordinance which restricts vehicles with a gross weight of more than 26,000 lb. to designated routes. Motion by Alderperson Polsean to approve the first reading of the proposed ordinance regulating heavy traffic. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

9. Ordinance regarding smoking. First Reading.

Jeff Gohlke introduced the proposed ordinance to the Council. The ordinance would ban smoking in City buildings, in City parks and on other real estate owned by the City. The Council discussed the ordinance at length. Motion by Alderperson Mack to approve the first reading of the ordinance regarding smoking. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. On roll call vote Alderpersons Mack, Hatlem and Polsean voted aye. Alderpersons Krause, Frie, Clifton, Noble, Tryggstad and Bjerke voted nay. Motion fails.

10. Tourism website contract.

The Tourism Committee requested Council approval to enter into a Web Design contract with Scratch Web Design Agency LLC for development of an expanded tourism section on the City’s web site. The estimated cost funded by Tourism is \$4,000 to \$6000. Motion by Alderperson Frie to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the contract. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

11. Possible closes session under Wis. Stats. 19.85 (1) (c). Consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Assistant Administrator review.

Motion by Alderperson Frie to table the closed session until the next regular meeting. Seconded by Alderperson Polsean. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

12. Payment of bills.

Motion by Alderperson Krause to approve the bills as presented on payment reports dated August 22, 2008 and August 26, 2008 in the amounts of \$253,978.98 and \$9,811.42. Seconded by Alderperson Polsean. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

13. Second period for public comment.

John Helgerson, WVRQ News Director, introduced himself to the Council.

14. Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Polsean to adjourn the meeting until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 9, 2008.
Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

John Severson
Clerk