

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
October 14, 2014**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2014 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Mark Rahr, John Thompson, Cyndy Hubbard, Jeff Clifton, Terry Noble and Mike Bankes present. Alderperson Wilson attended by phone. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Fire Chief Steve Skrede, Attorney David Jenkins, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Public Works Director Steve Clark, Engineer Sarah Grainger, Assistant Police Chief Todd Simonson, Carole Moon, David Moon, LaVern Britt, Marv Christianson, George Boyington, David Iverson, Laura Meeks, Sue Noble, Rod Olson, Emily Rozeske, Hadley Hodges, Marly Zager, Marjorie Macacaet and Laura Amenda.

**2. Approval of the September 30, 2014 Regular Council Minutes** – Alderperson Hubbard stated under #5 to change the word twindos to duplexes. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bankes to add that the Capital Improvement Plan should be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan under #9. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2014 Council meeting as amended. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**3. First period for public comment** – LaVern Britt from the Viroqua Eagles Club addressed the Council regarding an off premise sign permit for the Future Home of the Eagles Club that is prohibited by ordinance and was given the variance application. He would like the Council to reconsider the sign ordinance and was told to bring this matter to the Public Property Committee. The following people addressed the Council in support of Nancy Rhodes and asked for reconsideration of her dismissal as Chair of Historic Preservation: Marjorie Macacaet, Laura Meeks, Marly Zager, David Moon and Carol Moon.

**4. Presentation of NTCA Smart Rural Community Award from Vernon Telephone Cooperative (Rod Olson, CEO & Emily Rozeske, Member Relations Mgr)** – Rod Olson stated earlier this year the FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler and President Obama with his Broadband initiative set a goal for 1 Gigabit communities in each of the fifty states by 2015. Viroqua was 100% fiber optic and a gigabit community in 2008. The National Telecommunications Coop Association recognized Viroqua as a Smart Rural Community working to enhance our quality of life and economic opportunities through improved broadband infrastructure and services. There are only thirteen in the United States. Viroqua was also recognized by the WI State Telecommunications Association in cooperation with the Public Service Commission as a Gigabit Community. We are only one of seven communities in Wisconsin. The Viroqua Business Park in connection with the WI Economic Development Association will also be designated this week as a 1 Gigabit Business Park. The video produced by Vernon Telecommunications was shown to the Board and Olson presented the Mayor with two plaques and road signs with the designation.

**5. Mayor Proclamation – Henry “Hank” Hendrickson day October 19<sup>th</sup>** – Mayor Fanta read the proclamation proclaiming October 19<sup>th</sup> as Henry “Hank” Hendrickson day in the City of Viroqua for his many years of service to Veterans and the Viroqua Community.

**6. Agreement with Vierbicher for Rock and N. East Avenue projects (Public Works)** – Grainger stated the previous agreement we had was for Rock Avenue only and this agreement was revised to include both Rock and N. East Avenue projects since the USDA application included both and we were able to get a higher grant by doing so. The design and construction portion is \$137,000 and time and material is \$120,000. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the agreement with Vierbicher for Rock and N. East Avenue projects for \$257,000. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Approval of change order and final payment to Top Notch Construction for Park & Rec building (Finance)** - Severson stated after review of the change order there is an error in the amount that will need clarification for the change from a tankless to a 30 gallon water heater. The original change order was an increase of \$870 to regrade the steel, a decrease of \$320 for the steel entry door and an increase of \$1100 for the water heater for a net increase of \$1650. The Finance Committee recommended approval contingent upon clarification of the change order and Alderperson Hubbard stated it should be a gas water heater instead of electric for cost savings. Motion by Alderperson Clifton/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to approve the final payment to Top Notch

Construction for \$13,326 plus or minus the change order contingent upon clarification on the change order amounts. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Conflict of Interest assurance for USDA funding** – All Council members are required to sign a conflict of interest form for the USDA application stating if they are related to any Rural Development employee. All members signed and returned the form.

**9. Ordinance regarding grants for Reserve “Class B” licenses (Public Safety)** – Severson stated in the interest of economic development many communities have opted to return part of the \$10,000 fee as a grant. This model was from the City of Hartford. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Ordinance 14OR006 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Payment of bills.** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Rahr to approve the payment of bills on report date 10/09/14 in the amount of \$402,012.97 and additional bills report date 10/14/14 in the amount of \$133,160.26. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Second Period for Public Comment** – Marjorie Macacaet stated her support for Nancy Rhodes and feels the Board should thank her for her years of service as a career volunteer.

**12. Adjournment -**

Motion made by Alderperson Rahr/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk