

DECEMBER 12, 2006

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, Marc Polsean, John Bjerke, Gary Krause, Weston Mack, Roger Hatlem, Gail Frie, Robert Suhr and Terry Noble present. Also present were City Administrator Jeff Gohlke, Clerk John Severson, City Attorney David Jenkins, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Steve Clark, Vernie Smith, Lynn Chakoian, Ted Hase, Marv Christianson, LaVern Britt, Orvis Pederson, Mark Brueggen, Pat Peterson, Carol Barlow, Margaret Thies and Bernilda McDowell.

2. Approval of the November 28 and December 4, 2006 Council Minutes.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to approve the minutes of the November 28 and December 4, 2006 meetings. Seconded by Alderperson Krause. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

3. First period for public comment.

None

4. Report on Viroqua Senior Citizens Center and Vernon Co. Unit on Aging.

Pat Peterson, Director for the Vernon Co. Unit on Aging, reported on programs and activities provided for Vernon Co. Senior Citizens. Carol Barlow, President of the Senior Citizen Center, thanked the Council for their support of the Center and reported on the activities.

5. Eagles Club expansion of relocation.

Ted Hase informed the Council of the Eagles Club desire to expand their facilities. They were concerned how the City's plans for the surrounding properties might affect the expansion. Discussion took place. The Eagles Club was informed that the Council had no definite plans for the area at this time.

6. Ordinance regarding operator licenses – first reading.

Ordinance No.06OR014 was reviewed by the Council. The ordinance changes the fees for an operator license from \$10.00 to \$15.00 and establishes a \$5.00 fee for a provisional license. Attorney Jenkins commented that the language of the proposed ordinance was changed so to be in accordance with Chapter 125 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Motion by Alderperson Polsean to approve Ordinance No.06OR014 and waive the second reading. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

7. Municipal Court Agreement – addition of the Village of Stoddard.

Mayor Fanta announced that the Village of Stoddard will be joining the Hidden Valleys Municipal Court. The Council was presented with an Agreement for the Establishment And Operation Of A Joint Municipal Court and another agreement detailing the 2007 budget contributions. Motion by Alderperson Krause to approve the agreements as presented. Seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

8. Ordinance Amending the Sign Ordinance – first reading.

Alderperson Frie offered an amendment to proposed Ordinance No.06OR011 for discussion. The proposed ordinance as recommended by the Public Property Committee would require a conditional use permit for an electronic variable message sign. The amendment offered would add a list of criteria to be evaluated by the Plan Commission. The amendment was read by Alderperson Frie. Discussion took place. Motion by Alderperson Noble to approve Ordinance No. 06OR011 with the amendment offered by Alderperson Frie with the additional amendments of (3.b.) prohibiting graphics and (3.d.) limiting the frequency of change to 20 seconds. Seconded by Alderperson Polsean. On roll call vote Alderpersons Tryggestad, Bjerke, Mack, Hatlem and Suhr voted nay. Alderpersons Polsean, Krause, Frie and Noble voted aye. Motion is defeated. Additional discussion took place centering on definitions in the existing sign ordinance relating to animation and flashing. Motion by Alderperson Frie to remove the exception for electronic variable message signs in relation to animation and flashing in the

existing ordinance and approve Ordinance No. 06OR011 with the original amendment as offered by Alderperson Frie. Seconded by Alderperson Bjerke. On roll call vote Alderpersons Tryggestad, Polsean, Bjerke, Mack, Hatlem, Frie, Suhr and Noble voted aye. Alderperson Krause voted nay. Motion carries. Motion by Alderperson Polsean to waive the second reading. Seconded by Alderperson Mack. On roll call vote Alderpersons Tryggestad, Polsean, Bjerke, Mack, Hatlem and Suhr voted aye. Alderpersons Krause, Frie, and Noble voted nay. Motion carries.

9. Grant Award.

Mayor Fanta announced that the City of Viroqua will be awarded up to \$406,000 for utility improvements on Decker Street through the CDBG Public Facilities program.

10. 2007 meeting schedule.

The Council reviewed the 2007 schedule as presented by Jeff Gohlke.

11. Payment of bills.

Motion by Alderperson Hatlem to pay the bills as recommended by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Alderperson Suhr. All voted aye on roll call vote. Motion carries.

12. Second period for public comment.

Lynn Chakoian, commenting on the sign ordinance, felt that the lack of larger controls and a conditional use for each time would lead to more controversy and disapproved of the lack of clarity and absence of a second reading.

12. Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Polsean to adjourn the Council meeting until 7:30 pm December 27, 2006. Seconded by Alderperson Bjerke. All voted aye on voice vote. Motion carries.

John Severson
Clerk