

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Mike Bankes, John Montemurno, Cyndy Hubbard and Todd Sanwick present. Alderpersons Terry Noble, Mike Koppa and Jeff Clifton were excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Utility Clerk Nancy Bekkedal, Nathan Randall, Jan Rasikas and members of the Viroqua Food Coop.

2. Approval of the November 10, 2015 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015 meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – none

4. Public Hearing on proposed 2016 General Fund budget – Mayor Fanta opened the public hearing at 7:31 p.m. All changes that the Council requested have been included in the budget along with the 2% wage increase. Volunteer firefighters will also be included in the wage increase. Severson reviewed the \$4,746,830 balanced budget with a General Fund levy of \$1,924,383. The budget includes \$218,100 in capital expenditures for 2016. The mill rate comparison from 2014 to 2015 was discussed for all entities with an overall decrease of .00030 mills considering the school tax credit. After all apportioned levy amounts are applied we will have an overall tax increment levy of \$437,423.71 for the TIF districts. Our local portion for the TIF increment is \$147,730.18 making the overall local levy \$2,072,113.18. This equates to approximately a \$30.00 decrease per \$100,000 valuation. The public hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.

5. Approval of the 2016 General Fund budget and 2015 tax levy collectible in 2016 – Motion by Alderperson Bankes/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve the 2016 General Fund budget of \$4,746,830 and a tax levy of \$2,072,113.18 for 2015 collectible in 2016. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approval of Badger pay request #5 – Rock Avenue project (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Badger Environmental pay request #5 for \$150,878.43. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve operator licenses for Desiray Hicks-Peterson, Aleisha Flogel, Sarah Clemens, Ryan Hill, Christie Knapp and Merten Peterson. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Johnson Block & Co for 2015 audit services (Finance) – The quote received for the audit fee was a range of \$17,600 - \$18,900. The single audit and additional services will be billed at their regular hourly rates. Motion by Alderperson Sanwick/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve Johnson Block & Company's proposal for 2015 audit services. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Miscellaneous library furniture and fixture purchase (Finance) – When the miscellaneous items were approved for furniture there were a few items they could not locate on the bid items and it was approved for us to purchase them directly. The total of these items is \$5397.59. Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the direct furniture purchase of \$5397.59. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Discussion with possible action on Center Street traffic study – The Viroqua Food Coop is considering the possibility of vacating part of Center Street by their property for future expansion. This is an economic development issue and a traffic analysis would be a good place to start. The potential cost could be up to \$6500 and the Food Coop is willing to share in the expense. This would be a Tid #4 eligible expense. Jan Rasikas shared preliminary drawings with the Council of the expansion and explained the potential increase in sales and employees with a new building. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bankes to approve the traffic study

at a maximum cost of \$6500 shared equally between the City and the Food Coop. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Payment of bills. – Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Sanwick to approve the payment of bills on report date 11/20/15 in the amount of \$127,392.46 and additional bills report date 11/24/15 in the amount of \$9,860.95. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Second Period for Public Comment – none

13. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Bankes to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk