

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2016**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Terry Noble, Mike Bankes, Mike Koppa, John Montemurno, Jeff Clifton, Cyndy Hubbard and Todd Sanwick present. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Engineer/DPW Sarah Grainger, Utility Clerk Nancy Bekkedal, Mike Brendel, Robert Knadle, Anita & Jeff Burkhardt, Jan Rasika, Mike Scarmon and Curt Brye.

2. Approval of the December 29, 2015 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve the minutes of the December 29, 2015 meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – Jeff and Anita Burkhardt addressed the council regarding concerns about the parking that was eliminated on the west side of the 300 block of Rock Street after the construction and are asking the council to reconsider adding the parking back to help the residents and the business customers in that area.

4. Public hearing on conditional use application from Viroqua Area Schools for use of LED message board on 900 block of West Broadway – Mayor Fanta opened the public hearing at 7:32 pm. The size of the sign went before the Zoning Board of Appeals and was approved. This conditional use is for the LED portion of the sign and was brought forward from Plan Commission with the following conditions:

- A. The sign can be used only during the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- B. Only static messages will be allowed. Text will not scroll, spin or otherwise move across the sign face. No background or animated graphics will be permitted, such as flags, clouds, balloons, bubbles, etc. Static graphic representations of product or services may be displayed as part of the message.
- C. Color may be used in part of a static message but is limited to a maximum of five colors at any given time.
- D. Messages shall be visible for a minimum of six seconds or DOT minimum standards. There will be no dwell time (dark screen) between messages to avoid flashing appearance.
- E. No other signs will be permitted to be attached to the main sign or its supports
- F. The light intensity of the sign will be regulated by a light sensing unit so that the sign will automatically dim as ambient light decreases.

The sign will be used for informational purposes and weekly events. Money was collected from donations for this project. Mayor Fanta closed the public hearing at 7:41 pm.

5. Consideration of conditional use application – Viroqua Area Schools (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Sanwick to approve the conditional use application for the Viroqua Area Schools with the conditions listed above. Voice vote eight in favor, one opposed. Motion carried. Alderperson Montemurno voting no.

6. Traffic study results for Center Street adjacent to Viroqua Food Cooperative – Mike Scarmon of KL Engineering presented a power point of the results from the traffic impact study that was conducted regarding the Viroqua Food Cooperative expansion proposal and Center Street vacation for the Council.

7. Discussion with possible action on continuing funding for visitor center (Finance) - We have been contributing towards the rent on the building across from City Hall for the Chamber until their offices are ready at WTC. The offices will be ready soon however space is limited and the current location has been a large success with visibility and positive feedback. The Chamber is asking to continue the lease in the current location at \$300/month for the remainder of the year. They have volunteers willing to staff the office on the weekends also. They would also continue to use the office at WTC for private meetings with vendors, grant writing, extra staff space, etc. Severson stated there is no budget line item for this so it would have to come from reserves for now with the possibility of a budget amendment later in the year. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by

Aldersperson Koppa to approve funding for the visitor center for the remainder of the year at \$300/month. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Vierbicher contract for surveyor services for wastewater treatment facility upgrade (Public Works) – This is an amendment to the Rusk Avenue agreement with Vierbicher to add surveyor services for the survey needed on the Wheeler property for the easements requested. The additional amendment is for \$3650 plus \$880 additional services as needed. Motion by Aldersperson Polsean/second by Aldersperson Montemurno to approve the amendment to the Vierbicher contract for \$4530.00. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Approval of special council meeting on January 19, 2016 regarding wastewater treatment facility upgrade Grainger stated we need to make a decision on how we will be moving forward on the project, the rate case and other items so Ehlers and the engineers will be here to discuss the options and answer questions. Motion by Aldersperson Hubbard/second by Aldersperson Montemurno to approve a special council meeting on January 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Payment of bills. – Motion by Aldersperson Koppa/second by Aldersperson Hubbard to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/08/16 in the amount of \$104,431.02 and additional bills report date 01/12/16 in the amount of \$1,153,479.91. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Second Period for Public Comment – none

12. Adjournment - Motion made by Aldersperson Polsean/second by Aldersperson Montemurno to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk