

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2017**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2017 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Terry Noble, Marc Polsean, Mike Bankes, Mike Koppa, Sondra Naxi, John Montemurno and Todd Sanwick present. Alderperson Cyndy Hubbard was excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Utility Clerk Nancy Bekkedal and Tanja Birke.

2. Approval of the December 13, 2016 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Sanwick/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2016 Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – Tanja Birke asked the Council to adopt a statement of unity and inclusiveness to have Viroqua stand out as a leader. A copy of the statement was presented to each Council member.

4. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to approve operator licenses for Andrea Lee and Jill Dlugi. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Approval of Wapasha Construction Co. Pay Request #4 – Wastewater Treatment Facility project (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve pay request #4 for \$189,601.33. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Volunteer firefighter purchase of rescue truck (Public Safety) - the volunteer firefighters do annual fundraising to be used toward various purchases. They would like to purchase a rescue truck with their funds. They are not currently set up as a 501c3 for non- profit status and they are working on this now. The bank requires proof of this status to borrow funds to the volunteers directly. If the paperwork is not complete before the funds are needed they may need the City to take out the loan on their behalf but it would be paid by the volunteer funds. The total cost of the truck is \$120,000 with a balance of approximately \$70,000 needed to borrow. Motion by Alderperson Bankes/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the City participation in the purchase of the rescue truck as presented by Chief Buros. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Acceptance of resignation – Utility Clerk – Utility Clerk Nancy Bekkedal will be retiring April 15, 2017. Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Naxi to accept Bekkedal’s resignation. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Authorize Public Works Committee to advertise for Utility Clerk position – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Koppa to authorize the Public Works Committee to start the replacement process for the Utility Clerk position. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Authorize Burbach Aquatics to begin Phase I Step II study (Finance) A conversation was started between the City, Vernon Memorial, and the school about a potential coalition for an indoor/outdoor pool/exercise center/daycare complex. A representative from Burbach Aquatics came to a meeting and can do a study to look at the financial aspects of this type of project. It would take into account the needs of all entities to see if it would be a feasible idea. This would not be to design the project but just to look at the financials. The fee was part of our original contract at a cost of \$2000 plus expendables. Motion by Alderperson Koppa/second by Alderperson Noble to authorize Burbach Aquatics to begin the Phase I Step II study for cost estimates. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Tourism ordinance – First Reading (Finance) – this item was presented to the Finance Committee but is not ready to be forwarded to Council yet. This is necessary due to the law changes regarding our room tax. Our tourism committee will be changed to a commission to oversee the room tax funds and new reporting requirements.

11. Payment of bills. – Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/05/17 in the amount of \$253,970.47 and additional bills on report date 01/11/2017 for \$1,175,225.45. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Second Period for Public Comment – none

13. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Sanwick/second by Alderperson Bankes to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk