

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2017 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Mike Bankes, Mike Koppa, John Montemurno, Terry Noble and Cyndy Hubbard present. Alderpersons Todd Sanwick and Sondra Naxi were excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney George Hopkins, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Police Chief Daron Jefson and Timothy Gaskell.

2. Approval of the February 14, 2017 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2017 Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – none

4. Timothy Gaskell – Candidate for Vernon County Circuit Court Judge to address the Council – Gaskell informed the Council on why he is running for the Circuit Court Judge position on April 4, 2016.

5. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve operator licenses for Owen Aue and Tonia Volden. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. 2017-2018 Ag cropland leases (Public Property) – we advertised for three parcels for a two year lease. Parcel #1 and #2 have right of first refusal attached for the current lease holders. Al Christianson bid \$165/acre for parcel #1, Thomas Selin bid \$165/acre for parcel #2, and Joe Vesbach bid \$200/acre for all three parcels. Christianson and Selin agreed to match the \$200/acre bid for their parcels which is what the current lease price is. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Christianson for parcel #1, Selin for parcel #2 and Vesbach for parcel #3 at \$200/acre for a two year lease. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Purchase of additional holiday lighting for decorations (Public Works) – our current decorations need to be replaced and the committee narrowed the choices down to a poinsettia and shooting star to add some color to the current decorations. We would like to start replacing a few each year so it is not as large a budget impact. Motion by Alderperson Bankes/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to order four of each decoration for a total of eight for \$2864.00. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Bankes stated we should also approach the service organizations and Chamber to possibly order additional at this price.

8. Discussion with possible action on property at 116 E Broadway (Public Property) – this property has about fifteen people with ownership interest which will all need to be served. This cost could be up to \$1000 or more with no potential value for the City to re-coop if the house is razed. There is also a lien from Health & Human Services on the house. Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Noble to authorize an undetermined amount to move forward with legal action on this property. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on LED sign violation and right-of-way violation at 747 S. Main Street – this sign is in the state right of way and is out of compliance with the sign ordinance. The owner stated he could receive a variance from the State, however the State had no record of a request and it would not be issued. The Plan Commission and Council were very specific as to the location of the sign and specifics. Under the State statutes an order to remove the obstruction from the right of way is the next step and he would have thirty days to do it. If he doesn't then court action would need to be filed. Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the order to remove all the encroachments (obstructions) from the State right of way. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. A permit for the LED sign was issued but never paid for nor picked up. Therefore the sign would not be able to be put up again without applying for a new permit and going through the process again.

10. Payment of bills. – Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the payment of bills on report date 02/23/17 in the amount of \$23,048.59 and additional bills on report date 02/28/2017 for \$279,420.21. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Second Period for Public Comment – none

12. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson 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