

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

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Terry Noble, Mike Bankes, Mike Koppa, John Montemurno and Sondra Naxi present. Cyndy Hubbard and Todd Sanwick were excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Utility Billing Clerk Kathy Volden, Utility Clerk Nancy Bekkedal, Cheryl Purvis, Jeff Gohlke, Jay McHenry, Evan Blatner, Gene Laschinger, Wayde Lawler, Jim Hallberg, Halle Pollay and Karen Mischel.

2. Approval of the March 28, 2017 Regular and March 21, 2017 Special Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Bankes to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017 and March 21, 2017 Council meetings. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment –Evan Blatner inquired about who owned the old library and Severson stated it is owned by the City and is currently for sale.

4. Memorandum of Understanding with Western Technical College for connecting link – Student Commons Space – Jay McHenry from WTC was available for questions. The MOU has been reviewed by the Library Board and the insurance agreement is now done which has been reviewed by our insurance agent along with our city attorney. All parties now feel it is complete. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Western Technical College for the connecting link. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Recognition of retirement of Nancy Bekkedal, Utility Clerk – Mayor Fanta presented Nancy with a plaque for her 15 years of service with the City of Viroqua.

6. Public Hearing – rezoning of 401 E Jefferson Street (The Ark) from R-2 to B-2 – prior to opening the public hearing Clerk Polhamus reviewed the timeline of events that occurred regarding the request and Attorney Hopkins reviewed the three ways to change the allowable use of a property under zoning laws. Plan Commission recommended denying the rezoning but did leave it open for other options for a conditional use. Mayor Fanta opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. The following people spoke: Wayde Lawler – explore all tools & come up with creative solution, Jim Hallberg – the Ark is an asset to the neighborhood, Halle Pollay – Treasurer for Ark have suggested price for lunch service, asset to community, Jeff Gohlke-questioned if a portion of the building could be considered in the process versus the whole building in the determination, Mike Bankes – against this in a residential neighborhood, Karen Mischel – uniqueness brings people here, Mike Koppa – feels we should find a way to work with them on this instead of turning them away, Terry Noble – requests that we look at conditional uses in R1 and R2 districts for potential revisions/additions. Mayor Fanta closed the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.

7. Consideration of preliminary resolution on rezoning of 401 E Jefferson Street – Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Polsean to deny the zoning change from R-2 to B-2 and refer the issue back to Plan Commission to review the R1 and R2 conditional uses for possible changes. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Reappointment of Marv McNeal to Plan Commission for three year term expiring 5/1/2020 – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the reappointment of Marv McNeal to Plan Commission. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Approval of Wapasha Construction Co. Pay Request #7 – Wastewater Treatment Facility project (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Montemurno to approve pay request #7 for \$131,825.84. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Award of bid for Contract B – Force Main Outfall (Public Works) – the bid opening occurred on 3/30/2017 with four bidders. Grainger reviewed the bids with the Council along with supplemental bid items and advantages/disadvantages with each. After all options were discussed a motion was made by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Montemurno to award the Contract B bid to Rule Construction Ltd. for \$1,154,164.50 for their base bid, supplemental items and schedule C. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Authorization to proceed with comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (Park/Rec & Public Property) – The committees met and by doing this plan it enables us to be eligible for grant funding. Severson checked with Vierbicher to get a rough idea on consultant costs between \$3000-\$3500 to do the plan. Park & Rec and Historic Preservation can work on some of the data collection. No money will be spent until we are in the planning stages. Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Noble to proceed with the development of the recreation plan and work with local entities and community members for information. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Payment of bills (Finance) – Motion by Alderperson Montemurno/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the payment of bills on report date 04/06/17 in the amount of \$49,450.31 and additional bills on report date 4/11/2017 in the amount of \$24,088.01. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Second Period for Public Comment – Mayor Fanta introduced Cheryl Purvis the new Utility Clerk.

14. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Bankes to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk