

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 25, 2017**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Marc Polsean, Steve Bekkedal, Mike Bankes, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Sondra Naxi and Jeff Gohlke present. Terry Noble was excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Lila Cina, John Tully, Leland & Lynn Ekum, Rita Burckhardt, Sue Moran, Charlotte Kirking, Pat Oldenburg, Shirley Olson, Esther Cook, Linda Evans, Cindy Harter, Wayde Lawler, Judy & Jeff Millikin, Sarah Bratnober, Bill Meeks, Tanja Birke, Jeff & Anita Burckhardt, KJ Jakobson, Evan Blattner, Shannon Landis, Tatiana Katara, Jim Hallberg, Faith Anacker and Alan Hagen.

2. Approval of the July 11, 2017 Regular Council minutes – Clerk Polhamus stated that under item four on the minutes the motion should be seconded by Alderperson Gohlke instead of Alderperson Thompson. Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2017 meeting as corrected. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – Lila Cina stated she has been dealing with her neighbor for many years regarding her yard maintenance and now there are rats and skunks and uncovered compost issues that need to be addressed. Esther Cook stated she has had skunks, racoons and woodchucks in her yard also. Shannon Landis stated the City needs a process for handling compost with education. She also commented on ragweed in the parks and on the trails. Anita Burckhardt, Judy Millikin and Charlotte Kirking also commented on the need for composting rules and to address the number of animals coming into town. Wayde Lawler invited the Council to the informational forum at the Vernon County Courthouse on Wednesday, July 26th.

4. Public hearing – conditional use of property at 401 E. Jefferson Avenue – Mayor Fanta opened the public hearing at 7:46 p.m. The following people spoke in favor of allowing the conditional use: Tatiana Katara, KJ Jakobson, Jim Hallberg, John Tully, Faith Anacker, Evan Blatner, Sarah Bratnober and Tanja Birke. Judy Millikin asked if they will carry insurance, if they will be wearing restaurant attire while preparing and serving food and if they will be coming back to the City for additional funding at any point if they can't support themselves. The public hearing was closed at 7:55 p.m.

5. Consideration of conditional use application by the Ark at 401 E. Jefferson Ave. for café offering lunch from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Plan Commission) – Alderperson Bekkedal stated most of the comments were in support of the Ark overall rather than just the café. Business districts are for businesses and should not be allowed in residential areas. Alderperson Koppa disagreed as the comments also referenced the availability of healthy food. Alderperson Gohlke agreed with Koppa and reminded the Council that a zoning change was adopted to allow this. Alderperson Hubbard stated this area includes the school and other mixed uses so it is not strictly residential. Motion by Alderperson Koppa second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the conditional use application. Roll call vote six in favor and two against. Motion carried. Alderpersons Bekkedal and Bankes voting no.

6. Certified survey map – Jeff & Judy Millikin, Mike Brudos & Eugene Clark (Plan Commission) Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve the certified survey map. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Extraterritorial Certified Survey Map – Davcher Ltd (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Bankes to approve the extraterritorial certified survey map. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Certified survey map – VDA Inc. (Plan Commission) – this was for division of land in the industrial park to prepare for the purchase offer under item nine. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the certified survey map. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Offer to purchase land in industrial park – Southwest Sanitation (Plan Commission) – Alderperson Gohlke stated Southwest Sanitation has offered to purchase four acres off E. Power Drive as shown on the certified survey map. The price is \$10,000 per acre. VDA reviewed the offer on 7/13/2017 and recommend approval. Bill Meeks stated they plan to build a 12,000-square foot solid waste transfer facility. They would transfer loads into a compactor to place in a semi to transport to a landfill. They plan currently at only one load per day. This is a ¾ million-dollar project with the need for additional staff. The building will be completely enclosed and nothing can be stored there by DNR rules it must flow through the facility in 24 hours. 75-80% of their loads go to the Vernon County landfill but they have outgrown this facility which may send them elsewhere. At the end of Power Drive, ADM has a driveway that is encroaching on this property. The City will be granting an easement to ADM so that it can remain but traffic control measures will be put in place so Southwest Operations do not get blocked. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the offer to purchase. Roll call vote seven in favor with one abstention. Motion carried. Alderperson Gohlke abstained.

10. Approval of appointment of Cyndy Hubbard as Coon Prairie Multi-Use Trail Committee Representative Motion by Alderperson Bankes/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve Cyndy Hubbard as the Coon Prairie Trail representative. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Jean Driscoll to Historic Preservation Commission for three-year term expiring 10/1/2020 – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the appointment of Jean Driscoll to the Historic Preservation Commission. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve operator licenses for Joslyn Olson and Jennifer Young. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Approval of temporary Class B beer license – Wild West Days (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Bankes/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the temporary Class B beer license for August 18-20, 2017. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Approval of temporary Class B beer license – Wild West Days Gun Banquet (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve the temporary Class B beer license for August 26, 2017 at the Community Arena. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Approval of temporary Class B beer license – Wild West Days Little Britches Rodeo (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Bankes to approve the temporary Class B beer license for September 15-17, 2017. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Resolution – authorized representative to file applications for funding for shared ride taxi program – we have a taxi audit in August and one of the requirements is to have a resolution on file authorizing the mayor to sign all grant documents. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve resolution 17RS009 to approve the authorized representative. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Payment of bills (Finance) – Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to approve the payment of bills on report date 07/20/17 in the amount of \$110,657.59 and additional bills on report date 7/25/2017 in the amount of \$25,159.56. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Second Period for Public Comment – none

19. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Koppa to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk