

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JULY 31, 2018**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 31, 2018 by Mayor Karen Mischel with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, Sondra Naxi and John Thompson present. Alderperson Jeff Gohlke was excused. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Public Works Director/Engineer Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Jim Hallberg, Angie Cina, Tim Hundt and Evan Blattner.

**2. Approval of the July 10, 2018 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**3. First period for public comment** – Jim Hallberg expressed concern about the use of Round Up as a public safety issue and would like a moratorium put in place to come up with a non-toxic method of weed removal.

**4. Discussion with possible action on options for weed control in City streets (Public Works)**- Grainger reviewed a survey of other municipalities on what they have tried for weed control in the streets. The costs of each method were also reviewed. Alderperson Bekkedal left the meeting at 8:24 p.m. If the street sweeper were used it would take two weeks to go through the entire City. Alderperson Koppa stated we need to determine what our tolerance level is and whether we need to cover the entire City. The Mayor would like the spraying to stop and whatever method is done we try for at least three years. We could also check with Organic Valley as to whether the grant options they offered before would still be available. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to place a three-year moratorium on spraying and allow Sarah Grainger and the street department to put together a hybrid system using the most useful tools of weed removal and most cost effective to eliminate the most destructive weeds. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Update to Council on EDA project**- the County Board was updated at their last Board meeting and the advisory committee met this week. The application is in the mail for the EDA funding and we should know by November if we are successful. The map of the proposed project was reviewed by the Council and the possible Tid area that would follow the County's economic development strategy.

**6. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve licenses for Christopher Underwood, Krista Underwood, Kayla Schultz and Margaret Karasek. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Temporary Class B beer license applications – Wild West Days (Public Safety)** – Motion by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve temporary Class B beer licenses for Wild West Days on August 17-19 for Wild West Days, August 25-26 for their annual gun raffle at the Hockey Association building and September 6-9 for the Little Britches Rodeo. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Application for Class B beer license – Blackhawk Grille, LLC (Public Safety)**- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the Class B beer license for Blackhawk Grille, LLC. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Approval of Wapasha Construction Co. Pay Request #24 – Wastewater Treatment Facility Contract A (Public Works)**- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve pay request #24 for \$106,667.45. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Approval of Rule Construction Pay Request #4 – Wastewater Treatment Facility Contract B (Public Works)** Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve pay request #4 for \$420,820.89. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Digester cover insulation approval (Public Works)**- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the proposal of \$23,955 from Frantl Company for the digester cover insulation. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. A Class I notice will be put in the paper.

**12. Living Faith Church request for privilege in the street for volleyball court adjacent to Sands Rd (Public Works)**- they are requesting to put in a sand volleyball court. They were provided with a copy of a privilege in the street document explaining insurance requirements and that the City is not liable for damages. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the privilege in the street for Living Faith Church. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. Police Department replacement of vehicle and equipment (Public Safety)**- On June 26<sup>th</sup> our squad was hit and the insurance company has since totaled the vehicle. Insurance has agreed to a buyout price of \$16,836.33. We were able to find a 2018 Ford Explorer in Madison at a cost of \$29,600. The camera and computer should be upgraded at this time also if we are upgrading the vehicle. The cost for everything after insurance would be \$25,073.67. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Gregory Splinter to amend the capital budget and approve the squad, camera and computer purchase. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Resolution to create a nonpartisan procedure for the preparation of legislative and congressional redistricting plans**- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve resolution 018RS012. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**15. Ordinance related to composting – First Reading (Public Safety)**- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the first reading of Ordinance 18OR001. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**16. Payment of bills (Finance)** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the payment of bills on report date 07/26/18 in the amount of \$265,439.27 and additional bills on report date 07/31/2018 in the amount of \$141,212.53. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**17. Second Period for Public Comment** – none

**18. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk