

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2018**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 by Mayor Karen Mischel with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, Sondra Naxi, John Thompson and Jeff Gohlke present. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney George Hopkins, Public Works Director/Engineer Sarah Grainger, Assistant Police Chief Todd Simonson, Charlie Knower, Bill Brooke, Jacalyn Perry and Tim Hundt.

2. Approval of the September 11, 2018 Regular and September 18, 2018 Special Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the minutes from the previous meetings as presented. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – none

4. Update on 2018 Driftless Music Festival – Charlie Knower- this was the seventh annual event that ran from noon to 10 pm and they estimate 4000 people were in attendance. This non-profit group also started a flood relief fund through the benefit concert held at the Temple Theatre where approximately \$24,000 was raised and the group also raised an additional \$26,000 beyond that amount. They received 204 applications for grant money to help flood victims in Vernon and Crawford counties. They gave out 181 checks of \$250 each and \$5000 to the Bethel Buttik. Overall the events were a huge success and Knower thanked the City for their support.

5. Public hearing on Conditional Use application for 726 N. Main Street for LED message board – Main Street Mobil Mart- the Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:35 pm. Main Street Mobil wants to replace the bottom portion of their current sign with an electronic LED board. The size requirements conform and they only plan to use red lettering. They will also be required to remove the free-standing sign that they currently have. The Plan Commission recommended approval with conditions that have been placed on other LED signs. Alderperson Birke stated that we have a double standard on how traffic is impeded by signs for safety and feels that these signs are a lot more distracting. The consensus of the Council was that the sign ordinance needs to be rewritten defining the role of the Design Review Board and have better enforcement. The public hearing was closed at 8:00 pm.

6. Approval of Conditional use application for 726 N. Main Street for LED message board (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the conditional use application for 726 N. Main Street with the following conditions: 1) the sign can be used only during normal business hours (5am-10pm) 2) Only static messages will be allowed. Text will not scroll, spin, or otherwise move across the sign face. No background or animated graphics will be permitted, such as flags, clouds, balloons, bubbles, etc. Static graphic representations of product or services may be displayed as part of the message. 3) Color may be used in part of the static message but is limited to a maximum of five colors at any given time. 4) Messages shall be visible for a minimum of three seconds or DOT minimum standards. There will be no dwell time (dark screen) between messages to avoid flashing appearance. 5) The light intensity of the sign will be regulated by a light sensing unit so that the sign will automatically dim as ambient light decreases. Voice vote eight in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderperson Birke voted no.

7. Certified survey map approval – William & Sara McDonald (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve the certified survey map. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Certified survey map approval - Beth Sanwick (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the certified survey map. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Reappointment of Alycann Taylor, Mike Koppa, Ted Parrish, Dani Lind and Nancy Rhodes to Tourism Commission for one-year term expiring 2/14/2020 (current term expired 2/14/2018) – this item was tabled until the next meeting for clarification.

10. Approval for purchase of two loaders (Public Works)- we have been leasing our two loaders from John Deere and this program has ended. We went out for bids to have the option to purchase one loader and either purchase/lease a second. We only received one bid back from John Deere. The cost for the 544K loader was \$152,500 with warranty and the cost of the 524K loader with warranty was \$135,000. They gave us a lease to purchase option for four years but the Public Works Committee felt with the interest rate it was better to purchase and add to our capital borrowing. Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the purchase of the two loaders for \$287,500. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Wapasha Construction Co. Pay Request #26 – WWTF Contract A (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve pay request #26 for \$185,929.45. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Possible closed session per Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(c) – Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Auxiliary Worker position offer of employment (Public Works recommendation)- Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Koppa to enter closed session at 8:25 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed in closed session- Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to return to open session at 8:30 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Hubbard to hire Kevin Hanson to the position of Auxiliary Worker. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Payment of bills (Finance) – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payment of bills on report date 09/20/18 in the amount of \$114,567.59 and additional bills on report date 09/25/2018 in the amount of \$95,208.01. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Second Period for Public Comment – none

16. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Koppa to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk