

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2019**

1. Roll call:

The special meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 by Mayor Karen Mischel with Alderpersons Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, Sondra Naxi and Jeff Gohlke present. Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal and John Thompson were excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Assistant Police Chief Todd Simonson, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Public Works Director/Engineer Sarah Grainger, Library Director Trina Erickson, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Fire Chief Chad Buros and Tim Hundt

2. First period for public comment – None

3. Library building update – Trina Erickson reviewed the timeline of events with the Council on the issues with the HVAC leaking at the library. The water test came back negative for acidic levels and there is no corrosion in the pipes. However, there is no definitive cause for the issue that keeps happening. The quote to fix the HVAC system is \$2764.00 plus the drywall repair which could be done mid-April. If we wanted to re-pipe the entire system it could run \$120,000 or more. The warranties need to be looked at and have someone come in to give us an idea if the system was installed correctly from the beginning. Coulee Region Mechanical installed the pipes and Bernie Buchner installed the HVAC system. The roof is also leaking and we will have GNC take a look at this as an independent consultant instead of bringing Ledegar Roofing in.

4. City Hall building update with possible action – Torres reviewed the current state of the City Hall building. The asbestos test in Nate’s office came back negative. The black mold inspection is still out. The front steps are covered under insurance and will be fixed. General Engineering found that “nearly every aspect of this building is deficient in one way or another” and cost between \$550,000 to \$750,000 to make the building compliant. We will need to do necessary repairs now but add this into the capital planning process and decide how much funding to put into the current building.

5. Discussion with possible action on capital improvement grant collaboration with Viroqua Chamber Main Street – Nora Roughen-Schmidt attended via speakerphone at 8:40 pm. Alderperson Birke asked if it would hurt the grant by having a government entity as part of it and if there would be enough space for City Hall. Nora stated that it could affect the grant but collaborations are good and there would be space. The USDA grant allows us to change the plan after award so discussions can happen later as we continue to evaluate all the options. Alderperson Gohlke recommended sending a letter of support for the grant but not commit to any funding yet until the plan is defined later. Nora agreed that the letter would be a good start. Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to draft a letter of support to send in with the USDA grant. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion and establishment of committees for comprehensive plan and capital improvement plan – the current comprehensive plan by Mead and Hunt was adopted in 2007. It was decided to use this as a guide to start. The Mayor asked for input from Council for citizen participation members. This item was tabled for Torres to come up with a proposal on the plans.

7. Second Period for Public Comment – none

8. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Gohlke to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk