

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 by Mayor Karen Mischel with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Tanja Birke, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Sondra Naxi present. Jeff Gohlke, Terry Noble and Mike Koppa were excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Interim Police Chief Todd Simonson, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Kurt Muchow, Diane McGinnis, Stacie Sanborn, Evan Blatner, Angie Lawrence, Bill Meeks, Tom Lukens, Kelvin Rodolfo, Anna Jo Doerr and Kathleen Crittenden.

**2. Approval of the September 10, 2019 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**3. First period for public comment** – none

**4. Discussion with possible action regarding Vernon County landfill expansion** – Stacie Sanborn, Solid Waste Administrator stated the current landfill has an estimated remaining life of five to seven years depending on waste volumes and they are reaching out to municipalities to see if they would support an expansion to extend the landfill out fifteen years. They operate as an enterprise fund with expenses paid by tipping fees. They would do a feasibility study for \$500,000-\$700,000 with a construction cost of \$1.2 million done in phases. Several residents (Tom Lukens, Angie Lawrence, Kelvin Rodolfo, Ann Jo Doerr and Kathleen Crittenden) residing outside the City spoke against the expansion for reasons such as cost, smell, environmental concerns and unaffordability to the community so items end up dumped. Bill Meeks of Southwest Sanitation stated they built a transfer station in preparation for the possible closure so the City's needs would still be met and costs could go down. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to not support the expansion of the Vernon County landfill. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Appointment of Jean Klousia to Board of Appeals replacing Bill Mapp whose three-year term expires 5/1/2020**- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to appoint Jean Klousia to Board of Appeals. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Reappointment of Cyndy Hubbard to Historic Preservation Commission for three-year term expiring 10/1/2022**- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to re-appoint Cyndy Hubbard to Historic Preservation. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Discussion and review of B-5 zoning ordinance with design standards (Plan Commission)**- the design standards for the new industrial park will be a separate document to be reviewed later and approved by resolution of the Council. Torres reviewed the proposed ordinance language with Council for the new B-5 zoning district. Attorney Hopkins will bring a draft ordinance to Council for approval on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**8. Update on crosswalk signage & flags with possible action (Public Safety)** – the City of Dodgeville provided the Mayor with cost estimates for building crosswalk flag boxes similar to what they put in for about \$60-\$70 per box. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to purchase the materials for eight boxes at Walgreens, Court Street, Terhune and Dairy Queen intersections on Main Street. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Approval of sidewalk bid (Public Works)**- we only received one bid from Fowler & Hammer for \$10/square foot for 4-inch thickness. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the sidewalk bid from Fowler & Hammer. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Approval of Change Order #1 for Rusk Avenue project (Public Works)**- there is no change in contract price only a change in the substantial completion date from 9/30 to 10/11 due to the scheduling of asphalt. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve change order #1. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Approval of Pay Request #2 for Rusk Avenue project (Public Works)**- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve pay request #2 for Gerke Excavating for \$332,880.72. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**12. Review of 2019 Tax increment revenue bond payments** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the 2019 TIPR bond payments that are included in the bills. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. 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 – Utility Auxiliary Worker performance review**- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to enter closed session at 9:41 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session**- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to reconvene in open session at 9:45 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the pay increase for Scott Peterson retro to 8/2/2019 and he has successfully completed the probationary period. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**15. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggstad to approve the payment of bills on report date 09/19/19 in the amount of \$143,979.57 additional bills on report date 9/24/2019 for \$412,432.91. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**17. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Tryggstad/second by Alderperson Birke to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk