

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2019**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 by Mayor Karen Mischel with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Sondra Nazi present. Terry Noble and Jeff Gohlke were excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Tim Hundt, Bill Meeks, Craig Buros, Dave Maxwell, Craig Harms, Jenny Kuderer, Alex Lueck, two representatives from Ethos Energy and Kurt Muchow via phone.

2. Approval of the October 29, 2019 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Nazi to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – None

4. Presentation by utility companies regarding Viroqua Business Park utility options- Grainger stated there are right to service areas with a 500-foot rule in the state statutes so both Vernon Electric and Xcel Energy could be serving the new Viroqua Business Park. Both companies can offer various incentives and the infrastructure costs could be expensive if we are required to put both in so both companies were invited to update the Council on what they offer and answer questions. Vernon Electric stated they are offering a no-cost connection in 2020. They are not rate regulated as a Coop so they can offer incentive rates. Their closest substation is on Springville Road. Xcel Energy stated they are regulated by the Public Utility Commission so they can offer incentives in different ways than rates. Their substation is by Linton and Railroad Avenues about a mile from the Business Park. Both companies have two transmission sources.

5. Discussion with possible action on two-year extension of Southwest Sanitation contract- our current rates are at \$10.50 per month and the proposal is to increase rates to \$11.50 in 2020, \$12.00 in 2021, \$12.50 in 2022, \$12.75 in 2023 and \$13.00 in 2024. The increase is due to the rise in recycling rates as the market is bad. Southwest Sanitation would like to lock in a contract for two years and then we can re-evaluate where the market is after that. They are also going to automation with two carts per residence in 2020. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Nazi to approve the two-year extension of the Southwest Sanitation contract. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approval to apply for Department of Transportation (DOT) grant funding for use of bathhouse as trailhead and bike trail network- Grainger explained the one-time supplement multi-mobile grant that is available and due the first part of December. This is a 90% grant that allows you up to five years to spend the grant. It has been discussed previously for the Rock Avenue project that the bathhouse could be used as a trailhead and that would qualify for this grant. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Nazi to approve applying for the grant funding. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion on direction for City on multi-mobile transportation- tabled

8. 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 one-year review (Public Works)- tabled

9. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session

10. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the payment of bills on report date 11/07/19 in the amount of \$538,883.57 additional bills on report date 11/12/2019 for \$49,844.96. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Second Period for Public Comment – Tim Hundt stated he would have like to see more public input on the increase in recycling charges with Southwest Sanitation with a public hearing similar to the budget as this is an additional tax on the residents.

12. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk