

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 10, 2019**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 10, 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, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Library Director Trina Erickson, Tim Hundt, Ron Nash, Brian Schott and Evan Blatner.

2. Approval of the November 26, 2019 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – None

4. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve an operator license for Rebecca Volk. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Application for Class B beer and Class C wine license – Vernon County Shrine Club (Public Safety) – Discussion was held for and against the issuance of the license regarding past incidents and that they are a non-profit entity in competition with for profit businesses. A motion was made by Alderperson Hubbard to deny the license and put a timeline of three months prior to applying again except for temporary licenses. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Nazi to approve the Class B beer and Class C wine license for the Vernon Shrine Club. Voice vote five in favor, two against. Motion carried. Alderpersons Hubbard and Tryggestad voting no.

6. Review and approval of a resolution borrowing \$1,800,000 General Obligation Promissory Note of 2019 for interim financing related to the EDA project- this is issued to provide interim financing for the EDA Business Park project. The grant proceeds will be the primary repayment source; however, it is a reimbursement grant so we need to pay the expenses up front. Three banks bid on the note with Citizens First Bank being the low rate at 1.40%. The other bids were from Peoples State Bank at 1.49% and Royal Bank at 1.69%. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve resolution 019RS014A awarding the bid to Citizens First Bank. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Pay Request #1 – A1 Excavating (City of Viroqua/Vernon County Industrial Park Expansion Project-EDA) (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Nazi to approve pay request #1 for \$846,830.95. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of contract with Strand & Associates for concept plan for Main Street Improvements (Public Works)- this proposal is to evaluate the Main Street corridor from Airport Road to South Washington to help with the planning process for improvements and cost estimates for a DOT TAP grant application. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the contract with Strand & Associates for \$10,000. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on Public Private Partnership Agreement with Vernon Communications regarding WI Broadband Expansion Grant – Vernon Communications is applying for a grant and is asking for support from the City in a partnership agreement to strengthen the grant. The grant would help fund broadband to our three mobile home parks that currently don't have the technology. Council reviewed the agreement and suggested revisions. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to remove the in-kind

paragraph from the agreement and add a City prior approval across City Property to the permission paragraph. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Update with possible action on property at 808 Railroad Avenue- Friday is the 30-day deadline for the raze order. Ron Nash has offered to purchase the property from the owner and has begun cleanup of the property. They hope to close on December 30th. They have filled two 40-yard dumpsters, six loads in a dump trailer, removed nine loads of brush, took ten trees down and trimmed others. The yard is about 80% cleaned up. He would like to clean out the house and see if it is salvageable. He is also aware the raze order stays with the property and all the items on the inspection report need to be satisfied. Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Thompson to freeze the raze order for six months and then revisit it. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval to proceed with raze order per WI Stats. 66.0413 for property at 750 S Washington Ave – this raze order would be for the garage and stuff in the yard. The police department delivered a report to the owner giving him two weeks to comply. He has not come into compliance on any of the issues so we would like to proceed with a 30-day raze order. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to proceed with the raze order. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Resolution – updates to Solid Waste recycling/garbage charges – the current rate residential customers are paying is \$10.05/month. The City has been paying Southwest Sanitation at a rate of \$10.50/month and unintentionally subsidizing the residents .45/month. With the contract we have signed for 2020 the customer rate will be going to \$11.50/month due to increases in recycling fees and it was discussed to bring the customer charge up to match the rate charged by Southwest Sanitation. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve Resolution 019RS015. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Action on updates to Room Tax Ordinance for increase in tax rate – First Reading- Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Ordinance 19OR015 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. 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 governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Auxiliary Worker Position (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Naxi to enter closed session at 9:15 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session- Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Hubbard to reconvene in open session at 9:17 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Birke to transfer Scott Peterson from the Utility Department to the Street Department as Auxiliary Worker in Public Works. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the payment of bills on report date 12/05/19 in the amount of \$69,227.53 additional bills on report date 12/10/2019 for \$186,998.73. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Second Period for Public Comment – Brian Schott asked questions regarding the lateral work on Railroad Avenue and what happens to the raze order on 808 Railroad Avenue if the property is not purchased by the end of the year. Tim Hundt had a question regarding the Southwest Sanitation contract.

18. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Splinter to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk