

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
MARCH 13, 2018**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Steve Bekkedal, Marc Polsean, Terry Noble, Mike Bankes, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Sondra Naxi and Jeff Gohlke present. Also present were City Administrator John Severson, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Public Works Director/Engineer Sarah Grainger, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Police Chief Daron Jefson, Tim Hundt, Angie Cina, Tanja Birke, Evan Blattner, Kathy Hanson, Karen Mischel, Ken Franzen and their attorney for Bug Tussel Wireless.

**2. Approval of the February 27, 2018 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Gohlke to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as presented. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**4. Consideration of conditional use application by Bug Tussel Wireless to build a 195-foot utility structure/communication tower (tabled from 2/13/2018 Council meeting)**- Ken Franzen addressed the Council again but there was no new information. Tanja Birke asked legal counsel about co-location and Attorney Hopkins will look into it and get back to her. Alderperson Gohlke stated the state and federal laws have blocked all local home ruling on this issue and would like to see a resolution drafted to express the City's disapproval in losing the local rights for home rule on not just this issue but others as well. Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to place the Bug Tussel Wireless conditional use application on file with no action and direct the City Attorney to draft a resolution regarding the loss of home rule. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Award of Industrial cropland lease**- the City purchased 17 ½ acres of industrial land from Vernon County east of Railroad Avenue off County Road B which was advertised for a one-year lease. We received three bids on the property of Tom Selin \$148/acre, Joe Vesbach \$200/acre and Tim Solverson \$265/acre. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Bekkedal to award the bid to Tim Solverson for a period of one year at \$265/acre. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Alderperson Koppa stated he would like to see our property used for organic farming when it is bid out in the future.

**6. Approval of Music in the Park at Eckhart Park (Park & Rec)**- this would be once a month on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the large pavilion at Eckhart Park similar to the setup for the Driftless Music Fest to coincide with the Night Market to be discussed under item #7. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bankes to approve Music in the Park. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Approval of Night Market at Eckhart Park (Park & Rec)**- this would be a crossover with some farmer's market but also jewelry, pottery and crafts set up along the walking path on the same Wednesday evenings as the Music in the Park. They would not be allowed to drive into the Park and would run from 6 pm to 9 pm. Motion by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the Night Market at Eckhart Park. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Police Department Annual Report – Daron Jefson**- Chief Jefson gave a slide presentation for the Council and answered questions regarding operations of his department in 2017.

**9. Approval of Wapasha Construction Co. Pay Request #18 – Wastewater Treatment Facility project (Public Works)**- Motion by Alderperson Gohlke/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve pay request #18 for \$312,589.83. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Substantial completion happened last week and the final completion date is set for 5/31/2018.

**10. Payment of bills (Finance)** – Motion by Alderperson Bekkedal/second by Alderperson Polsean to approve the payment of bills on report date 03/08/18 in the amount of \$69,110.62 and additional bills on report date 03/13/2018 in the amount of \$96,683.22. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Second Period for Public Comment** – Karen Mischel asked for clarification on the motion made on the Bug Tussel tower.

**12. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Polsean/second by Alderperson Bankes to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk