

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2019**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2019 by Mayor Karen Mischel with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Sondra Naxi. Jeff Gohlke was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Interim Police Chief Todd Simonson, Alycann Taylor, Nora Roughen-Schmidt, John Iverson, Michael Corr, Bill Meeks and Randy Skinner.

2. Approval of the August 13, 2019 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/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. Certified Survey Map approval – Marv Hansen (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the certified survey map. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Discussion with possible action on increase in room tax rate – Tourism Commission- our current ordinance is at 3% and the Tourism Commission proposes increasing the rate to 6%. Information on what the Tourism Commission has done with the current funding was distributed to the Council for their review. John Iverson from Vernon Inn was in attendance and is opposed to an increase. He would like to see an exemption for extended stay as this is most of his business and Alderperson Naxi would like to know if other municipalities offer exemptions that have a room tax. Alderperson Noble would like to see more work on the comprehensive calendar of events on the website and would like the Tourism Commission to show what they would do with the funds if the amount were increased. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to table action until the Tourism Commission comes in with a budget on what the 6% tax would be used for. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion with possible action on Development Agreement for Southwest Sanitation (Finance)- Bill Meeks stated the transfer station on Power Drive is a 16,000 square foot building that will be completed soon. The agreement would be for Tid #5 funds based on a 10% grant of valuation over nine years. The new valuation of the project is expected to be at least \$1,280,000. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the Development Agreement with Southwest Sanitation. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Appointment of Emily Ruud to Board of Review for five-year term replacing Roger Hatlem whose term expires 4/1/2021- Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the appointment of Emily Ruud to Board of Review. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Update on landscaping at Rock Avenue Apartments- Dale Mueller updated the Council via phone regarding the plans for the area. They had their designer there yesterday and some plants will be repositioned but they will be installing the landscaping starting tomorrow and the back area will be included in the upkeep as they now have a manager and caretaker in Viroqua.

9. Update on information covered at League of Municipalities Chief Executives workshop- the Mayor updated the Council on the workshops at Elkhart Lake she attended and will send out the link to everyone for the documents.

10. Discussion with recommendations on business park evaluation matrix- Torres reviewed the matrix with Council and by the September 10th Council meeting we will need a final decision on what options the City would like to see. Torres will work with the County as well since we have a few additions since they reviewed the document.

11. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve operator licenses for Tonia Primmer, Seth Volden, Alyson Graef, Shannon Buroker, Brianna Abt and Erma Erickson. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Application for Temporary Class B beer license for Viroqua Community Arena – Back to Hockey Family Fun Night September 29, 2019 (Public Safety)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the temporary Class B beer license for the Viroqua Community Arena. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Ordinance amending section 15.15.020 for Chapter SPS 316 Electrical Code (Public Safety)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve ordinance 19OR011 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Possible closed session per WI 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 – Police Chief employment offer – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to enter closed session at 9:25 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 Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to reconvene in open session at 9:30 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Thompson to authorize the Mayor to negotiate with the new Police Chief based on the information discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 08/22/19 in the amount of \$123,532.40 additional bills on report date 8/27/2019 for \$11,513.63. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Polhamus also updated Council on a fraudulent check that was cashed from 2018 that we had voided and that will be investigated by the bank.

17. Second Period for Public Comment – Randy Skinner thanked the Council for their hard work on the northside development project.

18. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk