

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2020**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel at City Hall with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Sondra Nazi present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres (via phone), Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Jim Halberg, Sarah Caldwell, Jenny Cain, Alicia Leinberger, Humana Piug, Arwyn Wildhack, Kathy Loften, Paula Grenier, Jason Welsh, Evan Blatner, Peter Bergquist and Tim Hundt.

2. Oath of Office for Peter Bergquist, Ward 9 Alderperson and committee assignments – Clerk Polhamus gave Bergquist the Oath of Office and he was assigned to the Finance and Public Works Committees.

3. Approval of the January 14, 2020 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Nazi to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

4. First period for public comment – the following residents spoke in favor of the ban of glyphosate products on agenda item seven: Jim Halberg, Sarah Caldwell, Jenny Cain, Alicia Leinberger, Humana Piug, Arwyn Wildhack, Kathy Lofton, Paula Grenier, Jason Welsh and Evan Blatner.

5. Resolution petitioning Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid (Plan Commission) – this resolution adds the project of replacing the fuel system to allow the pumps to use chip readers. The projects have to be part of the airport’s plan in order to receive funding. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve resolution 020RS001. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Review and approval of 2020 renewal application for chickens – 239 5th Avenue- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the renewal application. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on no longer purchasing glyphosate products for use on City properties (Public Property) – the Public Works department has been using a product called “Home Plate” in areas such as the waterways and fence lines. They have also used the weed wacker and streetsweeper as alternatives. This is an organic herbicide. It was discussed at Public Property to have the other departments use these products as well. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Hubbard to no longer use glyphosate products on any City properties. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion with possible action on location of proposed City Hall/Police Station – Council discussed two possible locations of the old Swanson lumberyard area or possibly the Eagles location on Rock Avenue. Alderperson Noble stated the co-location of the Police Station with City Hall would be a cost savings and Alderperson Thompson agreed. Alderperson Koppa suggested other locations such as the Bruce Hill lot, the School bus lot or the WTC building and doesn’t feel they should be co-located and Alderperson Splinter agreed. The Capital Improvement Plan did have the project as co-located. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Thompson to co-locate City Hall with the Police Station on the Swanson lot. Voice vote seven in favor, two against. Motion carried. Alderpersons Splinter and Bergquist voting no.

9. Approval of Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for FEMA grant- the Council reviewed the RFQ and made recommendations and changes. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the RFQ for the FEMA grant. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

- 10. Appointment of Architect Selection Committee** – Mayor Mischel selected Gregory Splinter and John Thompson from the Council, Randy Skinner from the Chamber along with Nate Torres and Sarah Grainger to the committee. Motion by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the appointments. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 11. Review and approval of bid for bathhouse roof removal (Finance)** – we received two bids to remove the roof and contents. One bid from Market & Johnson was \$28,800 and the other from Fowler & Hammer was \$11,223. The difference between the two was the use of a crane by Market & Johnson. Motion by Alderperson Noble/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the low bid with Fowler & Hammer for \$11,223 upon the condition that Historic Preservation reviews the bid. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 12. Approval of Town and Country scope of services proposal for water quality trading assistance (Public Works)**- Motion by Alderperson Naxi/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the proposal by Town & Country. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 13. Approval of Vierbicher proposal for Chicago Avenue sewer (Public Works)** – there has been interest along Chicago Avenue by developers and this proposal would help plan for the future of the sewer system in this area at a cost of \$4800. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the proposal from Vierbicher. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 14. Resolution for local support of TAP grant application** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve Resolution #020RS002 authorizing the City to submit the grant request to the DOT. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 15. Discussion with possible action on street names for Viroqua Business Park (Public Property)** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Vernon Parkway for the east-west street and Venture Drive for the north-south street. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 16. Discussion with possible action on Business Park Sign Design (Public Property)** - tabled
- 17. 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 – Utilities Auxiliary Worker position offer of employment (Public Works recommendation)** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Tryggstad to enter closed session at 8:52 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 18. 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 8:59 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to offer the position of Utilities Auxiliary Worker to Jared Rahr. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 19. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Naxi to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/24/20 in the amount of \$564,446.83 additional bills on report date 01/28/2020 for \$56,000.33. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 20. Second Period for Public Comment** – none
- 21. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Tryggstad/second by Alderperson Naxi to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk