

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
May 12, 2020**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #87037214533 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Peter Bergquist present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Library Directory Trina Erickson, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Todd Frawley, Craig Mathews, Brian Wrobel, Tom Wilson, Mike Poellinger, Charlie Knowler and Tim Hundt

2. Approval of the April 28, 2020 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – Council received a thank you note from the Al Budworth family.

4. Appointment of Steve Clark to Tree Board to replace Rebecca Wainscott whose term expires 6/1/2021 – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Noble to appoint Steve Clark to Tree Board. Roll call vote five yes and three no. Motion carried. Alderpersons Splinter, Birke and Hubbard voting no. Splinter stated we should have an arborist on the Commission.

5. Presentation by Brian Wrobel regarding Hotel Fortney project- Wrobel reviewed the progress made to date on the building and plans on asbestos abatement in the next two weeks with construction to start in fall of 2020 and complete by spring 2021. They will have fifteen hotel rooms with retail space and a third-floor venue. They will also have a Board room for businesses to use for meetings. He explained that they will be doing work on the turrets as each one is a different stage of repair. Tom Wilson offered his resources along with those of the Historic Preservation Commission.

6. Possible closed session per WI Stats. 19.85(1)(e) – deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – TIF Analysis Hotel Fortney Project – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to enter closed session at 7:40 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to reconvene in open session at 7:55pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. No action was taken.

8. Review and approval of Memorandum of Understanding for Hotel Fortney Redevelopment Project – this is a preliminary agreement to approve the use of Tid6 financing to do a developer agreement on this project to help obtain financing. The annual incentive payments would be \$25,385 for thirteen years. The City will still be reviewing site, building and landscaping plans for the project in the future. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the language change to Class B liquor license under section four. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Review and approval of concrete bleacher schematic design (Park & Rec) – Alderperson Koppa gave an update on how the project got to this point. The council reviewed the design that addressed safety concerns and water issues and kept with the historic aspect of the bleachers. Alderperson Noble stated he preferred more of a deck design with deeper seating. After discussion it was suggested to add deck seating at the top of the bleachers to maintain safety. This could be worked into the design as an alternate at this time to keep the project moving forward and may require additional handrails and reduce seating capacity. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second

by Alderperson Noble to move forward with the project with an alternate rendering of the extended stage at the top of the bleachers for the May 26th Council meeting. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Review and acceptance of USDA water/sewer loan funding of \$1,347,000 (water) and \$1,944,000 (sewer) for Washington and South Rusk Avenue projects (Public Works) – We will be receiving forty-year loan from USDA at a 1.375% interest rate. After receiving a grant from the DOT, the loan amount on the sewer side will actually be \$1,676,000. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Thompson to accept the USDA water/sewer loan funding for the Washington and South Rusk Avenue project. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Vierbicher engineering contract for Washington and South Rusk Avenue project (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the Vierbicher contract for \$298,700. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Resolution authorizing waiver of notice of public hearing for blight determination at 124 W Decker Street – this is part of the process for the new City Hall/Police Station project. Since this area is solely owned by the City and no other residents are affected a public hearing notice is not necessary. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve resolution 020RS006 authorizing waiver of notice of public hearing. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Update on sidewalk hazard repair program for 2020 with possible action (Public Works) – each year the City has been repairing sidewalks in a quadrant of the City. The residents would receive a bill that they could pay right away or have it special assessed over a sliding scale of years. The Public Works Committee recommended that we continue with the program this year but allow residents to defer the payment and not have it put on the taxes until the fall of 2021 if they don't pay right away. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Birke to move ahead with the sidewalk repair program with the option to defer the special assessment until fall of 2021. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 05/07/2020 in the amount of \$56,601.53 and additional bills on report date 05/11/2020 for \$56,766.91. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Second Period for Public Comment – None

16. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk