

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 9, 2020**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #85871597769 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, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Library Directory Trina Erickson, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Todd Frawley, Craig Mathews and numerous members of the public.

**2. Approval of the May 26, 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** – Randy Skinner stated the community and the police need to work together on mental health issues, use of force and have good conversations. Evan Blatner would like info on the police force on how they interact with the union, how hired and would like officers to live in the community. Dodie Whitaker would like a face to face meet with law enforcement in the community. Angela Rennilson sent a letter addressing the police department as well.

**4. Public hearing to vacate property adjacent to Pine Street in the Nuzum and Smith Additions** – the public hearing was opened at 7:12pm. A preliminary resolution was passed by Council to vacate this on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The land would revert back to the original owners and not divided between the two lots because they are on different plats according to the plat recorded at Register of Deeds in 1908. Plan Commission met and recommended moving forward with the vacation. The public hearing was closed at 7:14pm.

**5. Action on resolution to vacate property adjacent to Pine Street in the Nuzum and Smith Additions (Plan Commission)** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve resolution 20RS010 vacating property adjacent to Pine Street in the Nuzum and Smith Additions. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Public hearing on conditional use of property for drive in outdoor movie theater at 1133 Nelson Parkway – VARC**- the public hearing was opened at 7:16pm. The drive in is proposed on the VARC property for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in the summer. It will be in their shipping/receiving area of their building with a maximum of 45 cars. They will have online ticket sales and follow social distancing provisions. They are also working with local food vendors to sell food and drink but no alcohol. Plan Commission met and approved. The public hearing was closed at 7:17pm.

**7. Action on conditional use of property at 1133 Nelson Parkway (Plan Commission)** – Motion by Alderperson Bergquist, second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the conditional use permit for the drive-in theater. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Public hearing on conditional use of property to permit the use of goats for weed control on tax parcel 286-01283-0001 – Agricultural land owned by Cyndy Hubbard** - The public hearing was opened at 7:22pm. Hubbard explained she would like to use the goats to control weeds growing on her ag property that they can't mow. They have tried burning and pulling them by hand and is left with either spraying or goats and she doesn't want to spray. They would use electro net fencing in three different areas and close the trails while it is being done. The goats would only be in one area at a time. The County has used them in the past. She would also like to be able to use them in successive years to control the weeds on an annual basis. The public hearing was closed at 7:24pm.

**9. Action on conditional use of property on tax parcel 286-01283-0001 (Plan Commission)** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the conditional use for 2020 and future years for weed control. Roll call vote seven in favor, one abstention. Motion carried. Alderperson Hubbard abstained.

**10. Update/action on 2020 Park & Rec program cancellations and authorize refunds of program registrations (Park & Rec)** – at the Park & Rec committee on May 26th the committee made the decision to

cancel all the programs for 2020. The following residents commented on the issue: Joanna Lottig would like to see what programs could be proposed that still could be done. Angela Frye feels we should be able to do with modifications in place including baseball. Jess & Stephanie Johnson, Phoebe Engh and Jason Rood all spoke in favor of having Park & Rec. Evan Blatner cautioned opening up and need to be safe. Joseph Willis asked if the parents could use the fields if the programs are canceled. Alderperson Koppa explained how the decision was made by the committee and that it wasn't taken lightly. Stalsberg reviewed some of the plans and programs that could potentially be done with precautions in place and that twelve communities around us are now having their programs. They would start July 1<sup>st</sup> and end August 1<sup>st</sup>. We would need to have a plan in place if we would need to shut the program down again. Alderperson Noble is in favor of going forward and would like to discuss this at a special council meeting. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Bergquist to proceed with canceling the Park & Rec programs for 2020 and issue refunds. Roll call vote four in favor, four against. Since the vote was tied the Mayor made the final vote against so the motion failed. Alderpersons Tryggestad, Splinter, Birke and Bergquist voting in favor. This will be put on the Special Council meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Council moved to item sixteen on the agenda.

**16. Review of final cost opinion versus Capital Improvement Plan with possible action (Park & Rec)** – Torres reviewed the CIP projects and Tid 6 for Park & Rec and changes made to absorb the increase in the bleacher project cost with the Council. Motion by Alderperson Koppa/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the changes to the Capital Improvement Plan. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**17. Approval to go for bid for concrete bleachers and related improvement projects (Park & Rec)** – Craig Mathews and Todd Frawley explained the process and that bids would be due on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Noble to approve going out for bid on the concrete bleachers and related projects. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Council returned to item eleven on the agenda.

**11. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the operator licenses as presented. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**12. 2020-2021 Alcohol license approvals (Public Safety)** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the alcohol license renewals presented. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. Approval of renewal application for chickens at 121 W Broadway – Elizabeth Reynolds** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the renewal application. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Discussion with possible action on Business Park Sign design (Public Property)** – Grainger reviewed the sign design as approved by Public Property and part of the Business Park contract with the Council. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bergquist to approve the Business Park sign design. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**15. Approval of Electric Utility to service lighting in the Viroqua Business Park (Public Works)** – this is to service our street lights not for servicing the businesses. Xcel Energy is regulated by the PSC and gave us a proposal of \$30,000, Vernon Electric is not regulated and we would have no capital cost and they offered to put conduit in now to serve the businesses in the future. If the business goes with Xcel, they would sell the portion to them and we would not have to dig the street up later. There will be eight street lights on the property. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Vernon Electric to service lighting in the Viroqua Business Park. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**18. Approval of Change Order #2 – A1 Excavating (Viroqua Business Park-EDA) (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve Change Order #2 for a credit of \$9279.50. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**19. Approval of Pay Request #4 – A1 Excavating (Viroqua Business Park-EDA) (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve pay request #4 for \$613,890.98. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**20. Approval of agreement and resolution for water and sewer utility to join WIWARN (Public Works)** – this is a mutual aid agreement for the water and sewer system. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the agreement and resolution 020RS011 to join WIWARN. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**21. Approval of WIDOT financial agreement for Main Street project from Brendel Lane to South Washington (Public Works)** – this does not include the downtown area. This is through the highway safety improvement program and the City would be responsible for 25% of the design cost of \$34,674. We could also add rapid flashing beacons for \$46,000. The total project cost is \$501,503. This includes one lane each direction with a TWLTL in the middle with no bike lanes. There would be pedestrian refuges at Maple, Oak, West and East Broadway and the Fairgrounds. There is also a change at the Wal-Mart entrance with a projected construction timeframe of 2023. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the WIDOT financial agreement for the Main Street project with the rapid flashing beacons for a total of \$80,674. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**22. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 06/04/2020 in the amount of \$123,901.25 and additional bills on report date 06/09/2020 for \$118267.91 less the water/sewer utility bills listed and the ADCI bill for \$5978.43 pending review. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**23. Second Period for Public Comment** – Torres stated there were a couple of comments in the chat stating to stick with the Park & Rec cancellations and that this is an ethical decision not just a liability decision.

**24. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk