

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 30, 2020**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #81932956232 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 Director Trina Erickson, Alyssa Hrubes, Terry Christian, Jenny Cain, Tom Wilson, Eddy Nix, Jeff Gohlke, Randy Skinner, Tim Hundt and Robin Hosemann.

2. Approval of the June 9, 2020 Regular and June 16, 2020 Special Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Bergquist to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. 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 Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the certified survey map. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Discussion and approval of Return to Work Policy – Alyssa Hrubes and Terry Christen, Tri-Cor Insurance – Hrubes and Christen explained the reason behind doing this policy to decrease the impact to the MOD that drives our work comp insurance rates up and had a slide presentation. The impacts of claims stay on the policy for three years so bringing employees back earlier using transitional duties can substantially reduce our exposure. We are currently paying higher premiums than other municipalities our size and this is a tool that can help bring our premiums down over time. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the Return to Work Policy. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Follow up discussion regarding Committee of the Whole meeting “Building a Stronger Community through Communications” – Council and public expressed their opinions on the meeting and offered feedback. Jeff Gohlke stated he had some resources he will share with the Council. Randy Skinner stated there are free programs available as well. Mayor Mischel stated she would like to see more community and Council input on this and recommends creating a Diversity Advisory Board with three-year terms to work with Council and provide recommendations. Mischel will work with our attorneys on making this a legal Board for the City. She would like to see a running list of calls that the Police Department takes and have a report presented at Public Safety. Sponsoring follow-up programs with Reggie Jackson or other groups would be other options. The consensus of Council was to move forward with the ideas presented.

7. Request for CDBG housing loan subordination – Alicia Leinberger – Leinberger is working with WCCU to do a rate term refinance to get a lower interest rate and is not taking out any additional funds. This was recommended by Couleecap as well. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the loan subordination for Alicia Leinberger. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of engagement letter for Quarles & Brady issuance of \$1,347,000 Water System Mortgage Revenue bonds through USDA (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the engagement letter with a fee of \$9500. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Approval of engagement letter for Quarles & Brady issuance of \$1,676,000 Sewerage System Mortgage Revenue bonds through USDA (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the engagement letter with a fee of \$9500. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Approval of legal services agreement with Hopkins & Hopkins, LLP for water/sewer loans for South Rusk Avenue project through USDA (Public Works) – this is for additional legal work related to the project. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the legal services agreement for a maximum amount of \$6000. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Financial Advisor Agreement with Ehlers for South Rusk Project with USDA (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the two financial agreements – one each for water and sewer at a cost of not to exceed \$5000 each. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Resolution – Use of Streets and Alleys – USDA (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve Resolution 020RS012 Use of Streets and Alleys. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Approval of 2019 Water Consumer Confidence Report (Public Works) – Grainger reviewed the report for Council and answered questions. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the 2019 Consumer Confidence Report. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the payment of bills on report date 06/25/2020 in the amount of \$858,890.98 and additional bills on report date 06/30/2020 for \$275,820.20. 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 Tryggestad to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk