

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 14, 2020**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #81397851181 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Peter Bergquist present. Also present were Sondra Nazi, 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, Mike Maas of ADCI as well as several members of the public.

2. Approval of the June 30, 2020 Regular Council minutes – these will be approved at the next Council meeting.

3. First period for public comment – None

4. Oath of Office for newly elected officers Alderperson Ward 8 – Sondra Nazi – Clerk Polhamus gave the Oath of Office to Alderperson Nazi for Ward 8.

5. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve operator licenses for Samuel Caldwell, Sonja Larson, Tonia Volden, Hunter Copeland, Jesus Soto Tapia, Kelly Garrett, Sonya Holder, Debra Nordin Abt, Valarie Gillingham, Kristi Volden, Nicolas Erlandson, Marci Lau and conditionally approve Margaret Karasek pending the background check. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approval of alcohol license renewals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the Class B beer license for Great Wall. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Request for subordination of CDBG Housing Grant mortgage Crystal and Jonah Curley (214 E Court) – they are refinancing for a lower interest rate. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the subordination for Crystal and Jonah Curley at 214 E Court Street. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Possible closed session per WI Stats. 19.85 (1)(g) – conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the board with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved – Solverson claim – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to enter closed session at 7:10 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to reconvene in open session at 7:28 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the settlement as outlined and discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Ordinance creating chapter 2.50 “Diversity Advisory Board” – First Reading – Council reviewed the draft of the ordinance and discussion was had regarding having one Council member or two and it was suggested that the members of the Board be paid. The time commitment could vary but meet at least once a month and then maybe have them come to Council every 4-6 weeks with their recommendations. The name of the committee was also discussed. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the first reading of the ordinance as presented. Roll call vote six in favor, three against. Motion carried. Alderpersons Splinter, Birke and Bergquist voting no.

11. Appointment of Randy Skinner to the Viroqua Business Park Commission for undefined term replacing Nora Roughen-Schmidt whose term was undefined – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to appoint Randy Skinner to the Viroqua Business Park Commission. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Discussion and recommendations on City Hall and Police Station project- Mike Maas with ADCI and Torres recapped the project options with the Council. The appraisal came back on the Vernon Communications building at \$685,000 which was built in 1957. If we were to use this building the occupant load increases so changes would have to be made to comply with building code. Council discussed three options presented with a phasing approach to the buildings, having separate buildings with some new construction and remodeling of the Vernon Communications building and the budget for each option. Motion by Alderperson Koppa/second by Alderperson Noble to look into a fourth option of building only City Hall on the old Swanson lot with the safe room and look into short term options/solutions for the current police department building. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Review and approval of Pay Request #5 for A1 Excavating on the Viroqua Business Park (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve Change Order #3 for \$48,616 which is included in Pay Request #5. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve Pay Request #5 for \$427,274.40 which includes Change Order #3. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Review and approval of agreement to Strand Associates for GIS Services (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Bergquist to approve the agreement with Strand Services for an estimated fee of \$5000 on an hourly basis. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Review and approval for purchase of ESRI GIS software license (Public Works) – this item was not needed on agenda.

16. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 07/10/2020 in the amount of \$50,770.90 and additional bills on report date 07/14/2020 for \$289,907.30. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Second Period for Public Comment – Tom Wilson stated we could purchase the VCC building and use for Police Department instead. Tim Hundt stated the building issue has been discussed for a long time and Council needs to look at the cost per square foot for each option.

18. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to adjourn the meeting at 10:24 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk