

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 25, 2020**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #86767338186 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Peter Bergquist present. Alderperson Gregory Splinter was excused. 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 Director Trina Erickson, Mike Maas of ADCI, Sean Lentz of Ehlers, Kristal Welter as well as several members of the public.

**2. Approval of the August 11, 2020 Regular Council minutes** – Alderperson Birke stated there is one correction under item #10 to change Nate Noggle to Nate Torres. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Bergquist to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2020 meeting as corrected. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**3. First period for public comment** – Robin Hoseman spoke in support of the Diversity Board stipends and being a community nominated led group. Administrator Torres read a letter from Aurora Boyd regarding the Diversity Board's stipends. Nicole Penick stated she would like to see the ordinance tabled until VERJ can get all of their questions answered.

**4. Acceptance of resignation of Sondra Nazi – Ward 8 Alderperson-** Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to accept Nazi's resignation. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Appointment of Kristal Welter as Ward 8 Alderperson** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the appointment of Kristal Welter to Ward 8. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Welter will be sworn in at the September 8<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

**6. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)** – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Birke to approve operator licenses for Jessica Inman, Allison Starn and Eli Gay. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Approval of renewal licenses (2020-2021) for Class B beer and Class C wine – Viroqua Family Restaurant (Public Safety)-** Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the renewal licenses for Viroqua Family Restaurant. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Ordinance creating chapter 2.50 "Diversity Advisory Board" – Second Reading** – the Mayor and Administrator met with VERJ and they had a request to table the ordinance as they had more questions. Allison Starn spoke in support of tabling the ordinance as well. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to table the ordinance pending more information. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Alderperson Birke stated she was in support of ideas that have been presented by VERJ regarding the nomination process and stipends.

**9. Discussion with possible action on City Hall schematic design** – Mike Maas stated the date of the safe room grant has been extended due to Covid-19. He reviewed the design with the Council and answered questions. Alderperson Hubbard asked about the use of solar panels and other energy savings for the building. Maas stated they will be looking into LED's, low flush toilets and other avenues with Focus on Energy. Torres reviewed the project budget which is currently at \$2,511,542 with furniture, fixtures and equipment and a 10% contingency for the 8418 square foot building. The next step in the process would be design and cost development. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the schematic design for City Hall and move forward with design and cost development. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Initial resolution authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$570,000 for Parks and Public Grounds projects** – Sean Lentz with Ehlers reviewed the presale report with the Council and answered questions. Incorporated in the \$3,030,000 bonds is the payoff of the library loan, parks projects, the Tid 7 non-EDA grant portion of the projects, the police station and City Hall projects and acquisition of the property for the

Police Department building. There are a series of resolutions for the bonds and this is the first of them for the Parks projects. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve Resolution 020RS014 authorizing GO Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$570,000 for Parks and Public Grounds projects. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Initial resolution authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$880,000 for construction of a Police facility** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve Resolution 020RS015 authorizing GO Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$880,000 for construction of a Police facility. Roll call vote six in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderperson Bergquist voting no.

**12. Initial resolution authorizing \$1,580,000 General Obligation Refunding bonds** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve Resolution 020RS016 authorizing \$1,580,000 GO Refunding bonds. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. Resolution directing publication of notice to electors relating to bond issues** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Bergquist to approve Resolution 020RS017 directing publication of notice to electors relating to bond issues. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Resolution providing for the sale of not to exceed \$3,030,000 General Obligation Corporate Purpose Bonds, Series 2020A** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve Resolution 020RS018 providing for the sale of not to exceed \$3,030,000 GO Bonds. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**15. Recommendations on overall budget goals for 2021** – Torres reviewed the mill rates of comparable cities and the consensus of the Council was to stay consistent with the current mill rate and level of services for 2021.

**16. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 08/20/2020 in the amount of \$398,108.33 and additional bills on report date 08/25/2020 for \$23,389.05. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**17. Second Period for Public Comment** – Jeff Gohlke reminded everyone to fill out their census forms. Tim Hundt thanked the Council for their hard work on the City Hall building and exploring all the options available.

**18. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk