

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #81769826925 with Alderpersons David Tryggstad, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Allison Sandbeck 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, Kurt Muchow, Jeff Gohlke, Brian Wrobel, Darrin Beier, Michelle Felton and Amanda Running

2. Oath of Office – Allison Sandbeck – Ward 9 Alderperson – Clerk Polhamus issued the oath of office to Allison Sandbeck.

3. Approval of the September 29, 2020 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the minutes from the September 29, 2020 meeting as presented. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

4. First period for public comment – None

5. Appointment of Allison Sandbeck to Finance and Park & Rec Committees – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Koppa to appoint Allison Sandbeck to the Finance and Park & Rec Committees. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion with possible action on Halloween activities within the City and Wisconsin Health Services (DHS) guidelines- Council reviewed the Health Services guidelines. The Chamber will be making an announcement regarding the downtown business trick or treating soon. Council supports following the guidelines. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Thompson to recommend publishing the health services guidelines in the paper and City Facebook page and cancel trick or treating this year in the City of Viroqua. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Privilege in Street on Court Street for Fortney Hotel (Public Works) – Brian Wrobel explained the project to make the Fortney Hotel ADA compliant by adding a platform in front of the building on Court Street. This will move the curb out three feet and not impact the ADA of the sidewalk. The driving lane will narrow. They will assume the cost of the changes and a revised MOU will be done with the City as the project has changed to help with the cost of the project. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the privilege in street for the Fortney Hotel. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of Vierbicher proposal for Engineering Services for Sands Road (Public Works)- this is for sewer design work to reconstruct under the old landfill on Sands Road. The remainder of the contract would come later. The current portion for the engineering design is \$97,300 with the whole project estimate of \$938,540. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the proposal for Engineering Services for Sands Road. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Approval to publish notice of intent to file application for federal financial assistance with USDA for construction of City Hall building – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve publication of the notice of intent. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Approval of Design Development Plan for Police Department (Building Committee)- Torres reviewed the plan and budget with the Council. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the Design Development Plan for the Police Department. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Update on City Hall project design development (Building Committee)- Torres reviewed the site plan and floor plans with the Council. Alderperson Splinter requested some additional options for the look of City Hall if possible but to not add to design costs.

12. Approval of Offer to Purchase for alley and accompanying easements – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the offer to purchase and easements. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. We plan to close by the end of the month.

13. Discussion with possible action on health insurance options for 2021 (Finance) – our municipal consortium had some large claims in 2020 so we were presented with a 20-30% increase in premiums for 2021. We voted to leave the consortium and were presented with options to stay with WEA insurance at a 4% increase or go to Quartz at a 10% decrease in premium. The Finance committee compared the pros and cons of both plans and recommended going to Quartz for 2021. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to go with the Quartz health insurance plan for 2021. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Possible closed session per Wis. 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 – Memorandum of Understanding for Vikemyr-Wangen Development on Arena Drive- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to enter closed session at 8:41 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed in closed session – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to reconvene in open session at 9:42 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to accept the MOU for the Vikemyr-Wangen development on Arena Drive with the contingency of review of the design of the buildings. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Possible closed session per Wis. Stats 19.85 (1)(c) – Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Assistant Street Superintendent position – this item was tabled

17. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed in closed session – tabled

18. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the payment of bills on report date 10/13/2020 in the amount of \$115,192.97. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

19. Second Period for Public Comment – None

20. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk