

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 24, 2020**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #85687053669 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson and Kristal Welter present. Alderpersons Mike Koppa and Allison Sandbeck were excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Randy Skinner, Tim Hundt, Jason Skoda, Kyle Bartelt, Mike Maas, Josh Straka, Mandy Herrick and Angie Lawrence.

**2. Approval of the November 10, 2020 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**3. First period for public comment** – None

**4. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve operator licenses for Samara Benson, Laurie Millane and Rebekah Matteson. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Approval of Pay Request #9 – A1 Excavating – EDA Business Park project (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the pay request for \$16,200. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Approval of Pay Request #1 – Badger Excavating – Railroad Avenue project (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the pay request for \$80,948.89. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Approval of Pay Request #1 – Fowler & Hammer (Park Bowl Improvement Project) (Park & Rec)** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the pay request for \$240,521.15. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Review and update on non-downtown Main Street improvements and Highway Safety Improvement Grant (HSIP) (Public Works)** – Sarah Grainger and Josh Straka updated the Council on the HSIP grant and the areas outside of the downtown area that will be updated through the DOT process with this grant by adding TWLTL (two-way left turn lanes) to be completed in 2023. The DOT will be doing the bid process and work and the City is responsible for 10% of the cost. There will be a Committee of the Whole meeting next week to discuss the downtown area.

**9. Review and final design and authorization to go for bids for the Police Station renovation project (Building Committee)**- Mike Maas reviewed the floor plan for the Council of the project and Torres reviewed the budget. Bids will be due by December 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to authorize going out for bids for the Police Station renovation project. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Discussion with possible action on employee cost percentage for POS health plan under Quartz for 2021 (Finance/Personnel)** – the POS plan allows employees to go out of network but there is an additional cost and the percentage picked up by the employer is currently 88% for the HMO plan. Finance discussed the options and recommended a split of the increase premium with the employee with only 86% of the POS plan being paid by the City and 88% for the HMO plan. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve a 12% employee share for the HMO plan and a 14% employee share for the POS plan with Quartz for 2021. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Resolution accepting Venture Drive and Vernon Parkway in Viroqua Business Park as public streets (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve resolution 020RS022 accepting Venture Drive and Vernon Parkway as public streets. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**12. Resolution in support of local & statewide efforts to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 & protect the lives of City of Viroqua community members** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve resolution #20RS023. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. Discussion with possible action on Tourism ordinance changes** – Torres reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance under the functions and powers section. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the first reading of the proposed changes to the ordinance. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Noble to approve the payment of bills on report date 11/19/2020 in the amount of \$216,860.83 and additional bills on report date 11/24/2020 for \$643,253.78. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**15. Second Period for Public Comment** – none

**16. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk