

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2021**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #89085608018 with Alderpersons Gregory Splinter, Terry Noble, Tanja Birke, Mike Koppa, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Allison Sandbeck present. Alderperson David Tryggestad was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director/City Engineer Sarah Grainger, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Library Director Trina Erickson, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Kurt Muchow, Sean Lentz, Tim Hundt, Darrin Beier, Anthony Wangen, Tom Wilson, Randy Skinner and Ben Wilson

2. Approval of the February 23, 2021 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – None

4. Appointment of Clinton Hardesty to Tourism Commission for a one-year term to replace Nora Roughen-Schmidt whose term expires 4/30/2022 – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Sandbeck to approve the appointment of Clinton Hardesty to Tourism Commission. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Council moved to item six on the agenda and returned to the order of the agenda after item nine.

5. Discussion with possible action on interim financing for the South Rusk and Washington project – Ehlers & Associates – Sean Lentz reviewed the pre-sale reports for the \$1,347,000 water and \$1,676,000 sewer revenue bond anticipation notes. Since the project will be using USDA long term funding, we will need to have interim financing from local lending banks during project construction. These will be one year draw notes with a balloon payment made upon receipt of USDA funds at the end of the project. We would pay interest only on the draw amounts. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve proceeding with the request for proposals for interim financing for the South Rusk and Washington project. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Ordinance creating Chapter 2.50 Diversity Advisory Board – First Reading – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the first reading of Ordinance 21OR002. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Preliminary resolution for Silverstone Estates (Vikemyr-Wangen Properties, LLC) development & specific implementation plan and rezone from B-3, B-4 and R-2 zoning districts to Planned Unit Development (PUD) district (Plan Commission) – Darrin Breier and Nate Torres reviewed the site layout for the project that was presented to Plan Commission. There will be nine buildings consisting of six duplexes, two triplexes and one four plex single family home. The PUD zoning allows for denser housing within the area and will not include sidewalks or curb & gutter. Before action was taken, Council moved to items eight and nine on the agenda before returning to this agenda item for action. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve preliminary Resolution 021RS003 to rezone the property from B-3, B-4 and R-2 districts to a PUD. Roll call vote seven in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderperson Splinter voting no.

8. Possible closed session per WI 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 – Development Agreement Vikemyr/Wangen Properties LLC – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to enter closed session at 8:05 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 Welter/second by Alderperson Koppa to reconvene in open session at 8:34 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Kurt Muchow reviewed the Development Agreement with the Council. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Koppa to approve the Development Agreement with Vikemyr/Wangen Properties LLC. Roll call vote seven in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderperson Splinter voting no.
- 10. Discussion with possible action on Bathhouse cleanup project (Park & Rec)** – the original contractor pulled out of this project at the cost of \$12,800. The new contractor selected to finish the project and remove the roof new cost is \$18,266.44. Historic Preservation and Park & Rec approved the change. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the proposal for the bathhouse cleanup project. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 11. Approval of short line painting proposal (Public Works)** – this contract is with Fahrner for the painting on Main Street of the crosswalks and new intersection layouts. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the Fahrner proposal for \$9919.82. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 12. Approval of MOU with police union regarding lateral entry benefits (Finance)** – Torres reviewed the MOU in regards to allowing police officers to enter employment at a comparable level to previous employment with another agency. This would be an addendum to the current union contract effective 1/1/2021. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the MOU with the police union effective 1/1/2021. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 13. Discussion with possible action on proposed policy changes for City of Viroqua time off benefits (Finance)** – Torres reviewed the changes made to the vacation and personal leave areas of the employee handbook that were reviewed by Finance. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the changes to the policies effective 1/1/2021. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 14. Possible closed session per WI 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 – Utility Auxiliary Worker probationary review** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to enter closed session at 9:30 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 15. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to reconvene in open session at 9:32 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the proposal as discussed during closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 16. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the payment of bills on report date 03/05/2021 in the amount of \$204,102.35 and additional bills on report date 3/08/2021 for \$10,382.92. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 17. Second Period for Public Comment** – None
- 18. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Welter to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk