

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 27, 2021**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #86287672114 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Nathaniel Slack, Tanja Birke, Ben Wilson, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Allison Sandbeck present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director/City Engineer Sarah Grainger, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Library Director Trina Erickson, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Tim Hundt, Lisa Henner, Anthony Wangen, Darrin Beier, Jerrod Getz, Wyatt Oldham and Mike Maas.

2. Approval of the April 20, 2021 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – None

4. Public hearing on Planned Unit Development on 3.7-acre parcel on Arena Drive between Nelson Parkway and Railroad Avenue by Vikemyr-Wangen Properties, LLC (Plan Commission) The public hearing was opened at 7:04pm. Torres and Darrin Beier did an overview of the Silverthorne Estates PUD project which consists of nine units with 22 rentals built over a five-year period. There will be no sidewalks or curb and gutter but rather infiltration ditches. The stormwater plan has been sent to the DNR for approval. The public hearing was closed at 7:47pm.

5. Approval of Planned Unit Development by Vikemyr-Wangen Properties, LLC on Arena Drive between Nelson Parkway and Railroad Avenue (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Slack/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the Planned Unit Development pending the DNR and City approval on stormwater management practices along with the addition of dark sky lighting, shade trees, non-evasive plantings and outdoor seating. Roll call vote seven in favor, two against. Motion carried. Alderpersons Splinter and Sandbeck voting no.

6. Application for chicken permit renewal – 121 W Broadway St – Elizabeth Reynolds – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the chicken permit renewal. Roll call vote eight in favor, one abstention. Motion carried. Alderperson Slack abstained since the application was for his wife.

7. Appointment of Kim Littel to Board of Appeals for a three-year term expiring 5/1/2024 to replace Sonja Fortney as alternate member – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Birke to appoint Kim Littel to Board of Appeals. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Reappointment of Sonya Newenhouse and David Levin to Plan Commission for three-year terms expiring 5/1/2024 – Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to reappoint Sonya Newenhouse and David Levin to Plan Commission. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Reappointment of Lynn Kronschnabel and appointment of Jerrod Getz to Tree Board for three-year terms expiring 6/1/2024 and appointment of Wyatt Oldham to a three-year term expiring 6/1/2023 replacing Nathaniel Slack as citizen member – Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Slack to approve the appointments of Jerrod Getz, Lynn Kronschnabel and Wyatt Oldham to the Tree Board. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Appointment of Allison Sandbeck to Tourism Commission replacing Tanja Birke for one-year term expiring 4/30/2022 – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to appoint Allison Sandbeck

to Tourism Commission. Roll call vote eight in favor, one abstention. Motion carried. Alderperson Sandbeck abstained.

11. Mayoral citizen member appointments to Diversity Advisory Board for a two-year term expiring 6/1/2023 – Mayor Mischel would like to appoint Susan Townsley and Sodhan Patel as citizen members to the Diversity Advisory Board for two-year terms. The previous Council members appointed will be for a one-year term and the new Citizen members to be appointed in May will be three-year terms. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the appointments of Susan Townsley and Sodhan Patel to the Diversity Advisory Board. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve operator licenses for Rebecca Robinson, Terence Bambenek, Shelbi Gagermeier and Daniel Olson with expiration dates of 6/30/2022. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Approval of Temporary Class B beer license for VARC, Inc for Moonlight Cinema movies in the Park Bowl on 6/25, 7/23, 8/13 and 9/3/2021 (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Slack/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the temporary Class B beer license for VARC Inc. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Acceptance of bid for City Hall construction project (Building Committee) (RDA) – Mike Maas and Nate Torres reviewed the overall project and budget with the Council and answered questions. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the construction bid contingent on the FEMA grant and USDA funding approvals along with bids for interim financing accepted. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Update on Main Street Planning Project – the City received two grants for Main Street. The TAP grant is for downtown from Decker to South Street and the Highway Safety Improvement Grant is for the rest of Main Street outside of the downtown area. We have hired a consultant to work with the TAP grant and the timeline of the projects was reviewed and discussed as to what year the projects should be completed.

16. Discussion with possible action on Council members for Main Street Planning workgroup – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Sandbeck to appoint Gregory Splinter as Council representative during the planning process workgroup for the Main Street projects. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Policy on Covid-19 mitigation and public interaction in City buildings- with some of the buildings opening up we wanted to have a consistent message for the public when in City buildings. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to require masks to be worn by all visitors when in City buildings. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Approval of amendments to Boulevard Garden Ordinance (Chapter 12.12) – Second Reading (Public Property) - Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the second reading of the Boulevard Garden Ordinance #21OR003. Roll call vote eight in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderperson Welter voting no.

19. Approval of Phosphorus Trading contract (Public Works) – Grainger reviewed the contract with Gary Stueland that will approximately \$8346.25 in exchange for water quality trading credits for our phosphorus limits. He will be doing streambank stabilization. The County is doing a 50/50 grant and the City would be supplying Stueland's cost share to the contractors directly in exchange for the phosphorus credits and he maintains the project over 20 years. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the phosphorus trading contract with Gary Stueland. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

20. 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 – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to enter closed session at 9:41pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

21. 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 9:44pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to proceed with items discussed during closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

22. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the payment of bills on report date 04/22/2021 in the amount of \$71,020.62 and additional bills on report date 4/27/2021 for \$42,411.56. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

23. Second Period for Public Comment – None

24. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Sandbeck to adjourn the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk