

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
MAY 11, 2021**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #83571781647 with Alderpersons Gregory Splinter, Tanja Birke, Ben Wilson, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Allison Sandbeck present. Alderpersons David Tryggestad and Nathaniel Slack were excused. 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, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Sean Lentz, Randy Skinner, Laci Sheldon, Kurt Muchow, Dodie Whitaker, Whitney Dregne and Brian Wrobel.

**2. Approval of the April 27, 2021 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

Council moved to item six on the agenda before returning to item four and the remainder of the agenda.

**4. Application for chicken permit renewal – Bethel Home & Services 614 S Rock Avenue** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the chicken permit renewal. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**5. Review of Citizen members letters of interest for Diversity Advisory Board** – we have received four letters of interest so far and Alderpersons Welter, Birke and Splinter thanked them for their submissions. Whitney Dregne, Laci Sheldon and Dodie Whitaker introduced themselves to the Council.

**6. Resolution authorizing the issuance of \$2,673,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and authorizing the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of a not to exceed \$2,673,000 Note Anticipation Note, Series 2021E in anticipation thereof** – Sean Lentz with Ehlers explained the resolution for the interim financing for the City Hall project. This will give Nate Torres the authority to approve the bids on 5/18/2021 if they come in with certain parameters due to the timelines with USDA and FEMA approvals. Ehlers will review the bids with Torres as well. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve resolution 021RS007 and establish the parameters of the note and give Nate Torres the authority to accept the best proposal on the bids. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. 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 for Hotel Fortney** – Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Welter to enter closed session at 7:25 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to reconvene in open session at 7:41 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.** Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the Development Agreement with Hotel Fortney. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Approval of Pay Request #3 – Fowler & Hammer – Police Station project** – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve pay request #3 for \$360,833.75. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Discussion with possible action on phone systems for City Hall, Police Station and Fire Station (Building Committee)** We currently have legacy phone systems and the building committee reviewed two different systems with Vernon Communications and Crexendo. The committee recommended the cloud-based voice over IP system with Crexendo and Torres reviewed the options this system would allow and answered questions. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the Crexendo phone system for the City Hall, Police Station and Fire Station. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Approval of Pay Request #3 – Badger Environmental – Railroad Ave project (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Welter to approve pay request #3 for \$4761.05. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**12. Approval of Pay Request #1 – Badger Environmental – S. Rusk & Washington project (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve pay request #1 for \$164,014.75. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the payment of bills on report date 05/06/2021 in the amount of \$341,228.38 and additional bills on report date 5/11/2021 for \$35,121.54 with the bill for Midwest Appraisal Group being held pending USDA issues being resolved. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**14. Second Period for Public Comment** – None

**15. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk