

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2021**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #89680583557 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Tanja Birke, Ben Wilson, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Steve Willis present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Library Director Trina Erickson, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Kathy Volden, Joe Ahler, Randy Skinner, Tyler Gabrielson and Roger Call

2. Approval of the August 10, 2021 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke 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 Joseph Ahler as Ward 3 Alderperson – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to appoint Joseph Ahler as Ward 3 Alderperson. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Recognition of Kathy Volden, Utility Billing Clerk for years of service- Mayor, Council and staff thanked Kathy for her years of service to the City of Viroqua.

6. Approval of extraterritorial certified survey map – Alvin Gardner (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the CSM. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Approval of extraterritorial certified survey map – Randall Gabrielson (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the CSM. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of extraterritorial certified survey map – Marshall Deters (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the CSM. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Approval of agent change for VFW Post 3032 (Public Safety)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the agent change from LouAnn Monson to Eric Christianson for the VFW. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Appointment of Steve Willis to Tree Board replacing Nathaniel Slack as Parks Representative – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to appoint Steve Willis to Tree Board. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval of Pay Request #3 – Fowler & Hammer, Park Bowl project- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve Pay Request #3 for \$37,669.88. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Approval of Pay Request #5 – Fowler & Hammer, Police Station project- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve pay request #5 for \$62,032 on the condition of receipt of lien waivers from the contractor. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Approval of Pay Request #2 – Brickl Brothers, City Hall project – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve pay request #2 for \$120,918.87. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Approval of Pay Request #4 – Badger Environmental, Rusk Avenue project (Public Works)- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve pay request #4 for \$514,875.83. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Discussion and approval for 3% water rate increase (Public Works)- Cheryl Purvis explained the need for a simplified rate case. The last time this was completed was 2018. This is an inflationary increase and cheaper than a conventional rate case. Our current rate of return is 3.25% and the target rate is 4.5% per the PSC. After the increase we would be at a 3.7% rate of return. We are currently ranked seventh among other municipalities for rates. The effective date of this would be November 1, 2021 bringing an overall increase in revenue of \$34,358. The basic usage increase would be 23 cents/month with an average increase of 94 cents/month. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the 3% water rate increase effective November 1, 2021. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Discussion with possible action on Development Agreement with Fortney Hotel for CDI grant- Council had previously approved a resolution regarding the CDI grant, however WEDC would like a formalized document outlining the process and relationship between the City and Hotel Fortney in regards to the grant. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the development agreement with Hotel Fortney. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. 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 – Street Auxillary worker five-year review and also Operator in Training position – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to enter closed session at 8:02pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. 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 8:10pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to move forward with the recommendation as presented by Sarah Grainger in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

19. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the payment of bills on report date 08/27/2021 in the amount of \$311,487.11 and additional bills on report date 8/31/2021 for \$44,118.58. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

20. Second Period for Public Comment – None

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk