

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #84478320747 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Joseph Ahler, Tanja Birke, Ben Wilson, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Steve Willis present. Alderperson Cyndy Hubbard was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Library Director Trina Erickson, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Dick Wallin, Tom Wilson and Angie Cina.

2. Oath of Office for Joseph Ahler – Ward 3 Alderperson and committee appointments – Clerk Polhamus gave Ahler the oath of office and he was appointed to the Finance/Personnel, Park & Rec and Public Safety Committees.

3. Approval of the August 31, 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.

4. First period for public comment – Tom Wilson expressed his support for the dark sky designation to be discussed on item #5.

5. Request for letter of support for International Dark Sky Park designation for Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Wildcat Mountain State Park and Tunnelville Cliffs – Dick Wallin- Wallin explained the request for support for their grant application. There is currently only one International Dark Sky Park in Wisconsin and only a few in the US. They have over 15,000 acres with the three entities and the remaining project at the Kickapoo Reserve is to change out the parking lot lights. If the grant is received, they would have ten years to implement all the changes and are not asking for any monetary support for this. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the letter of support. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Council moved to items seven through eleven before returning to item number six.

6. Review of 2021 tax increment project revenue bond payments – Polhamus reviewed the memo prepared by financial advisor Sean Lentz for TIPR bond payments to Viroqua Dental, Felton Enterprises and VEDA in Tid #3 and Viroqua Food Coop in Tid #6. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payments as presented. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. These were the final payments for Felton Enterprises and VEDA per their development agreements. There will also be the first payment to Southwest Sanitation in Tid #5 that will be discussed at our next meeting.

7. Resolution granting a privilege in a street to Randall & Debra Gabrielson (Public Works) – this is for the area on the end of Sunset Drive where they plan on building a driveway to extend to their property in the Town of Viroqua. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve resolution 021RS010 granting a privilege in a street. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Reappointment of Gregory Splinter to Historic Preservation Commission for a three-year term expiring 10/1/2024 – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to reappoint Gregory Splinter. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on renewal of Covid-19 policies in regard to emergency or administrative leave (Finance/Personnel) – Torres reviewed the 2020 policies with changes made. This policy would go through 12/31/2021 and then be reviewed again for 2022. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the Covid-19 policy regarding emergency paid sick leave and administrative leave. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. 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 – Memorandum of Understanding for Ethos Green Power Cooperative – this item was tabled.

11. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – n/a

12. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payment of bills on report date 09/10/2021 in the amount of \$228,918.19 and additional bills on report date 9/14/2021 for \$115,994.01. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Second Period for Public Comment – Grainger reminded everyone about the Main Street meeting on 9/23/2021.

14. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk