

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2022**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #86719001621 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Joseph Ahler, Tanja Birke, Ben Wilson, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Steve Willis present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Attorney Stephanie Hopkins, Library Director Trina Erickson, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Randy Skinner, Kristine Brueggen, Jared Rahr, Angie Cina, Tim Hundt, Marty Kennedy, Jodie Olson, Steve Thompson, Todd Spaeth, Kevin Hanson, Nora Roughen-Schmidt, Amy Holte, Christina Dollhausen, Darrin Wasniewski, Justin Running, Mark Volden, Adam Fogelson, Jenny Cain, Tracy Thelen, Roger Call, David Higgins, Todd Sanwick and Angie Bernstein

2. Approval of the December 28, 2021 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – Mike Bieser (S Rusk) urged Council to not adopt ATV ordinance. Todd Spaeth (Parkwood Trl) believes ATV ordinance should be passed. Mary Henry (Nelson Ct) thanked Public Safety Committee for reviewing the ATV ordinance and encourages the Council to accept the recommendation from the Park & Rec committee regarding Sidie Hollow Park.

4. Approval of chicken permit renewal at 931 E Decker St – Lance Clough- Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the chicken permit. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Approval of certified survey map – Roger Hanson Revocable Trust (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the CSM. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion with possible action on Community Heart & Soul program- Darrin Wasniewski and Nora Roughen-Schmidt presented a power point on the program and answered questions.

7. Discussion with possible action on request from Vernon County regarding Sidie Hollow Park improvements (Park & Rec) – The County is applying for a competitive EDA grant of \$3.25 million to boost travel and tourism which requires a 20% match. They have raised \$575,000 so far but have a \$79,000 gap. They plan on doing updates to Sidie Hollow Park of dredging the lake and adding a beach, new park facility, storage and staff office, expanding the trail network, update restroom facilities, add shower facilities and add info kiosks and signage. They have received twelve letters of support from local businesses as well. We cannot use ARPA funds or TIF funds, which leaves general operating funds only. If the County does not get the grant the commitment would not be needed. If they don't raise the entire gap amount, they will submit for a smaller grant. Park & Rec committee recommended a commitment of \$7500 per year for three years. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve \$7500 per year commitment for three years starting 2023-2025 from the Park & Rec budget or other areas as available. Roll call vote eight in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderperson Birke voted no.

8. Discussion with possible action on ordinance creating chapter 10.50 All-Terrain Vehicles and Utility Terrain Vehicles of the Viroqua Municipal Code – First Reading (Public Safety)- Attorney Hopkins reviewed the ordinance that was drafted at the Public Safety Committee. Alderperson Birke spoke on the lack of safety discussions at the committee and spoke on concerns that should be addressed and to not pass the ordinance. Alderperson Hubbard is concerned of large groups of riders and students riding them to school as well as OWIs not showing up on their driving record. Chief Niedfeldt stated that all child safety laws would apply on the atv/utvs. Alderperson Tryggestad stated that he would argue the opposite of what was presented against the ordinance.

Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Ahler to adopt the ordinance and waive the second reading. Roll call vote three in favor, six against. Motion fails. Alderpersons Tryggestad, Ahler and Thompson voting in favor.

9. 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 Superintendent review (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to enter closed session at 8:56pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session- Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to reconvene in open session at 9:08pm. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Welter to approve what was discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. 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 –Administrative Assistant Position (Finance/Personnel) – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Willis to enter closed session at 9:10pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. 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 9:16pm. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve what was discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/07/2022 in the amount of \$320,150.16 and additional bills on report date 01/11/2022 for \$1,305,131.82 with changes as discussed. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Second Period for Public Comment – Todd Sanwick (Hwy 56) – stated there were inaccuracies in what was discussed on the ATV ordinance. There were only 46 total fatalities for all of Wisconsin and it is illegal to ride two people on an atv if it isn't suited for it. He thanked Public Safety for all their work on this. Steve Thompson (Congress Ave) – was disappointed in the votes by Council on the ATV ordinance.

15. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk