

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #82156783587 with Alderpersons David Tryggstad, 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, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Randy Skinner, Tim Hundt, Steve Thompson, Tom Wilson, Dan Johnson and Christina Dollhausen.

2. Approval of the January 25, 2022 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – Tom Wilson commented on the bathhouse project and stated all three engineering assessments that were done were before the roof and structural supports were removed and feels structural assessments are needed. He has electronic copies available of the studies to share if needed.

4. Approval of pay request #7 for Brickl Bros. – City Hall project- Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve pay request #7 for \$322,295.74. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Discussion with possible action on Community Development Investment grant application for Round River Distilling for 2023 – Dan Johnson – Torres stated this grant is similar to what the Fortney is doing which is for the grant cycle July 2021 to June 2022. Johnson would like to apply for the cycle July 2022-June 2023 as the city can only support one application per year. The business takes the lead on these grants and resolutions would be done later but Johnson is looking for the support now. In 2019 they bought the property at 741 S Main Street. They worked with the city for a zoning change to allow a distillery and they were approved as a conditional use for this location. They plan on starting renovations at the end of summer 2022. The grant maximum is \$250,000 which they plan to apply for. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to preliminarily approve the CDI grant application for Round River Distilling for 2023. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approval of La Crosse Sign Group proposal for south side Viroqua welcome sign (Public Property)- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the proposal for \$3672.00. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on process for ADCI review of bathhouse – There will be a site visit with a few of the stakeholders on March 3rd to give a list of ideas to ADCI. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to appoint Gregory Splinter as one of the stakeholders. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Willis to appoint Joe Ahler as another stakeholder. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. Nate Torres and Dan Stalsberg will also be in attendance. Some of the ideas from previous meetings were reviewed as well as pickleball courts, sculpture gardens, rotating artist space and a mini-golf course.

8. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payment of bills on report date 02/04/2022 in the amount of \$385,255.31 and additional bills on report date 02/8/2022 for \$71,104.02 as well as additional police department Kwik Trip bill for \$1642.88. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Second Period for Public Comment – None

10. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Birke to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk