

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

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #87042098709 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, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Library Director Trina Erickson, Justin Running, Aurora Boyd, Angie Cina, Caroline Glover, Jodie Olson, Randy Skinner, Jeff Gohlke, Gavin Luter, Evan Blatner, Laura Abellera and Amanda Goodenough.

**2. Approval of the February 22, 2022 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the minutes from the previous Council meeting. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**4. Presentations by potential Diversity/Equity/Inclusion consultants with possible action**

- a) **Gavin Luter – UniverCity Alliance at UW-Madison-** UW students (advance graduate, graduate and PHD students) would be doing projects with Viroqua with a three-year commitment at a cost of \$25,000-\$30,000 over the three years. They identify key stakeholders and then develop a process. They guide the process but do not lead and staff would have ongoing involvement in the project.
- b) **Amanda Goodenough & Laura Abellera – Social Responsibility Speaks** – they would be facilitators to help educate and center on marginalized groups and provide support and access. This would include educational programming workshops, comprehensive reviews of policies and programming as well as creating partnerships where there are gaps and also look at hiring processes. They would provide a written report with recommendations to the Council.

This item was tabled to bring back at the next Council meeting to review both options and give the Council time to review the materials and check with other communities that have used these services in the past.

**5. Approval of temporary Class B beer license for Viroqua Legion Baseball (VFW) at Park Bowl (Public Safety)-** Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the temporary Class B license for Viroqua Legion Baseball. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Discussion with possible action on mask requirement for city buildings and tentative schedule for returning to in-person meetings** – Torres reviewed the different CDC maps with conflicting information, the state employees are no longer requiring masks so would suggest changing to a mask friendly policy. The move in date for city hall is April 12<sup>th</sup> and some of the IT/AV may not be available yet to be able to do the complete hybrid meetings. We will also need to discuss whether council members will still be able to attend virtually. The new Council is sworn in on April 19<sup>th</sup> so it was suggested to start in-person then but with the hybrid meetings possibly happening later depending on the equipment and training. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to have masks optional in city buildings with the first in-person meeting starting April 19<sup>th</sup> at the new City Hall. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. This will also include all committee meetings as well.

**7. 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 – Operator in training position (Public Works)** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Wilson to enter closed session at 8:59 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 Welter/second by Alderperson Wilson to reconvene in open session at 9:04 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve what was discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the payment of bills on report date 03/04/2022 in the amount of \$438,500.14 and additional bills on report date 03/08/2022 for \$32,076.36. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**11. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Splinter to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk