

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 29, 2022**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #89368492826 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, Angie Cina, Jodie Olson, Randy Skinner, Chad Hoyum, Tim Hundt, Kurt Muchow, Tanja Forkash, Steve Thompson, Shawn Engh, Shelley Gunn, Lisa Henner, Brian Wrobel and Madison Winscher

2. Approval of the March 8, 2022 Regular Council minutes – tabled

3. First period for public comment – Shelley Gunn from Wild West Days expressed concerns about parking issues if the designated parking areas are no longer available with the proposed fire station location. They would like to be involved in the process and kept informed to work with the city.

4. Appointment of Gary Helgerson to the Airport Commission to replace Doug Swenson whose six-year term expires 9/1/2024- Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Birke to appoint Gary Helgerson to the Airport Commission. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Review and approval of chicken permit for 320 W Maple St – Madison Winscher – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the chicken permit for 320 W Maple Street. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Approval of sidewalk replacement bids (Public Works) – We received four bids from Fowler & Hammer, Augelli Concrete, Janzen Concrete and S&S Concrete. The low bidder was Fowler & Hammer at \$8.95 for 4 inch and \$9.75 for 6 inch. They were also the low bidder last year. Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the sidewalk replacement bids from Fowler & Hammer. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Approval of pay request #9 – Brick Bros. City Hall project – Motion by Alderperson Splinter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve pay request #9 for \$35,202.94. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion with possible action on grant submittal for fire station project – Chief Buros reviewed the ADCI building condition reports with Council in regards to the status of the current fire station and options for additions or renovations to the current location. The current estimate is \$2.5 million for an addition on the building. They also reviewed other locations within the city for building a new building for strategic planning because we would need to still have a working station if the current building was to be renovated. The location, that the city currently owns the land and is centrally located, is the Wild West Days grounds. Currently there is a second round of community funds grants available where we could make a new fire station as priority one on the submission with the sewer project priority #2 that we were unsuccessful in obtaining in the first round of grants. The grant deadline is April 10th and ADCI has a proposal to help us with the application for a conceptual plan on a time & expense basis. The expense would come from the fire maintenance budget. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Thompson to move forward with the grant submission including working with Wild West Days on the property location. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the ADCI proposal for not to exceed \$3000. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on policy for use of symbols/signs/flags/city branding on city owned public property (Public Property) The policy submitted by Public Property was reviewed by Council. Motion by

Aldersperson Birke/second by Aldersperson Welter to approve the policy as proposed. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Discussion with possible action on amendment to Council rule 76-1-10 regarding virtual participation by council members when returning to in-person meetings – Motion by Aldersperson Wilson/second by Aldersperson Willis to table. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion with possible action on subdivision inspection ordinance (Public Works) – Motion by Aldersperson Hubbard/second by Aldersperson Wilson to approve ordinance 22OR002 and waive the second reading. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. 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 Development Agreement with Hotel Fortney- Motion by Aldersperson Welter/second by Aldersperson Willis to enter closed session at 8:29 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session- Motion by Aldersperson Hubbard/second by Aldersperson Willis to reconvene in open session at 9:09 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Aldersperson Hubbard/second by Aldersperson Birke to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Hotel Fortney as discussed in closed session. Roll call vote eight in favor, one against. Motion carried. Aldersperson Tryggestad voting no.

14. 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 – property purchase at 319 Railroad Avenue- Motion by Aldersperson Welter/second by Aldersperson Birke to enter closed session at 9:18 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session- Motion by Aldersperson Thompson/second by Aldersperson Tryggestad to reconvene in open session at 9:32 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Aldersperson Thompson/second by Aldersperson Splinter to terminate the first right of purchase on the 319 Railroad Avenue property contingent on the easement. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. 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 – Utility Clerk five-year review (Public Works) – Motion by Aldersperson Welter/second by Aldersperson Willis to enter closed session at 9:35 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Aldersperson Wilson/second by Aldersperson Birke to reconvene in open session at 9:38 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Aldersperson Welter/second by Aldersperson Hubbard to approve what was discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Aldersperson Hubbard/second by Aldersperson Wilson to approve the payment of bills on report date 03/24/2022 in the amount of \$208,905.88 and additional bills on report date 03/29/2022 for \$126,158.50. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

19. Second Period for Public Comment – Aldersperson Tryggestad thanked Doug Swenson for his service on the Airport Commission.

20. Adjournment - Motion made by Aldersperson Willis/second by Aldersperson Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk