

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2022**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 by Mayor Karen Mischel via online zoom meeting #86947170838 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Gregory Splinter, Joseph Ahler, Tanja Birke, Ben Wilson, Cyndy Hubbard, Kristal Welter and Steve Willis present. Alderperson John Thompson was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Library Director Trina Erickson, Jodie Olson, Randy Skinner, Chad Hoyum, Tim Hundt, Brian Wrobel, Travis Sutton, Mark Zogg, Justin Running, Todd Sanwick, Shauna Anderson, Jim Schommer and Laci Sheldon.

2. Approval of the March 8, 2022 and March 29, 2022 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Splinter to approve the minutes of the previous meetings. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. First period for public comment – None

4. Approval of extraterritorial plat of survey – Roger Zogg property (Plan Commission) – this is a 170-acre parcel that Roger Zogg owns and he is selling off 148 acres to Charlie McConkey, retaining 22 acres for himself. Plan Commission reviewed the survey and approved. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the extraterritorial plat of survey. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

5. Review and approval of chicken permit renewal for Chris Ruder at 247 5th Avenue- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Willis to approve the chicken permit for Chris Ruder. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion with possible action regarding Memorandum of Understanding for Workforce Innovation grant – WEDC has a three-year \$10 million grant for covid related manufacturing workforce matters and WTC is writing the grant with eight regional partners. The Viroqua team consists of Nate Torres, Trina Erickson and Chris Clemens but the library would be responsible for the grant. They would use it towards transportation, child care, technology and skill building. By building out the extra room in WTC they could expand the after-school program as a pilot project for WTC as a childcare business lab. They have thirty kids currently with a waiting list. This could expand the program to up to sixty kids. WTC would train the students who may want to open their own daycare, the library provides the program and the chamber could help the student start a daycare business to complete the cycle to help with the daycare issue in the community. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the MOU for the Workforce Innovation grant. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on Diversity/Equity/Inclusion consultants- Torres spoke with the SRS consultants regarding costs, timelines, and how they would mesh with the Community Heart & Soul program. They will do additional research and come up with a list of services and dollar commitment for a future meeting.

8. 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 – Development Agreement with Hotel Fortney- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Willis to enter closed session at 7:29 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. 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 7:49 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Torres reviewed the development agreement for Phase 2 of the Fortney project. Motion by

Alderson Birke/second by Alderson Hubbard to approve the development agreement contingent on legal counsel review. Roll call vote seven in favor, one against. Motion carried. Alderson Tryggestad voting no.

10. 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 Auxiliary Worker position (Public Works) – Motion by Alderson Hubbard/second by Alderson Welter to enter closed session at 8:01 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderson Wilson/second by Alderson Welter to reconvene in open session at 8:09 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderson Birke/second by Alderson Welter to proceed as discussed during closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderson Birke/second by Alderson Welter to approve the payment of bills on report date 04/07/2022 in the amount of \$157,597.83 and additional bills on report date 04/12/2022 for \$37,517.42. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Second Period for Public Comment – Randy Skinner, Tim Hundt, Tanja Birke and Cyndy Hubbard thanked Mayor Mischel for her service.

14. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderson Birke/second by Alderson Hubbard to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk