

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

1. Roll Call

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Mayor Justin Running at Viroqua City Hall with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Tanja Birke, Kristal Welter, Steve Willis, John Thompson, Joseph Ahler and Ben Wilson. Alderperson Cyndy Hubbard was excused. There is one ward vacancy. Also present were Administrator Nate Torres, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Library Director Trina Erickson, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Carson LaBelle and Al Hagen.

2. Approval of the June 28, 2022, Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson

Welter/second by Alderperson Wilson to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. Council Announcements – Alderperson Welter thanked the City crew for cutting trees near stop signs to make them more visible. Alderperson Birke commented on how enjoyable the Driftless Music Festival and the Viroqua Fly-In Breakfast was. Mayor Running announced he is looking for people to fill Wards 2 and 5.

4. First Period for Public Comment – None

5. Acceptance of resignation of Gregory Splinter – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Ahler to accept the resignation. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Acceptance of resignation of Ben Wilson – Alderperson read a letter to the Council announcing his resignation effective at 9:00 p.m. on July 12, 2022. Alderperson Wilson thanked the community for allowing him to represent his ward. He spoke about his passion for climate change and emphasized Viroqua should start preparing now. He asked the community to please ease tensions between new Viroqua and old Viroqua and to stand up to all phobias. He suggested a renter should be on the Council to give a different perspective. Motion by Alderperson Ahler/second by Alderperson Birke. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Mayoral appointments to Council committees – Mayor Running stated he is going to hold off making committee changes until the vacancies are filled, with the exception of Steve Willis who Mayor Running is putting back on the Park & Rec committee. Alderperson Welter stated she would like to go back to the Public Works committee. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve the committee change for Alderperson Willis. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Approval of extraterritorial CSM – Brett Janzen (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the CSM. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

- 9. Approval of engagement letter for final audit of TID 2 with Johnson Block** – City Administrator Nate Torres stated TID 2 is nearing the end of the TID and a final audit needs to be done prior to the close of the TID. Lori Polhamus and Nate Torres reviewed the agreement and were not comfortable the agreement did not include ‘cost not to exceed’. Motion was made by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to accept as it with the provision that Nate needs to approve the cost. Roll call all in favor. Motion carried.
- 10. Discussion with possible action on truck bids (Public Works)** – Public Works Engineer Sarah Grainger received proposals from Peterbilt and DeBush for a dump truck. International dump truck was chosen with a \$110,900 cost for the chassis and a total cost of \$210,100. This could change as delivery is not anticipated until 2024 but it needed to be ordered now. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Willis to purchase the truck. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 11. Discussion and approval for use of refusal form for Viroqua Fire EMR** – Fire Chief Chad Buros discussed when someone refuses treatment from a first responder, he would like to have a Refusal of Treatment form signed by the patient like to the one used by the Ambulance and Gunderson Hospital has. Chief Buros did run the form by the City Legal Counsel Stephanie and George and our City Insurance Company. Both approved the form with the requirement the City Council also needs to approve. Chief Buros stated EMR’s would use sparingly and prefers to have the ambulance come. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the use of the Refusal Form. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 12. Discussion and update on housing working group** – Mayor Running spoke with the City Legal Counsel on Commission versus Committee, counsel stated whichever is decided, the expectations of this group need to be clearly identified. Council members should send a message to Mayor Running on what they would like to see; number of members, what kind of representation (business, renter, property owner, etc). Mayor Running suggested two council members and seven citizens with a quorum of four. Once this group is formed, it can be reviewed and revised.
- 13. Discussion/action on date change for council meeting to August 16, 2022, instead of August 9, 2022, due to primary election** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Willis to move the August 9, 2022, council meeting to August 16, 2022. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.
- 14. Resolution for per diem pay for Finance Committee meetings scheduled for fifteen minutes prior to Council (Finance)** – Motion by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve resolution # 22RS009. Roll call vote, seven yes, one no. Motion carried. Alderperson Birke voted no.

15. Resolution authorizing execution of DNR Principal Forgiven Financial Assistance Agreement –
Motion by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve resolution 022RS010.
Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Possible closed session – Business Park hotel development – Motion by Alderperson
Welter/second by Alderperson Willis to enter into closed session at approximately 7:55 p.m.
Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session –
Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Willis to reconvene into open session at
approximately 8:10 p.m. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson
Wilson/second by Alderperson Welter to move away from GrandStay/DCD and go with Best
Western/Grass Roots. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Payment of Bills – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve
payment of bills on report dated 07/01/2022 in the amount of \$66,159.91 and additional bills on
report date 07/12/2022 in the amount of \$110,139.61. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion
carried.

19. Second Period for Public Comment – None

20. Adjournment – Motion made by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Birke to
adjourn meeting the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Cheryl Purvis, Utility Clerk