

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 26, 2022**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Joseph Ahler, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter present. Steve Willis attended via phone and Tanja Birke was excused. Also present were Administrator Nate Torres, City Clerk Lori Polhamus, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Library Director Trina Erickson, Chad Hoyum, Todd Spaeth, Dave Goss, Shauna Anderson, Bill Meeks, Ruthie Zahm and Richard Running.

2. Approval of the July 12, 2022 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. Council Announcements – National Night Out will be held on 8/2/2022 at 5pm at the Fairgrounds.

4. First period for public comment – Shauna Anderson stated she is representing the Viroqua Bark Park Committee and thanked the Council for their consideration of taking over the Bark Park.

5. Mayoral appointment of Dave Goss as Ward 2 Alderperson – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Ahler to appoint Dave Goss Ward 2 Alderperson. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Mayoral appointment of Todd Spaeth as Ward 5 Alderperson – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to appoint Todd Spaeth as Ward 5 Alderperson. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Mayoral appointments to Council committees – Steve Willis will come off Public Works and Kristal Welter will be added to Public Works. David Goss and Todd Spaeth will be added to the Finance and Public Property Committees. Other changes may be made going forward. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the Council committee appointments. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion with possible action on lease agreement for Viroqua Bark Park (Park & Rec) – this is County owned land and the County has signed the agreement already that will go into effect on 8/1/2022. The committee reviewed the maintenance plan and rules for the park at their meeting and were in support of the agreement. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve the lease agreement for the Viroqua Bark Park. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on ordinance for Viroqua Bark Park (Park & Rec) – First Reading – the off-leash portion of the ordinance needs to be amended for the Bark Park. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve ordinance 22OR004 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the operator licenses for Jessica Jorstad, Vincent Spiri, Lydia Christianson, Steve Wellington, Cheri Gravatt and Bianca Jacks. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion with possible action on annual maintenance and repairs for weather sirens (Public Safety) – we have three sirens and basic maintenance was done last year on them. They are in bad shape and it was originally estimated at \$3000 per siren, however this was just the installation price. The total cost per unit is closer to \$8800 with parts and labor. It was recommended to use the building maintenance fund this year to replace one of the sirens and then budget \$10,000 per year for the next four years to get them all updated and have continued maintenance done. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the plan to fix the sirens as presented. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Update on EMS flex grant (Public Safety) – Chief Buros submitted the grant for \$101,000 and we will find out in August if we are successful. We put in for an SUV response vehicle with equipment, ten portable radios, medical supplies, laptop and tuition for twelve new members. This is a 100% grant with no local match.

13. Discussion with possible action on equipment purchase for new dump truck from Universal Truck Equipment (Public Works) - this is to go on the cab and chassis that was already approved. The cost is \$96,841 and they will require a non-refundable 50% down payment if the truck is not ready in 240 days which is highly likely. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the equipment purchase for \$96,841. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Discussion with possible action on privilege in the street in city parking lot by Mr. G's – to clean up the number of dumpsters in the alley, the Driftless Café, Hotel Fortney and Campbell properties would like to consolidate and have one dumpster with more frequent pickups located behind the hotel. They are proposing a 12x20 concrete block enclosure that would be screened. We would lose one parking spot with the potential of two. The area would encroach on the city's property requiring the privilege. The document has not been drafted yet. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to move forward with drafting the privilege document. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Possible closed session per Wis. 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 – city property located on Railroad/Linton Avenues – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to enter closed session at 7:35 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Ahler to reconvene in open session at 7:50 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. No action was taken.

17. 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 – Chief of Police – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Thompson to enter closed session at 7:52 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Ahler/second by Alderperson Welter to reconvene in open session at 8:01 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Ahler to extend the contract as discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

19. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve the payment of bills on report date 07/22/2022 in the amount of \$258,338.76 and additional bills on report date 07/26/2022 for \$30,100.74. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

20. Second Period for Public Comment – None

21. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Ahler/second by Alderperson Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk