

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2022**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall with Alderpersons Joe Ahler, Tanja Birke (arrived at 7:10 pm), Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter and Steve Willis present. Alderpersons David Tryggestad and Dave Goss were excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Fire Chief Chad Buros, City Engineer/Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Park & Rec Director Dan Stalsberg, Library Director Trina Erickson, Gregory Splinter, Mike Brendel, Tom Burkhalter, Aaron Parker, Robert Karp and Evan Blattner

**2. Approval of the September 13, 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** – None

**4. First period for public comment** – Aaron Parker (111 N Lincoln) – stated Viroqua is proactive with their on-street parking, historic district, multiple strategies, organic foods and no by pass. The development at the old highway shop will be the gateway from the north and it should be mixed use residential with market rate and affordable mix. There should be an ownership/rental mix with local investors.

**5. Information/update on Viroqua Area Schools facilities referendum – Tom Burkhalter & Mike Brendel** – they presented information on the November 8<sup>th</sup> referendum and answered questions.

**6. Review and approval of 2022 tax incremental project revenue bond payments** – Payments this year are to Viroqua Dental for \$5562.76 in Tid 3, Southwest Sanitation for \$12,554 in Tid #5 and Viroqua Food Coop for \$46,438.88 in Tid #6. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the tax incremental project revenue bond payments. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Discussion and possible action on fire protection sprinkler annual inspections quote for City Hall** – per fire code we are required to have an inspection each year. The cost is \$390 per year. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the fire protection sprinkler inspection quote from Fireline Sprinkler LLC. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Discussion with possible action on Housing Advisory Board Ordinance – First Reading** – this would be an eleven-member board with six at large, two alderpersons, a realtor, a lender and a landlord (which needs to be added to the ordinance). Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve ordinance 22OR006 and add the landlord under section 2.50.030 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Proposal on affordable housing homeownership model for the old highway shop property at Broadway & Main Street – Gregory Splinter** – Splinter reviewed a slide presentation on his idea of incorporating both the city property and county property for this project and the concept of a home ownership model versus giving the money to a developer that is not located in Viroqua. This would use vouchers from the grant to help make it affordable for home purchases and be built in phases. For this plan to move forward the city would need to purchase the property from the county.

**10. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the payment of bills on report date 09/22/2022 in the amount of \$136,594.61 and additional bills on report date 09/27/2022 for \$27,567.09. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Second Period for Public Comment** – Robert Karp, 418 N Washington – stated the developer only made an offer on the county property after the grant came in and the city should explore every option for the city to gain control of the land.

**12. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Ahler to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk