

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2023**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Andrew Bergum, Joe Ahler, Tanja Birke, Todd Spaeth, John Thompson, Steve Willis and Kristal Welter present. Alderperson Cyndy Hubbard was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, City Engineer/Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Library Director Trina Erickson, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Sergeant Robert Raasch, Josh Straka, Richard Running, Carson LaBelle, Bill Meeks, Danny Helgerson, Tyler Conn, Mike Stoeckigt and Lance Eitland.

2. Approval of the December 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 – Mayor Running welcomed Alderperson Bergum who was sworn in last week. Alderperson Birke wanted to thank all city staff for their hard work.

4. First period for public comment – None

5. Public hearing regarding conditional use application for Tyler Conn dba The Woolly Bear Taphouse to permit the use of property located at 117 E Terhune St as a small craft beer taproom in a B-1 District – the public hearing was opened at 7:04 pm. This will be a small taproom in the front of the building with a small prep kitchen. Hours would be Tuesday-Saturday with a possible closing time of 9-10pm. The public hearing was closed at 7:05 pm.

6. Consideration of conditional use application for Tyler Conn dba The Woolly Bear Taphouse at 117 E Terhune St (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the conditional use application. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. It was noted that there is a provision that they need to be 300 feet from a church or school so that will be considered with the alcohol licensing.

Council moved to item nine before returning to remainder of the agenda.

7. Presentation by Green for Life as waste hauler- Bill Meeks sold Southwest Sanitation to GFL on November 1, 2022. Mike Stoeckigt gave a slide presentation and answered questions for Council on the new company.

8. Discussion with possible action on amendment to Southwest Sanitation Development Agreement – the only change is the name of the company on the agreement that runs through 2029. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the amendment to the Southwest Sanitation Development agreement. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on colored concrete for sidewalks and bump outs for downtown TAP project (Public Works) – Josh Straka and Sarah Grainger reviewed the options for Council for the intersections at Court, Jefferson and Terhune. The original budget included only colored concrete for the crosswalks at \$97,850.50. Adding the bump outs would increase the budget by \$26,561.04. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Willis to stay with the original budget that only included the colored crosswalks. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Running turned the meeting over to Council President Tanja Birke for items ten and eleven on the agenda.

10. Discussion with possible action on capital grant purchase of taxi cab vehicles – We received a capital grant in 2017 that was finalized in 2022 through the WisDOT for \$108,480 that has a twenty percent local match. We haven't been able to get vehicles for the last two years so this hasn't been budgeted. The state procurement cost for

the two vans would be \$125,308.00 with our match being \$25,061.60. We currently have five vehicles on the road with higher mileage and two that are no longer usable. Westby has not contributed towards capital purchases in the past; however, an equitable cost sharing could be explored. This could be included in capital borrowing at the end of the year as well. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve the purchase of two vans with a local share up to \$30,000 and pursue conversations with Westby regarding cost sharing. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion with possible action on 2023 taxi fare rate increase – our current fares have not been changed in many years but the cost of service has increased substantially. Westby and Viroqua also have different rates which makes it difficult on the provider. If the fare was raised fifty cents the local share could be reduced by \$19,100 and a dollar raise could save \$37,200. Agency fares are also currently at \$4.00. Eighty percent of ridership is elderly/disabled. We would be required to have a public hearing prior to any changes and a combined one with Westby would be beneficial. Westby will take this to their board for recommendations and a final recommendation will be discussed at the 1/31/23 Council meeting prior to a public hearing.

Mayor Running resumed running the remainder of the meeting after a short break.

12. Approval to apply for Vibrant Spaces Grant – Trina Erickson – the grant application is due on 1/31/23 and would be submitted for \$50,000. This would be to finish the buildout of the community room space at WTC that is connected to the library. This has a 1:1 match which is to be secured by grants and fundraising by the library. A resolution would be coming to council on the 31st to submit with the grant. Motion by Alderperson Ahler/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the application for the Vibrant Spaces Grant. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Review/approval of chicken permit renewal application at 526 E Jefferson St – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Willis to approve the chicken permit application. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Request with possible action on 2022 vacation carryover for Police Chief and Sergeant (Finance/Personnel) – Motion by Alderperson Ahler/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the carryover of 120 hours for Chief Niedfeldt and 108 hours for Sergeant Sutton, all must be used by 12/31/2023, any hours rolled over will not be paid out upon termination and any vacation hours earned in 2023 must be used as provided in the personnel manual. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Approval of ordinance amending ordinance 22OR006 annexing property to the City of Viroqua – the original ordinance included a portion along Hwy 14 that was already in the city so this version removes that portion under area four on the map. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Ahler to approve ordinance 23OR001 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Discussion with possible action on extension of Covid-19 policy for 2023 – Torres reviewed the policy from 2022. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Ahler to amend the policy to change the hours from 80 to 40 and removing the admin leave portion with the remainder of the policy staying the same and retro to 1/1/2023 through 12/31/2023. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/06/2023 in the amount of \$101,870.73 and additional bills on report date 01/10/2023 for \$1,130,308.36 plus an additional bill for Boardman Clark for \$17,092.41 that was not included on the listing. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Second Period for Public Comment – Carson LaBelle had questions regarding agenda item #9.

19. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Bergum to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk