

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Andrew Bergum, Todd Kirking, Tanja Birke, Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter, and Steve Willis present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Police Chief Rick Niedfelt, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Library Director Trina Erickson, George Hopkins, Chad Hoyum, Jacob Victor, Matt Tills, Sean Lentz, Gail Frie, Stacie Sanborn, Charlie Jacobson, Gregory Splinter, Mary Henry, Angie Cina, and Carson LaBelle.

2. Approval of the September 12, 2023 Special Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. Council Announcements – Alderperson Willis stated canine officer Robbie is retiring 9/28/2023 and there is an open house from 3-5 at the Police Station.

4. First period for public comment – Gail Frie gave an update on the history of the landfill and encouraged the use of solid waste and recycling locally.

5. Review and approval of extraterritorial certified survey map – Amalia Buros (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the CSM. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

The Council moved to items eight and nine before finishing the remainder of the agenda.

6. Public hearing on specific implementation plan for Northpointe Development Corporation for a planned unit development zoning district located at 602 North Main Street and is adjacent to North Rock Avenue, West Broadway Street and North Main Street – the public hearing was opened at 8:16 pm. Jake Victor and Matt Tills gave an update slide presentation to those present. The project start date will be 3/1/2024 and proposed end date of 6/9/2025. There will be 65 units, 6065 sq ft daycare and 3121 sq ft commercial space. Alderperson Birke suggested water access for the community gardens, trees by the pet area and dark sky lighting. Alderperson Spaeth had concerns on the upkeep of the proposed mural by the daycare. Gregory Splinter asked if there was money in the plan for maintaining the landscaping and if the rent prices would be frozen. The public hearing was closed at 9:19 pm. The public hearing was reopened at 9:21 pm, however we were unable to hear the person on zoom so it was reclosed at 9:22 pm.

7. Consideration of Northpointe Development Corporation specific implementation plan and to rezone from B-2 zoning district to a Planned Unit Development (PUD) district (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the SIP for Northpointe Development Corporation. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the rezoning from B-2 to the PUD. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Review and approval of 2023 tax incremental project revenue bond payments – Sean Lentz from Ehlers reviewed the revenue bond and developer payments for 2023. The following bond amounts were discussed: For Tid 3 – Viroqua Dental \$5766.11 (final payment) and Felton Enterprises \$15,995.99 (final payment). For Tid 6 – Viroqua Food Coop \$46,626.20. The following developer payments were discussed: For Tid #5 – GFL Environmental (Formally Southwest Sanitation \$13,013 and in Tid 6 – Ridgeland Restorations \$13,868 for Phase I. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the 2023 tax incremental revenue bond and developer payments. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on memorandum of understanding between Vernon County Solid Waste & Recycling & City of Viroqua for special tipping rate for municipal solid waste disposal – Stacie Sanborn from Vernon County Solid Waste gave a slide presentation regarding the landfill. The MOU would have a \$1.00-\$3.00 per ton rebate. The County has not approved the four-acre expansion yet but it has been approved by the DNR and the County has invested \$550,000. If the MOU is approved it would require agreements with waste haulers to take the waste to the Vernon County landfill. This would be a one-year deal and if the County Board does not do the expansion the deal would expire. They are predicting under \$60/ton in tipping fees with the other municipalities coming on board as well and we have the right to direct flow control. Motion by Alderperson Kirking/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to approve the MOU with Vernon County Solid Waste. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

The Council took a five-minute break at 9:25 pm.

10. Review and approval of updates to Hidden Valleys Municipal Court Agreement (Municipal Court Committee) – the current agreement has the budget divided based on the number of tickets each municipality has. The new way proposed would take a blended average of the population and tickets to make it easier on the smaller communities to budget. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the updates. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Approval for relocation of electrical box on old City Hall building (Public Works) – the box that controls the decorative street lights is attached to the building. We received quotes from Forkash Electric for \$24,945 and Poellinger Electric for \$25,475 to move the electric line to a stationary area located by the current flagpole. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the relocation of the electrical box with Forkash Electric for \$24,945. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Review and approval of golf cart ordinance – Second Reading – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the second reading of ordinance 23OR004. Voice vote taken with mostly ayes and two no votes heard. Alderpersons Birke and Welter voting no.

13. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the payment of bills on report date 09/21/2023 in the amount of \$186,478.95 and additional bills on report date 09/26/2023 for \$64,663.90. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Second Period for Public Comment – Mary Henry, 520 Nelson Ct thanked the Council for their partnership with the Vernon County landfill. They are not for profit and local control is best.

15. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Spaeth to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk