

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
OCTOBER 31, 2023**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 31, 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 Deputy Clerk Joy Conley, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Stacie Sanborn, Roger Call, Mark Volden, Ben Gald, Eric Sherry, and City Administrator Nate Torres via Zoom.

**2. Approval of the October 10, 2023 Regular Council minutes** – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Kirking 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** – Roger Call spoke in favor of the amendment to the ATV/UTV ordinance and extending the hours.

**5. Approval of professional services contract with Vierbicher for 2023 sewer projects (Public Works)** – Nate spoke and presented slides of the information that was provided to the Public Works committee last week. Needed to redo the contract per EPA. Contract was previously approved - this is for all remaining services. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the professional services contract with Vierbicher for 2023 sewer projects. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Review and approval of resolution for allowance of bike & pedestrian facilities** – Tabled

**7. Review and approval of proposal for waste & recycling services** – Nate had reached out to locally known providers for bids. He received two proposals, one from GFL and one from Harter's. Each proposal had 4 bid options. It was narrowed down to bids #1 and #2 in each and he explained the breakdown of costs. One change is the city would pay the admin fee for the county landfill directly to them in the new contract. Currently it is included on the GFL invoice to the city and GFL pays the landfill. This change provides better transparency to help collect the rebate the city will receive. A concern was asked how we would know if the truck load was all city at time of drop off to the landfill. Stacie Sanborn from the landfill added she would be able to watch billings to note any major discrepancies. There was discussion on the possibility of using smaller totes and how to ensure the MOU with the county landfill will be honored. Nate explained this was just to decide what provider and proposal to go with and further concerns could be addressed in the contract. Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Tryggestad to accept bid #2 from GFL. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Review and approval of amendments to ATV/UTV ordinance (Public Safety)** – Birke stated for the record that her position has not changed, that she has seen violations. Welter felt Roger Call and the others were doing a good job of communicating and monitoring. Hubbard was curious why the hours needed to be changed when the ordinance was just approved last year, and she was concerned about them being driven on Main Street. Spaeth felt folks were receptive to the changes and that there is a learning curve for those outside the city not aware of the city ordinance. Spaeth added that he was at a baseball game that lasted past 9:00 pm and he had driven his UTV to the event. It was asked why the change was needed during winter with Spaeth stating he personally felt his use of an ATV/UTV is safe in the snow due to better visibility and tire traction. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the amendments to ATV/UTV ordinance 23OR005 and waive 2<sup>nd</sup> reading. Roll call vote 8 in favor, Birke opposed. Motion carried.

**9. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the payment of bills on report date 10/26/2023 in the amount of \$165,187.07 and additional bills on report date 10/31/2023 for \$122,466.01. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**17. Second Period for Public Comment** – None

**18. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Bergum/second by Alderperson Willis to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Joy E. Conley, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer