

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 9, 2024**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:07 p.m. on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 by Mayor Justin Running via Zoom # 87129621774 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Andrew Bergum, Todd Kirking, Tanja Birke, Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, Kristal Welter, and Steve Willis present. Alderperson John Thompson was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Library Director Trina Erickson, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Park & Rec Director Kale Proksch, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Asst Fire Chief Glen Martin, Emma Hood, Brandon Larson, Bradley Robson, Patrick Robbins, Berent Froiland, Howard White, Evan Blatner, and Tim Hundt.

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

3. Council Announcements – Alderperson Birke thanked the street department employees for clearing the streets. Mayor Running stated the Housing Advisory Board is working on getting their first meeting scheduled in January. Alderperson Thompson had knee replacement surgery on 1/2/2024 so he will not be at tonight's meetings.

4. First period for public comment – None

5. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Welter to approve operator licenses for Thomas Hafemann, Chad Buros, John Thompson, and Glen Martin. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Discussion with possible action on resolution adopting the Vernon County Multi-Hazards Mitigation Plan 2023-2028 – Brandon Larson with Vernon County Emergency Management stated this is a five-year plan required by FEMA. A complete revision was done in 2023 and the County Board approved it, FEMA approved it in December and now all local municipalities need to approve to qualify for funding. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve resolution 024RS001 adopting the Vernon County Multi-Hazards mitigation plan for 2023-2028. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on resolution dedicating right of way on property owned by the City for the Main Street TAP project – one of the properties located within the project is the veteran's memorial on the Terhune corner. This resolution allows the process to go through without paying ourselves. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve resolution 024RS002 dedicating the right of way. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Discussion with possible action on business park farmland updated agreement with Vernon County – After the last Council meeting, Vernon County altered the agreement from four years to five years so we need to reapprove the lease agreements for five years versus four. (2024-2028) Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the updated business park farmland lease agreement to five years from four years. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action on new City of Viroqua website – an RFP will go out at the end of January. Council reviewed the website discussion guide and gave their feedback. Department heads met and gave their ideas in December. Alderperson Birke would like to see push notifications for meeting alerts, links to relevant partners, the published budget, and maps of the parks, bike & pedestrian paths, and wards. Alderperson Hubbard would like pages for each of the commissions to post items on and video or audio of the meetings. The city does have a You-Tube channel as well. The RFP will be put together with all the ideas and be brought back to Council on 1/30/2024.

10. Discussion with possible action regarding current design of Viroqua Fire Station project – Chief Buros reviewed the project plans and design of the new Fire Station and answered questions for the Council. The site plan will have two entrances. It was suggested to possibly look at a darker shade for the building versus white. Some of the furnishings will be an alternate bid item. They plan on using the current lockers with extra lockers being an alternate bid as well. Alderperson Spaeth requested what kind of cost savings there would be by eliminating the welcome center area and how that would affect the taxpayer. It was mentioned that one of the towns had concerns on the contribution ask for the project and they will be getting back together with the Towns after the bids come in.

11. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the payment of bills on report date 01/05/2024 in the amount of \$105,943.87 and additional bills on report date 01/09/2024 for \$959,449.84. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Second Period for Public Comment – None

13. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Willis to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk