

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2024**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom # 86223290564 with Alderpersons David Tryggestad, Andrew Bergum, Todd Kirking, Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, and Steve Willis present. Alderperson Kristal Welter was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Park & Rec Director Kale Proksch, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, and Patrick Robbins.

2. Approval of the February 27, 2024 Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Bergum/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. Council Announcements – Alderperson Spaeth stated he has received good comments on the park & rec activity guide.

4. First period for public comment – None

5. Discussion with possible action on noxious weed ordinance updates – First Reading (Public Safety) – Torres reviewed the draft. The word turf was removed and it was added that grass over eight inches located within three feet of any property line or located outside an established landscaping bed would be out of compliance. Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the first reading of ordinance 24OR001 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

6. Review and approval of special event application for Community Easter Egg Hunt on March 30th – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve the special event application for Nelson Ag Center. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Council moved to items nine-twelve on the agenda before returning to the remainder of the agenda.

7. Possible closed session per WI Stats 19.85 (1)(e) – deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – MOU for Phase 2 of Northpointe Development – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Bergum to enter closed session at 7:56 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Kirking to reconvene in open session at 8:50 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Tryggestad/second by Alderperson Hubbard to approve and move forward with the MOU as discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Discussion with possible action regarding Silverthorne development agreement amendment and amendment to Planned Unit Development – this was reviewed by Attorney Hopkins and the site plan was updated to change the tri-plexes to duplexes, have the option for owner occupied and they submitted a narrative for the PUD change. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the development agreement amendment and amendment to the Planned Unit Development. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Discussion with possible action on acceptance of Lead Service Line Replacement grant (Public Works) – the grant is \$250,000 which is 75% principal forgiveness and 25% customer share. Of this total, \$232,000 would be used for service line repair and \$18,000 for administration. Utility Clerk Purvis reviewed an example for the Council on how the program would work with a service fee to the customer and how they could pay their share of

the project cost if they are not able to pay up front through special assessment or monthly payments on their utility bill. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Tryggstad to accept the Lead Service Lateral Replacement grant. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion with possible action on proposal for altering the NW corner of Main & Decker Streets (Public Works) – Strand submitted a proposal for design services, bidding, and construction services with a not to exceed amount of \$42,000. We would like to bid the project at the same time as the TAP project to hopefully get the same contractor to save on cost. They need be bid separately because of the federal funding but will include some deductive bid items. Torres reviewed the overall budget for the old city hall project including this proposal and the new project total is estimated at \$422,609. The plan is to use Tid 6 and ARPA funds. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the Strand proposal for \$42,000. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Discussion with possible action on speed board purchase (Public Safety) – Chief Niedfeldt reviewed the options with Council for solar, battery and electric options. It was recommended by Public Safety to purchase one solar panel and one electric for this year. The cost of solar is \$5516 and the electric is \$3580. They would be placed on Hwy 56 by the school and by Associated Bank on Main this year with two more purchased in 2025 to be placed on Hwy 56 east and on the south side of Main. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Kirking to purchase one electric and one solar speed board. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the payment of bills on report date 03/08/2024 in the amount of \$171,397.95 and additional bills on report date 03/12/2024 for \$31,429.50. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Second Period for Public Comment – None

15. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Kirking/second by Alderperson Bergum to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk