

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
JUNE 25, 2024**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom # 89279298100 with Alderpersons Andrew Bergum, Todd Kirking, Emma Hood, Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter, and Steve Willis present. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Utility Clerk Cheryl Purvis, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Park & Rec Director Kale Proksch, Library Director Trina Erickson, Carson LaBelle, Angie Cina, Kim Littel, Brandon LaMere & Hazik, Robert Vian and Loki as well as several members of the Viroqua Police Department.

**2. Approval of the June 11, 2024 Special 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** – Alderperson Hood stated there is a fundraiser happening for the library after-school program that lost their funding. Alderperson Thompson reminded the Council about the fire station ground breaking on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 pm.

**4. First period for public comment** – None

**5. Acceptance of resignation of Ward 1 Alderperson David Tryggestad** – Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Welter to accept the resignation of David Tryggestad. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**6. Swearing in ceremony for new K9 officers** – Clerk Polhamus gave the oath of office to K9 officers Hazik and Loki and handlers Officer LaMere and Officer Vian signed the oath on their behalf.

**7. Update on the Eckhart Playground project** – Kim Littel, Chair of the Leadership committee stated they have been meeting monthly with small focus groups. They are working with Leather & Associates and this will be part community build with some possibly hired. They have looked at the trees in the area to see what maintenance is needed. They have an online survey available to get community input. They have gone to the summer schools and the kids want to see it as dragon park. There is \$120,000 in foundation money available and they hope to raise up to \$200,000. They hope to have a design by October to help with fundraising. It will take 4-6 weeks for a design and we will need a contract to do that part. There are ADA requirements now and the top priorities with the kids is a zipline, tire swings and climbing areas.

**8. Approval of reappointment of Larry Fanta to Viroqua Housing Authority Board for five-year term expiring 6/1/2029** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve the reappointment of Larry Fanta to the Viroqua Housing Authority Board. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Reappointment of David Levin, Sonya Newenhouse, and Kristal Welter to Plan Commission for three-year term expiring 5/1/2027** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Kirking to reappoint David Levin, Sonya Newenhouse, and Kristal Welter to Plan Commission. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Reappointment of Tom Weston to Redevelopment Authority for four-year term expiring 4/13/2028** – Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Kirking to reappoint Tom Weston to Redevelopment Authority. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Appointment of Council representative to Redevelopment Authority to replace Tanja Birke** – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Hood to appoint Kristal Welter to Redevelopment Authority. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**12. Discussion with possible action on sewer rate increase (Public Works)** – Utility Clerk Purvis gave an update and explained the need for the increase due to increased costs in many areas due to inflation. A 4% increase is proposed with an effective date of August 1<sup>st</sup>. The current base rate is \$18.16 and the new rate would be \$18.89. We are the second lowest in comparison to other municipalities and the increase would result in additional revenue of \$28,533 in 2024 and \$68,480 in 2025 and move us up one spot in comparison. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve a 4% sewer rate increase effective August 1, 2024. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**13. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Willis to approve the payment of bills on report date 06/20/2024 in the amount of \$221,582.72 and additional bills on report date 06/25/2024 for \$50,721.17. 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 Willis to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk