

**CITY OF VIROQUA  
COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

**1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom # 89909365264 with Alderpersons Seth McClurg, Andrew Bergum, Emma Hood, Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Kristal Welter, and Steve Willis present. Todd Kirking 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, Fire Chief Chad Buros, Tom Burkhalter, Chris Rozeske, Richard & Bonnie Running, Kim Littel, and Carson LaBelle.

**2. Approval of the September 10, 2024 Special 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 Hood stated the Harvest Parade is this Saturday.

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

**5. Update on operational referendum for Viroqua Area Schools on November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Tom Burkhalter and Chris Rozeske gave an update on the 3-year \$1.3 million-dollar non-recurring referendum that will be on the ballot in November and answered questions.

**6. Operator license approvals (Public Safety)**- Motion by Alderperson Hood/second by Alderperson Thompson to approve operator licenses for Courtney Workowski, Becky Glidden, Heidi Cade, Amanda Ostrem, Danielle Bauer, and Crickett Lochner pending background checks. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**7. Discussion with possible action on temporary class b wine license for Viroqua Chamber Wine Walk on November 9, 2024 (Public Safety)**- Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson McClurg to approve the temporary wine license for the Viroqua Chamber Wine Walk. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**8. Discussion with possible action on exercise of options for shared ride taxi services for 2025**- this will be the third year of the contract with Passenger Transit which is an option year. The current rate is \$34.47 and CPI for 2025 is set at 2.5% bringing the new rate to \$35.34. We compared this rate to other municipalities and found this new rate to be fair and reasonable with Richland Center and Prairie du Chien as well as others. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Hubbard to exercise the option for shared ride taxi services for 2025 with Passenger Transit. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**9. Discussion with possible action on Capital Improvement Plan process for 2025**- Torres reviewed the process with the Council that would be like the budget process. The department heads have not provided input on this yet and the review committee will be established at the first meeting in October. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson McClurg to accept the process as presented for the Capital Improvement Plan. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**10. Discussion with possible action on Health Insurance Opt-out arrangement** – Torres reviewed the policy and form with the Council and answered questions. This would go into effect with the 2025 renewal and January payrolls. Motion by Alderperson Hood/second by Alderperson Willis to approve the health insurance opt-out policy arrangement effective with the 2025 health insurance enrollment. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

**11. Payment of bills (Finance)** - Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the payment of bills on report date 09/20/2024 in the amount of \$239,165.46 and additional bills on report date 09/24/2024 for \$42,565.02. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

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

**13. Adjournment** - Motion made by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Welter to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk