

JANUARY 14, 2003

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Fanta with Alderpersons Molland, Bjerke, Mack, Suhr, Zastrow and Smith present. Alderpersons Hatlem, Long and Macasaet were absent. Motion made by Smith, seconded by Zastrow to approve the minutes of the December 30, 2002 Council meeting as mailed. All aye, motion carried.

Aldersperson Mack reported that the Public Works Committee had met with Dan Uhl of Davy Engineering regarding the amendment of the engineering budget for the preliminary engineering report and Step II agreement for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade. Mr. Uhl was also present at the Council meeting and addressed the Council regarding this issue. Mr. Uhl explained that action by the Council would retroactively amend the engineering budgets allowing the City to be reimbursed from Clean Water funds for expenses previously paid by the City. The expenses could not be recovered if the budgets were not amended. Motion made by Zastrow, seconded by Suhr to approve the amendment of the budgets for the preliminary engineering report and Step II agreement for the wastewater treatment plant. Aldersperson Smith stated that he would be abstaining from this vote as he is an employee of Davy Engineering. For the record, Smith added that two years ago he had voted on a contract with Davy Engineering and should not have. Roll call vote. 5 ayes and 1 abstention with Aldersperson Smith abstaining. Motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Smith to suspend the rules and approve Ordinance 543, an Ordinance amending the room tax ordinance. With the suspension of the rules, Ordinance 543 would become effective upon publication. All aye on the motion. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Molland reported that the Finance/Personnel Committee had met regarding 2003 compensation for non-union employees. Molland said that the committee would be meeting at a later date with regard to compensation for the city attorney. The Finance/Personnel Committee recommended a 2.5% wage increase for the non-union employees except for the utility clerk. The Committee recommended a 5% increase for the utility clerk. There was also a recommendation for the base pay of the building inspector to be increased by \$1,000. Motion made by Molland, seconded by Mack to approve a 2.5% wage increase for the non-union employees excluding the utility clerk. Roll call vote. 5 ayes and 1 nay with Aldersperson Smith voting no. Motion carried. Motion made by Molland, seconded by Mack to approve a 5% wage increase for the utility clerk. Roll call vote. 5 ayes and 1 abstention with Aldersperson Bjerke abstaining. Motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Zastrow to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jean Driscoll to the Viroqua Historic Preservation Commission. Aldersperson Smith suggested that the names of the appointees should be place on the agenda. All aye on the motion. Motion carried.

Motion made by Molland, seconded by Zastrow to pay the bills as audited by the Finance Committee. Aldersperson Smith had two questions for Administrator Brown regarding administrative expenditures. Administrator Brown explained the expenses. Smith also said he was concerned about approving expenditures on the Highway 56 project when he does not recall Council approval of an engineering contract or authorization for such expenditures. Roll call vote to pay the bills. All aye, motion carried.

At 7:47 p.m., Mack made a motion with a second by Molland to adjourn until 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2003. All aye, motion carried.

Kathleen A. Sime, Clerk