

MARCH 11, 2003

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Fanta with Alderpersons Hatlem, Long, Bjerke, Mack, Macasaet, Suhr, Zastrow and Smith present. Alderperson Molland was absent. One correction was made to the February 25, 2003 Council minutes as follows: the minutes recording Alderperson Smith's resolution regarding City tree policy should read, "Alderperson Molland called for a **roll call** vote on the motion". Motion made by Smith, seconded by Long to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2003 Council meeting as mailed and corrected. All aye, motion carried.

Ingrid Mahan, Director of the Viroqua Partners, introduced Mr. Jim Engel, Director of the Wisconsin Main Street Program, and Mr. Todd Barman, Assistant Coordinator, to the Council. These gentlemen were in Viroqua to assess the Main Street program. They will be meeting with Ingrid, committees, and Board of Directors about the Viroqua program. Mr. Engle and Mr. Barman will evaluate the program and offer their comments and observations once the meetings have been completed. Mr. Engle commented that Viroqua has a very strong Main Street program with a commitment of many volunteer hours. Mr. Barman said he is responsible for collecting and compiling information from each Main Street community on a monthly basis. Mr. Barman said that Viroqua had many outstanding projects and had been the recipient of many awards. He invited everyone to come to the Common Ground Cafe the next day, at noon, to hear the comments. Alderperson Smith commented about it being tough budgetary times and asked Mr. Barman for his comments. Barman said it was important for the City to continue its monetary support for the program that in turn supplies support for the business base of the City. Alderperson Macasaet informed the gentlemen that work is currently being done to establish a historic downtown district.

Attorney Jenkins reported to the Council regarding the Federal Assurances for the current shared-ride taxi contract. Jenkins said discussion about this issue had occurred at a previous Council meeting where he had asked for more time to do some research on the assurances. Jenkins said he had spoken with Ron Morse of the Department of Transportation, and Mr. Morse had referred Jenkins to a web site where he could review federal laws. Jenkins said he reviewed the laws and no longer had any problem with the City adopting the Federal Assurances as part of the taxicab agreement. Motion made by Hatlem, seconded by Mack to approve amending the 2003 taxicab contract to include the Federal Assurances as presented. All aye, motion carried.

Motion made by Macasaet, seconded by Smith to approve Resolution 824, a resolution accepting the resignation of the clerk/treasurer. Attorney Jenkins explained that the resolution allows for the current clerk/treasurer remaining in the position until May 30, 2003 or upon the earlier appointment of a successor. Alderperson Smith asked if there was a letter of resignation, and Clerk Sime said she had submitted the letter to Mayor Fanta and Administrator Brown. Alderperson Mack asked about the hiring process. Attorney Jenkins said the usual procedure would be followed by advertising the position, taking applications, interviewing and appointing a successor. Alderperson Smith complimented Clerk Sime on always being professional. Mayor Fanta offered his appreciation for Sime's work. Alderperson Hatlem suggested that perhaps the position should be 2 separate positions. All aye on the motion to approve Resolution 824. Motion carried.

Alderperson Smith handed out copies of an article from a current issue of Preservation Magazine.

Motion made by Suhr seconded by Macasaet to approve a Class "B" picnic license for the Associates of the Restored Temple Theatre for an event to be held March 15th. Alderperson Hatlem questioned the need for the sale of alcohol at these events. He commented that he had attended several events at the La Crosse Community Theater where alcohol is not served, and he said the events are always well attended. Alderperson Macasaet suggested that a member of the ARTT board attend a Council meeting to talk about this. There was a roll call vote on the motion with 7 ayes and 1 nay. Alderperson Hatlem voted no. Motion carried.

March 20, 2003

Motion made by Long, seconded by Suhr to pay the bills as audited by the Finance Committee. Roll call vote. All aye, motion carried.

Kristen Urban and Susan Dawber addressed the Council regarding the establishment of a business in a building owned by Ms. Dawber. The building is located at 807 South Main. The two women are interested in opening a performing/fine arts center and had been told by Building Inspector Patrick Abt that a conditional use would need to be applied for in order for the business to meet zoning requirements. Clerk Sime explained that when Ms. Dawber had talked with the building inspector she told him she had plans to sell beer and wine. The building inspector felt this would make the business more of a bar/tavern; therefore, not fitting into the permitted uses of the commercial district but requiring a conditional use. Ms. Dawber and Ms. Urban have now determined that they will not be serving beer and wine as part of the business. Attorney Jenkins said he felt that without the need for a beer and/or wine license, the business would now fall under permitted use in a commercial district for theaters and places of amusement. Jenkins said he would speak with the building inspector and, if agreed, a building permit could be issued without going through the conditional use process. Alderperson Hatlem said that another business for Viroqua is always a good thing. Since the Council did not see any inconsistency with the zoning ordinance, a motion was made by Hatlem and seconded by Mack supporting the issuance of a building permit on the grounds that this place of business would be a place of amusement. All aye, motion carried.

Nancy Bekkedal, City Utility Clerk, offered some thoughts about the resignation of City Clerk/Treasurer Sime.

At 8:15 p.m., motion was made by Suhr, seconded by Zastrow to adjourn until 7:30 p.m., Tuesday March 25, 2003. All aye, motion carried.