

OCTOBER 28, 2003

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Fanta with Alderpersons Roger Hatlem, David Tryggestad, Gail Frie, John Bjerke, Terry Noble, Weston Mack, Robert Suhr, Steve Zastrow, and Vernie Smith present. Also present were City Clerk Jodi Garibaldi, City Attorney David Jenkins, Jeff Gohlke, Assistant Police Chief Daron Jefson, Director of Public Works Tom Henry, Ingrid Mahan, Kate Bonny, Gene Schaffer and Michael Harol from Xcel, Bill Moffit, and the Broadcaster.

2. Approval of the minutes of the October 14th regular Council meeting:

Aldersperson Smith notified Clerk Garibaldi of corrections to the October 14th minutes. A motion was made by Alderman Smith to approve the minutes of the October 14th Council meeting with the said corrections, seconded by Alderman Bjerke. All ayes, motion carries.

3. Discussion and possible action on Highway 14/BB lighting:

Tom Henry updates the Council on the DOT recommendation on the Highway 14/BB project lighting. Motion made by Aldersperson Hatlem to approve the DOT recommendation on the Highway 14/BB project lighting, seconded by Aldersperson Suhr. Roll call vote, 8 ayes with 1 nay vote from Aldersperson Smith. Motion carries.

4. Discussion and possible action on Highway 56 agreement with DOT:

Tom Henry explained that signing the Highway 56 agreements will allow the City to use the Abbey Lane project money towards the design cost of the Highway 56 project. By signing the agreements, the City is not committed to the timing or the scope of the project. Motion made by Aldersperson Frie to accept all three agreements with DOT on Highway 56 project being the City is not committed to the years of 2006, 2007, and 2008 or the scope of the project, seconded by Aldersperson Mack. Aldersperson Smith requests a roll call vote for each phase since the rural portion is different than the rest of the agreement. Aldersperson Smith makes a motion to stricken the provision regarding prohibited parking from the agreement, no second. Tom Henry refers to the handwritten letter from the DOT that states the non-committal credit used for the design of the project. The Council continued with the roll call vote on previous motion made by Aldersperson Frie, 8 ayes, 1 nay vote cast by Aldersperson Smith. Motion carries.

5. Discussion and possible action on side street lighting:

Tom Henry opened discussion on the deteriorating lighting on the side streets. Aldersperson Frie states that the lights are burning out at a fast rate. Ingrid Mahan requests that the light posts by the library and the post office be disconnected left for effect but removed when they become a hazard. Aldersperson Smith suggests the light posts be left for effect but to install Cobra lights in the places where lighting is an issue. Tom Henry explains that certain side street lights are on a different circuit than the Main Street lights and can remain until the light poles become a danger. Motion made by Aldersperson Frie to put Cobra lights in dark areas where needed, disconnecting certain deteriorated lights, and keeping the current poles until they become a hazard, seconded by Aldersperson Zastrow. Roll call vote, 8 ayes and 1 nay vote cast by Aldersperson Smith. Motion carries.

6. Discussion and possible action on XCEL energy power line easement:

Michael Harol of Xcel Energy is requesting an easement by the substation by Arena Drive in order to split the existing Viroqua 61 feeder to the industrial park. The new feeder would be a back-up for the existing feeder because the current feeder is at capacity. Reliability would become an issue by staying at the current capacity. Motion made by Aldersperson Suhr to grant

the easement to Xcel Energy according to the Certified Survey Map, no second. An issue of Plan Board approval is raised. Alderperson Suhr rescinds the previous motion. Alderperson Noble questions Xcel Energy being able to take the easement if the landowners disagree. Mr. Harol states that it is a 6-month long procedure to take an easement. Motion made by Alderperson Zastrow to refer the Xcel Energy power line easement request to the Plan Board, seconded by Alderperson Suhr. All ayes. Motion carries.

7. Public hearing on taxi cab grant:

The public hearing on the taxi cab grant opens at 8:27 p.m. No comments. The public hearing on the taxi cab grant is closed at 8:28 p.m.

8. Jack Vig to address council regarding the city administrator position:

Jack Vig was not present to address the council. Tabled until November 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the contract with Vernon County Humane Society for City of Viroqua Animal Shelter:

The representative for the Vernon County Humane Society states that the Public Safety Committee recommends the contract with the City of Viroqua Animal Shelter. The Humane Society did not forward a copy of the contract to City Hall for review prior to the meeting. The Human Society would need the revenue, as well as the city money to run the animal shelter. The matter is tabled until November 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding police union and city union contracts:

Police Union

Alderperson Frie states the police union argues that the 2% every 3-year step increase be automatic instead of given based on merit. The Personnel Committee agrees that the step increase should be based on merit only. The Personnel Committee otherwise agrees with the police union contract. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to approve the police union contract, seconded by Alderperson Mack. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carries.

City Union

The city union contract is unsigned. The matter is tabled until November 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

11. Discussion and possible action on police department budget amendment for squad car purchase:

Daron Jefson explained that the Viroqua Police Department wanted to use funds left from other accounts to purchase a new squad car. Alderperson Frie stated that after amending the police department budget, there would be a \$5,000.00 shortfall for the squad car purchase, which would be taken from the contingency fund. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to amend the 2003 budget to allow for a squad car purchase for the Viroqua Police Department including \$5,000.00 from the contingency fund, seconded by Alderperson Mack. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carries.

12. Update on 2004 budget:

Alderperson Frie updates the council on the 2004 budget and reads the letter outlining the budget.

13. Discussion and possible action regarding public hearing for proposed 2004 budget:

Motion made by Alderperson Suhr to send the proposed 2004 budget to public hearing on November 25, 2003 at 7:30 p.m., seconded by Alderperson Smith. All ayes. Motion carries.

14. Mayor to appoint a chair to Redevelopment Authority:

The appointment of the chair to the Redevelopment Authority was tabled until November 11, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

15. Review of revenue and expense reports and payment of bills:

Motion made by Alderman Hatlem to pay the bills as audited by the Finance Committee, seconded by Alderman Suhr. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carries.

16. Period for public comment:

No public comment.

17. Possible closed session under section 19.85 (1) (g), Wisconsin Statutes "Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved" (advice and possible action regarding Kickapoo Development vs. City of Viroqua):

Motion made by Alderperson Mack to move into closed session, seconded by Alderperson Frie. Roll Call vote, all ayes. Motion carries. Council moved into closed session at 8:55 p.m. No motions were made during closed session. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to return to open session, seconded by Alderperson Smith. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carries. Council returned to open session at 9:45 p.m.

18. Adjournment:

A motion was made by Alderman Hatlem to adjourn the council meeting until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 11th, 2003, seconded by Alderman Smith. All ayes. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Jodi L. Garibaldi
City Clerk