

## NOVEMBER 11, 2003

### **1. Roll call:**

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Fanta with Alderpersons Roger Hatlem, David Tryggstad, 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, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Director of Public Works Tom Henry, Scott Champion, Kate Bonny, John Bonny, Clark Nordberg from Bethel Home, Ann Zastrow, Gene Schaffer and Michael Herro from Xcel, Gareth Steiner from Vernon Memorial, Bill Moffit, and the Broadcaster.

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup> regular Council meeting:**

Alderson Smith notified Clerk Garibaldi of corrections to the October 28<sup>th</sup> minutes. A motion was made by Alderman Smith to approve the minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup> Council meeting with the said corrections, seconded by Alderman Zastrow. All ayes, motion carries.

### **17. Period for public comment:**

The period for public comment was moved up on the agenda to accommodate the people wanting to speak on behalf of keeping the municipal swimming pool for one more year. Paula Greiner, Ann O'Connor, Sheila Grams, Sara Caldwell, Christina Guillion and Laura Roberts voiced concerns with the closing of the municipal swimming pool.

Reverend Fred Sindorf of the Living Faith Church is still concerned with the semi-truck parking on Sands Street.

### **3. Discussion and possible action on Xcel Energy power line easement:**

Gene Schaffer from Xcel Energy addressed the Council regarding an easement for a power line going from the current substation toward the industrial park. Mayor Fanta stated that the Plan Board unanimously recommends granting the easement stated on the Certified Survey Map to the Council. Motion made by Alderson Suhr to grant easement to Xcel energy as outlined in the easement and Certified Survey Map, seconded by Alderson Hatlem. Roll call vote, 8 ayes with 1 nay vote from Alderson Smith. Motion carries.

### **4. Jack Vig to address council regarding the city administrator position:**

Jack Vig was not present to address the council, tabled until November 25, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

### **5. Discussion and possible action on year-end audit from Vig and Associates:**

Motion made by Alderson Hatlem to approve Vig and Associates to perform the year-end audit, seconded by Alderson Zastrow. All ayes. Motion carries.

### **6. Discussion and possible action regarding contract with Vernon County Humane Society for City of Viroqua Animal Shelter:**

Scott Champion explained the contract between Vernon County Humane Society and City of Viroqua Animal Shelter. Jeff Gohlke highlighted the main focus of the agreement. A few changes were made regarding modification in the language regarding current location of the facility. Motion made by Alderson Mack to approve entering into the agreement to take effect January 1, 2004 (subject to approval by Vernon County Human Society), seconded by Alderson Noble. Roll call vote, all ayes. Motion carries.

**7. Consider and act on Resolution 833 to vacate Lane Court in Country Acres Addition:**

Clark Nordstrom of Bethel Home described the vacation of Lane Court in Country Acres Addition. Motion made by Alderperson Hatlem to approve Resolution 833 as stated. Attorney Jenkins explained the changes in Resolution 833 not stated on the original resolution. Alderperson Hatlem restated motion to approve Resolution 833 with changes stated by Attorney Jenkins, seconded by Alderperson Zastrow. All ayes. Motion carries.

**8. Consider and refer to Plan Commission conditional uses and/or rezoning for Bethel Home projects and set date for public hearing:**

Clark Nordberg of Bethel Home described the facility development for the multiple-family duplexes that will change property lines that will be established in a Certified Survey Map. The request is to change the R-1 zoning of the Bethel Home property to R-2 zoning. Attorney Jenkins states that the Bethel Home can start the construction on the 24-unit facility to place footings and concrete with the 1998 conditional use. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to refer to the Plan Board and set the matter for public hearing on December 30, 2003, seconded by Alderperson Zastrow. All ayes. Motion carries.

**9. Discussion on Preliminary Resolution to vacate part of East Oak and Center Streets by Hospital:**

Gareth Steiner of Vernon Memorial Hospital opened discussion by stating that he has complied with the City's request for a letter that was sent earlier in the year. Thomas Henry stated that the above mentioned letter was received by the city and filed with the city clerk. A letter was sent to the hospital requesting a more detailed engineering map due to the high concentration of utility mains on Oak and Center streets. Mr. Steiner assured the council that CWE Engineering firm is drawing up the requested maps and plans. Public hearing set for January 27, 2004 with the condition that the hearing could be postponed if plans are not satisfactory. Alderperson Zastrow requested the matter be brought to the Public Works Committee prior to the Plan Board. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to amend the Preliminary Resolution to reflect the January 27, 2004 public hearing date and present the resolution to the Public Works Committee and the Plan Board respectively, seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 1 nay vote cast by Alderperson Smith. Motion carries.

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

Finance/Personnel Committee unanimously recommended the city union contract to the council. The city union contract is retroactive to January 1, 2003. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to approve the city union contract presented, seconded by Alderperson Suhr. All ayes. Motion carries.

**11. Discussion and possible action regarding Family Medical Leave issue:**

An overview of the Family Medical Leave issue was given by the city clerk regarding the deputy clerk/treasurer. The deputy clerk/treasurer is offering to work the last week of January to help with month-end taxes during her maternity leave. The Finance/Personnel Committee recommended that the deputy clerk be allowed to work half days for the one week during the last week of January 2004. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to allow the deputy clerk to work half days for one week during the last week of January 2004, seconded by Alderperson Mack. All ayes. Motion carries.

**12. Discussion and possible action on Alcoholic Beverage Operator's License applications:**

Motion made by Alderperson Mack to approve the Alcohol Beverage Operator's Licenses recommended by the Public Safety Committee, seconded by Alderperson Frie. All ayes. Motion carries.

**13. Discussion and possible action regarding winter nighttime parking prohibition:**

Alderperson Smith initiated an avid discussion on the ordinance regarding winter nighttime parking prohibition. Alderperson Hatlem stated that with the narrow streets within the city limits, it is more important to have clean and safe roadways than adequate parking. The main discussion point was the safety and liability aspects of keeping the street free of automobiles and snow.

**14. Discussion and possible action on open meetings/open records seminar:**

Alderperson Smith announced an open meetings/open records seminar being held by the Attorney General at the Best Western Midway Hotel Conference Center in La Crosse on December 9, 2003 between 1 and 4 p.m. and encourages council members to attend.

**15. Mayor to appoint a chair to Redevelopment Authority:**

Mayor Fanta explained Sigurd Molland can still be a member and chair the Redevelopment Authority.

**16. Review of revenue and expense reports and payment of bills:**

Motion made by Alderman Zastrow to pay the bills, seconded by Alderman Suhr. Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carries.

**17. Period for public comment:**

Various public comments made after the approval of the minutes.

Alderperson Hatlem mentions that help is needed for the trees at 8:00 a.m. this Saturday morning.

Alderperson Mack would like to see a notice for public comments prior to the meeting.

Alderperson Hatlem would like to see a time limit for public comments. Alderperson Noble is not in favor of a notice of public comment.

**18. Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Alderman Hatlem to adjourn the council meeting until 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003, seconded by Alderman Suhr. All ayes. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Jodi L. Garibaldi  
City Clerk