

JULY 27, 2004

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Larry Fanta with Alderpersons Roger Hatlem, David Tryggstad, Gail Frie, John Bjerke, Robert Suhr, Marc Polsean, Vernie Smith, Wes Mack, and Terry Noble present. Also present were City Clerk Jodi Garibaldi, City Attorney David Jenkins, City Consultant Jeff Gohlke, Police Chief Mark Rahr, Public Works Director Thomas Henry, Mike Bankes, Ronald Emerson, Marv McNeal, WVRQ, Broadcaster, and Bill Moffit.

2. Approval of the minutes of the July 13th Regular Meeting of the Common Council:

Motion made by Alderperson Hatlem to approve the minutes of the July 13th Regular Meeting of the Common Council with no corrections, seconded by Alderperson Suhr. All ayes; motion carries.

3. First period for public comment:

Mike Bankes states that the Hwy 14-61 bypass would be good because of excessive traffic on Washington Street with numerous hit and run accidents.

Alderperson Suhr states that he is 100% for the Hwy 14-61 bypass to alleviate traffic in the downtown area of Viroqua. If a semi-tanker crashed, it would destroy the city.

4. Sale of three desks from City Hall basement for \$350.00:

A past employee of the city requests to purchase three desks from the City Hall basement for \$350.00. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to approve the sale of the desks, seconded by Alderperson Polsean. Roll call vote, 8 ayes, 1 nay cast by Alderperson Smith; motion carries.

Agenda items 5 & 6 were combined

5. Engel request for conditional use to allow horses on property for veterinary treatment:

6. Engel request rezoning from residential to commercial for a 12-person clerical office:

Mr. Gohlke describes the meeting of the Plan Commission. The neighbors, to the property located at 224 East Hwy 56, are having a meeting on Thursday, July 29, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. to reach a compromise. Motion made by Alderperson Suhr to table both items 5 & 6 until August 10, 2004 Common Council meeting, seconded by Alderperson Hatlem. All ayes; motion carries.

7. Offer to purchase for city property adjacent to 220 West South Street by Park Bowl:

Mr. Gohlke updates the Council on the offer to purchase for the city property. Alderperson Frie, Alderperson Hatlem, and Mayor Fanta states that the money should go to the Park and Recreation Department to pave the Park Bowl. Motion made by Alderperson Frie to accept the offer to purchase with the proceeds going to pave the Park Bowl, seconded by Alderperson Mack. 8 ayes, 1 nay vote cast by Alderperson Smith; motion carries.

8. Public Works recommendation on proposal for lift station on East Decker:

Alderperson Suhr states the cost of the lift station project would be approximately \$22,000.00. Motion made by Alderperson Suhr to approve the cost of the lift station, seconded by Alderperson Frie. Roll call, 8 ayes, 1 nay vote cast by Alderperson Smith; motion carries.

9. Public Works recommendation on paving alley and cost to be paid by Karl LaVold:

Alderperson Suhr explains that Karl LaVold will pay 100% of the cost for paving the alley by his house. The City will be responsible for cleaning the alley and the cost will be at the City bidding price. Motion made by Alderperson Mack to allow the paving of the alley with an advance agreement with Karl LaVold regarding the cost and payment, seconded by Alderperson Polsean. Roll call, all ayes; motion carries.

10. Temporary Class “B”/ “Class B” Retailer’s Alcoholic Beverage License Application for Wild West Days:

Alderson Mack describes the area where the Viroqua Fire Department will be selling beer during Wild West Days. Beer will be sold at the saloon and a roped off area will be by the café and rodeo area, along with the sale of beer from the back of the café with a roped off area by the dance. Motion made by Alderson Mack to approve the picnic license application for Wild West Days, seconded by Alderson Noble. All ayes; motion carries.

11. Alcohol Beverage Licenses:

Motion made by Alderson Mack to approve the Class “B” Beer and “Class C” Wine alcohol license application for the Common Ground, seconded by Alderson Noble. All ayes; motion carries.

12. Operator’s Licenses:

Motion made by Alderson Mack to approve operator’s licenses for Andrea M. Morrison, David A. Myhre, Shannon M. Jones, Corey S. Herried, Veronica M. Hoiland, Heather A. Ostrem, Lisa L. Reissmann, Jeffrey A. May, Jane M. Fossum, Suzzane M. Greenman, Phoebe C. Berg, Penny L. Hase, Jessica M. Olson, Debra J. Finley, Ginger A. Gander, Kim M. Meyer, Laurie A. Osthoff; seconded by Alderson Bjerke. All ayes; motion carries.

13. Resolutions regarding the DOT STH 14-61-27 bypass of the City of Viroqua:

Alderson Noble states that Viroqua Partners, 80% of the businesses in the city, and several local citizens oppose the DOT STH 14-61-27 bypass. Other options are available to alleviate the excess traffic and help businesses. The bypass will have a negative economic impact on Viroqua businesses. DOT proposed options to alleviate traffic in the city up to 50% and the study also reveals a negative impact on the 23 businesses.

Alderson Hatlem explains that people will not stop in Viroqua with the large amount of traffic. DOT states that bypasses help communities grow. Bypasses throughout the route to Duluth have flourishing communities.

Alderson Frie states that the options to alleviate traffic in the city will not reduce pollution and noise created from the traffic. Businesses could develop a good economic plan to survive the initial impact of the bypass.

Alderson Tryggestad explains that traffic count builds business.

Bill Moffit describes the locals are the biggest customers to the grocery store, more so than through traffic. The bypass could help the city gain parking downtown.

Alderson Suhr states Cashton is flourishing with advertising.

Alderson Polsean explains that the historic buildings on Main Street cannot be moved. The option of the one-way pairs would take a considerable amount of land.

Alderson Smith has been a long standing opponent to the bypass. The DOT has not studied the positive and negative impacts in the community enough.

Alderson Mack states that the egression of the one-way pairs would take a considerable widening of streets.

Motion made by Alderson Hatlem to reaffirm support of the DOT STH 14-61-27 bypass, seconded by Alderson Suhr. Roll call vote, 6 ayes, 3 nay votes cast by Aldersons Noble, Smith, and Tryggestad; motion carries.

14. Utility services for Vernon County Jail and annexation:

Mr. Gohlke passes out a summary of the annexation issue regarding the Vernon County Jail. The jail should be completed in a timely manner and the city does not want to hold up the project. The water service, on the proposed plan, is not by Public Service Commission (PSC) regulations. The City of Viroqua does not receive any extra money from the annexation and has no impact on the tax roll. Annexation and water service would be instrumental to the possible future sale of the county property with city water services.

Aldersperson Polsean explains that the Vernon Manor and the Erlandson building have a one-way in sprinkler system and if a problem occurred, the water would have to be shut off to both buildings. A loop system is the best way to provide an alternate route of water to an area.

Mr. Henry draws the City's proposal of the water service to the jail on the dry erase board. According to the PSC, each piece of property has to have different accounts. PSC regulations standardize the annexation in order for the city to provide water service without adding problems to the city.

Motion made by Aldersperson Polsean to give Jeff Gohlke and Thomas Henry the authority to negotiate the construction of a water service and annexation agreement with Vernon County, seconded by Aldersperson Hatlem. 8 ayes, 0 naves; Aldersperson Frie abstains from voting; motion carries.

15. Municipal Court:

Aldersperson Frie explains the benefits from having a municipal court, including: lower fines, evening court, no loss of work to the individual, retain more fine money for the city, and getting a better understanding of the ordinances. Motion made by Aldersperson Frie to have Mayor Fanta appoint an advisory committee possibly made-up of one member from Westby (with one alternate), one member from La Farge (with one alternate), and two members from Viroqua; along with the advise of the Viroqua Police Chief, Mark Rahr, and the City of Viroqua Attorney, David Jenkins; seconded by Aldersperson Mack. All ayes; motion carries.

16. Review of permitted uses in all zoning districts:

Mr. Gohlke explains the zoning map. A step-by-step review of all the zoning districts is done by the council. Motion made by Aldersperson Noble to refer the proposed zoning changes to the Plan Commission, seconded by Aldersperson Polsean. All ayes; motion carries.

17. Payment of Bills:

Motion made by Aldersperson Frie to pay bills as recommended by the Finance Committee, seconded by Aldersperson Suhr. Roll call vote, all aye; motion carries.

18. Second Period for public comment:

Mike Bankes states that the bypass will save businesses. Duplexes areas do not show desirable areas in the city. The city should monitor rental areas better.

Mr. Gohlke explains that variances could be in place for properties with duplexes. The city should enforce the code better.

19. Adjourn:

Motion made by Alderman Smith to adjourn the council meeting until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 10th, 2004, seconded by Alderman Noble. All ayes; motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Jodi L. Garibaldi
City Clerk