

CITY OF VERONA
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES
January 23, 2023

1. Call to order: Mayor Diaz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Kate Cronin, Mara Helmke, Rye Kimmett, Christine Posey, Heather Reekie, Phil Hoechst, Chad Kemp, and Evan Touchett. Also present: City Administrator Adam Sayre, City Clerk Holly Licht, Police Chief Dave Dresser and City Attorney Bryan Kleinmaier.
4. Public Comments
 - Jim Wahner, 405 New Age Way #2, stated he is opposed to the zoning change of the VAC. He is concerned about the on-street parking near the senior living community. There is a safety issue now and will only get worse with 260 students.
 - Wade Boder, spoke in support of the Badger Mill Creek resolution. He stated there is a potential of 50% reduction in water for the Badger Mill Creek with the changes proposed.
 - Sarah Sterk, 1210 Tamarack Way, stated all parents deserve to have choices for their students and Impact Christian Academy will be a great addition to the Verona School community. She thinks the traffic impact will be minimal.
 - Duane Yahn, 410 New Age Cir. #302, stated that citizens already paid for a new high school. There is a school in Madison that just shut down halfway through the school year.
 - Brian Christian, 808 Arbor Vitae Place, spoke in support of item 11a. He stated the City really needs to protect this area and that reducing the flow has the potential to reduce the aquatic life in the stream.
 - Mike O'Brien, ICE Inc., thanked the City for their support of the rink thus far. They are asking for an economic development loan to help further the project.
 - Doug Slaby, owner of sports enhancement academy, stated that he was in support of the Impact Christian Academy. He stated that both groups would be using the building at different times. He stated that Prairie Heights Drive is designed for on-street parking on both sides.
 - Le Jordan, Verona Area Chamber of Commerce stated that she was in favor of the loan request from ICE Inc.
 - Todd Schilling, 409 New Age, stated that he believes that the Christian Academy will be good neighbors and the new owners will do a better job maintaining the building and parking than the current owner.
 - Lynn Mullen, 419 New Age Cir., stated she supports the addition of the school to Verona and their neighborhood. She noted that traffic is a concern. She has 2 requests: if we are going to have on-street parking, marking the spaces on the street and a traffic light on Prairie Heights and CTH M.
 - Kevin Mehring, investor in VAC, supporter, and founder of Impact Christian School, stated that the traffic study shows that the traffic will not have a significant impact. He added that Little Johns is leaving the space in February which will reduce in- and - out traffic. He noted that it will be a closed campus and that they can control parking with permits.

- Chuck Moore, Madison, executive director of Impact Christina Schools stated they have a history in Madison of being very good neighbors and will continue that in Verona.
 - John McWilliams, 430 New Age Circle, stated they have concerns about traffic in the neighborhood. They stated that it is impossible to drive a school bus in the parking lot. The line of sight is terrible on Prairie Heights.
 - Sue Dahlk, 410 New Age Circle #108, stated they have a community, and they are against having a high school in their neighborhood.
 - Dennis Penshorn, 410 New Age Cir. #308, stated there was concern about parking and traffic.
 - Travis Gavinski, investor in the VAC, stated they want to be a good neighbor. He stated that they are local whereas the existing owner is out of state.
 - Josh Becker, 600 Hamlets Cir., stated he was in support of the school. He stated that traffic patterns of schools are predictable and won't draw multiple cars per student like is currently happening.
5. Approval of Minutes from the January 9, 2023 Common Council meeting
Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kimmett to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2023 Common Council meeting. Motion carried 8-0.
 6. Mayor's Business
 7. Announcements
 8. Administrator's Report: Sayre presented the Administrator's Report, and it was entered into the record.
 9. Engineer's Report: The Engineer's Report was entered into the record.
 10. Committee Reports
 - A. Finance Committee**
 - (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Payment of bills
Motion by Kemp, seconded by Helmke to pay the bills in the amount of \$17,394,247.11.
Motion carried 8-0.
 - B. Public Safety & Welfare Committee**
 - (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Temporary Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage and "Class B" Wine license applications from the Verona Area Community Theater, 103 Lincoln Street, for February 9-11, 16-18, and 20-23, 2023; and May 11-13 and 19-21, 2023 – Dee Baldock, Agent
Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett to approve Temporary Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage and "Class B" Wine license applications from the Verona Area Community Theater, 103 Lincoln Street, for February 9-11, 16-18, and 20-23, 2023; and May 11-13 and 19-21, 2023 – Dee Baldock, Agent. Motion carried 8-0.
 - (2) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Ordinance No. 23-1017 amending Title 11, Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances relating to possession and use of marijuana
Motion by Reekie, seconded by Touchett to approve Ordinance No. 23-1017 amending Title 11, Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances relating to possession and use of marijuana with the following amendment: that each subsequent violation should have the fine be doubled. Kemp asked how many citations the police department gives for possession of marijuana. Dresser stated that in January 2023, they have issued 6. Diaz stated that he would rather have police focus energy elsewhere. He also stated that the fine should commensurate with the amount of risk it poses to the community. Hoechst asked if this was the right avenue to go down. Posey stated that a \$5 fine would send a

concerning message to children. Motion carried 5-3 on roll call vote with Touchett, Posey and Hoechst voting “no”.

C. Plan Commission

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Ordinance No. 23-1018 approving a zoning map amendment for 411 Prairie Heights Drive from Suburban Commercial (SC) to Public Institutional (PI).

Motion by Posey, seconded by Helmke to approve Ordinance No. 23-1018 approving a zoning map amendment for 411 Prairie Heights Drive from Suburban Commercial (SC) to Public Institutional (PI). Helmke stated that keeping the building the same isn't going to help the current traffic and parking situation. She added that she believes the pickup/drop off area will benefit the building. Touchett stated that he thinks this will be a better use than the banquet facility. Diaz asked what the feasibility of putting a traffic light at this spot. Fischer stated that it was determined a traffic light not necessary. Diaz asked if the police department would be able to enforce speed in the area. Dresser said yes. Kemp stated that he has some general reservations about the traffic. He needs to know more specifics about how the applicant is willing to work with the community. Posey stated that the permitted uses that could go in there now would potentially cause more traffic and parking problems than a school would. Motion failed 4-5 with Hoechst, Kemp, Kimmett, Touchett and Diaz voting “no”. The alders who voted no stated their reasons for not approving are due to lack of concrete plans, not enough information, traffic, and safety concerns.

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. R-23-001 approving an extraterritorial Certified Survey Map to create one (1) lot located at 7562 County Highway PD in the Town of Verona

Motion by Kimmett, seconded by Kemp to approve Resolution No. R-23-001 approving an extraterritorial Certified Survey Map to create one (1) lot located at 7562 County Highway PD in the Town of Verona. Motion carried 8-0.

E. Public Works/Sewer & Water Committee

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. R-23-002 Relocation Order and Determination of Necessity for County Highway PD and Country View Road Highway Project

Motion Touchett, seconded by Helmke to approve Resolution No. R-23-002 Relocation Order and Determination of Necessity for County Highway PD and Country View Road Highway Project. Motion carried 8-0.

11. New Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. R-23-003 opposing changing flow into Badger Mill Creek from Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District to Badfish Creek

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Cronin to approve Resolution No. R-23-003 opposing changing flow into Badger Mill Creek from Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District to Badfish Creek. Motion carried 8-0.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. R-23-004 approving a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Community Development Investment Grant for Century School Park located at 309 West Verona Avenue

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Kimmett to approve Resolution No. R-23-004 approving a Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation Community Development Investment Grant for Century School Park located at 309 West Verona Avenue. Motion carried 8-0.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Loan request by I.C.E. Inc. for the expansion of the Verona Ice Arena located at 451 East Verona Avenue

The Common Council may convene in a closed session, as authorized by Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e), for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The common Council may reconvene in open session and take action on the closed session item.

Touchett asked if they have looked what amenities could be put in later. O'Brien said to put things in after the fact would double the costs.

Cronin asked how much money was left in the revolving loan fund. Sayre stated between \$420,000 and \$430,000. Kemp stated he had concerns about issuing a \$400,000 loan and emptying the fund. He added that the applicant could get some of the pledges sooner instead of the City issuing more loans.

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Kemp, to go into closed session at 9:32 p.m. as authorized by Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e), for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. The common Council may reconvene in open session and take action on the closed session item.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion carried 8-0. Motion by Touchett, seconded by Kemp to reconvene in open session at 9: 54 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.

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12. Adjournment: Motion by Touchett, seconded by Helmke to adjourn at 9:56 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Licht, City Clerk