

**CITY OF VERONA**  
**MINUTES**  
**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**March 11, 2019**  
**Verona City Hall**

1. Mayor Diaz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll call: Alderpersons Kate Cronin, Sarah Gaskell, Charlotte Jerney, Chad Kemp, Katie Kohl, Christine Posey, Heather Reekie and Evan Touchett were present. Also present: Interim City Administrator Adam Sayre, Fitch-Rona EMS Chief Patrick Anderson, Recreation Director Casey Dudley, City Engineer Jeff Montpas, and City Clerk Ellen Clark.
4. Public Comment:  
Aaron Aspenson and Grant Duchac offered to answer any questions from the Council regarding item 10.C.(1), a precise implementation plan (PIP) for Festival Foods.
5. Approval of minutes from the February 25, 2019 Common Council meeting. Motion by Kohl, seconded by Kemp, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 Common Council meeting. Motion carried 8-0.

6. Mayor's Business:

A. Appointment of a citizen member to the Tourism Commission

Mayor Diaz nominated Pat Wehrley to fill the seat on the Tourism Commission recently vacated by Karl Curtis. Motion by Jerney, seconded by Reekie, to approve Pat Wehrley's appointment to the Tourism Commission. Motion carried 8-0.

B. Fitch-Rona EMS 2018 Annual Report

Fitch-Rona EMS Chief Patrick Anderson presented the Fitch-Rona EMS 2018 Annual Report.

Fitch-Rona EMS service covers the City of Verona, the Town of Verona, and the City of Fitchburg. The service currently has four ambulances, and runs two ambulances at a time; one in Verona, and one at Marketplace Station in Fitchburg. A third ambulance is scheduled to come on board in October. We currently have 14 full-time paramedics for the two stations, plus two administrators. Seven new staff will be needed to staff the new ambulance, increasing staff to 21 full-time medics. Ten limited time employees are also on staff at this time. For the most part, the team is able to respond within 5-7 minutes.

The service was called out 3,245 times in 2018, which is 6% higher than 2017 and 9% higher than 2016. 64% of the calls occurred in the City of Fitchburg, 32% in the City of Verona, 4% in the Town of Verona, and the balance outside of the district.

For 2019, 50-60% of the operating budget comes from user fees. For the balance, municipalities serviced by the district pay for services based on equalized value provided by the Department of Revenue. Currently, the City of Fitchburg pays 49.2%, the City of Verona pays 45.6%, and the Town of Verona pays 5.1%.

User fees were increased in 2019 based on fees charges by surrounding communities.

With the Town of Madison becoming part of the City of Fitchburg in 2022, a fourth ambulance and staffing will be necessary at that time.

7. Announcements:

None.

8. Administrator's Report:

- The Verona Police Department is hosting an active shooter training event on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Sugar River United Methodist Church, located at 415 W. Verona Avenue. The public is invited to attend, and pre-registration is required. Attendees must be 18 years of age or older.
- Dane County Cities & Villages is holding a meeting on Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Village of DeForest Village Hall.
- The Tourism Commission will meet on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- The Plan Commission will be on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.
- The City has transitioned its assessor services to Associated Appraisal. Dean Peters has been assigned as the new City Assessor.
- The city has partnered with the Verona Area Education Foundation again this year to create light pole banners. The new banners will be installed along E. Verona Avenue sometime in April.
- The next Common Council meeting will be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There will be no Common Council meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Diaz added that he met with Senator Erpenbach and Representative Pope regarding the TIF valuation error that was made last year. He will continue to work toward a solution that is equitable for all.

9. Engineer's Report:

- Eastside Interceptor & Relief Forcemain Design: The City issued an RFP on February 8, 2019 for Design and Consulting Services for this project. Six proposals were received. City Staff is reviewing the proposals and scheduling interviews as necessary.
- High School – AECOM & city staff have been meeting weekly with the school's engineers.

10. Committee Reports

**A. Finance Committee**

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Payment of Bills. Motion by Cronin, seconded by Kemp, to pay the bills in the amount of \$1,184,751.99. Motion carried 8-0.
- (2) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Notice of claim for vehicle damage. Motion by Cronin, seconded by Posey, to pay a claim for vehicle damage from Richard Jensen in the amount of \$2,367.17. Motion carried 8-0.

- (3) Discussion Re: 2019 preliminary borrowing estimates. Staff has begun the 2019 borrowing process. This includes the 3<sup>rd</sup> \$1,000,000 payment to the Verona Area School District for road construction related to the new high school, \$450,000 for CTH M reconstruction, \$300,000 for bike/ped construction, a \$50,000 change order for the Fireman's Park project which would add an additional sidewalk, \$450,000 for design of the new public works facility, \$1,300,000 for a new fire department ladder truck, and \$1,200,000 for the Lincoln Street storm water facility. Based upon Council feedback on the estimates, Staff will finalize the numbers and prepare for an early summer sale. Total debt for 2019 is \$4,750,000. No action is required by the Council at this time.

Mayor Diaz stated this is significantly less than our borrowing from last year.

Discussion followed regarding possible money saving modifications to the new fire department ladder truck.

#### **B. Park, Recreation and Welfare Committee**

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Feasibility study for the remodeling of the existing public works facility to a recreation facility. Motion by Reekie, seconded by Jerney, to approve a feasibility study for the remodeling of the existing public works facility to a recreation facility. The 2019 budget included \$10,000 for a feasibility study for the remodeling of the existing public works facility to a recreation facility. KSW Construction Corporation has submitted a proposal for the feasibility study, which would take approximately eight to nine weeks to complete. The study would include a review of the existing facility and programming needs, development of conceptual layouts, and a final report including floor plan, exterior images and a budget estimate.

Recreation Director Casey Dudley was available for questions regarding this item.

Touchett asked if a needs study has been done before going through with a feasibility study.

Dudley stated there hasn't been a needs study, but over the years the need has grown. The Recreation Department has nothing to use for daytime programming. The department is being squeezed in the school gyms, and will be losing the Sugar Creek gym next year. The idea of the study was to see if it is feasible to move forward with the plan to create a recreation facility in the old public works facility.

Touchett proposed using the budgeted \$10,000 to fund a needs study rather than feasibility study. He feels an option may be to sell the public works facility building, and use that money to buy land for a recreation facility. We need to keep our options open.

Gaskell asked Mr. Dudley to put together a needs list. She remarked that the budget estimate is for retrofitting the building. What will the ongoing costs be? Maybe it would be more cost effective to build something from the ground up.

Mayor Diaz stated that any study at this point is premature. The study will be stale before we can actually use it. There are a lot of things we can do with this building, including selling it. He's not against a recreation center, but doesn't want to spend money on a study we may not use.

Kemp would like to see a recreation center in the City, but feels that spending money on a study now is probably premature.

Kohl stated we need to think about the location of the recreation center, as well. If the purpose is to use the facility for daytime programming, the current public works facility is not well located for children to get to it by bicycle and on foot conveniently.

Motion by Reekie, seconded by Gaskell, to postpone a decision on this item pending further research by the Recreation Director regarding the department's needs.  
Motion carried 8-0.

### **C. Plan Commission**

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. R-19-013 approving a precise implementation plan (PIP) to allow for the construction of a 67,177 square foot Festival Foods grocery store at 660 Hometown Circle. Motion by Gaskell, seconded by Kemp, to approve Resolution No. R-19-013 approving a precise implementation plan (PIP) to allow for the construction of a 67,177 square foot Festival Foods grocery store at 660 Hometown Circle. The City approved a previous PIP for this project in November of 2017. The Applicant is now proposing modifications to the building design, which requires approval by the City. Motion carried 8-0.
- (2) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Ordinance No. 19-938 repealing and recreating Title 13, Chapter 2 of the Municipal Ordinance relating to the City's Floodplain Ordinance. Motion by Gaskell, seconded by Reekie, to approve Ordinance No. 19-938 repealing and recreating Title 13, Chapter 2 of the Municipal Ordinance relating to the City's Floodplain Ordinance. The proposed amendment to the City's Floodplain Ordinance is necessary to ensure compliance with the National Flood Insurance program. Motion carried 8-0.
- (3) Discussion Re: Initial concept review for a proposed 95-acre development containing a medical clinic, commercial uses, and multi-family uses to be located at 7278 Valley Road. This project requires several approvals, including annexation, development agreements, and plan approvals. Comments from the Plan Commission regarding this project include support for the medical use, support for smaller commercial uses, support for multi-family uses, a desire for the developer to explore single-family lots on part of the property, and discussion regarding the roadway system in and around the development. No formal motion is required by the Council at this time.

Discussion followed regarding traffic concerns in connection with the new high school, the possibility of a public bus route to the area, environmental impacts to the Sugar River Watershed, and the possibility of including workforce housing in the development. Several Council members expressed their displeasure with a 'big box' store being part of the development. For the most part, Council members are happy with the development being dedicated to health care and senior living.

11. New Business

A. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Approval of operator licenses. Motion by Reekie, seconded by Cronin, to approve operator license applications as presented by the City Clerk. Motion carried 8-0.

13. Adjournment:

Motion by Kohl, seconded by Reekie, to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried 8-0.

Ellen Clark  
City Clerk