

CITY OF VERONA
MINUTES
COMMON COUNCIL
May 11, 2020
Verona City Hall

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Verona Common Council held its meeting as a virtual meeting. The Common Council did not meet at City Hall, 111 Lincoln Street. Members of the Common Council and Staff joined the meeting by using Zoom Webinar. Members of the public were able to join the meeting using Zoom Webinar via a computer, tablet, or smartphone, or by calling into the meeting via phone.

1. Mayor Diaz called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Roll call: Alderpersons Kate Cronin, Charlotte Jerney, Chad Kemp, Katie Kohl, Christine Posey, Heather Reekie and Evan Touchett were present. Also present: City Administrator Adam Sayre; City Engineer Carla Fischer; and City Clerk Ellen Clark.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Approval of the minutes from the April 27, 2020 Common Council meeting. Motion by Kohl, seconded by Touchett, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2020 Common Council meeting. Motion carried 7-0.
5. Mayor's Business:
 - A. Presentation by Dane County Executive Joe Parisi

Parisi explained Dane County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Dane County was the first county in the state with a positive COVID-19 test. A State of Emergency was declared early on to allow municipalities to be eligible for FEMA funds, if necessary. Several local organizations have been utilizing the empty Alliant Energy Center space, including food distribution through the Badger Prairie Needs Network and Second Harvest, the Saturday Dane County Farmers Market, a field hospital area, and mass COVID testing. Financial relief for small businesses and child care providers is also being provided by the County.

Discussion followed regarding the County's efforts to mitigate climate change, COVID-19 education efforts on the part of local and county governments regarding "Safer at Home" orders, availability of COVID-19 antibody tests, and COVID-19 testing in jails and the Sheriff's office going forward.
6. Announcements: None
7. Administrator's Report:
 - The next Common Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26th.
 - City Staff continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation and make adjustments as necessary.

- The City received six proposals for the Sugar Creek Elementary School project. The Community Development Authority will review the proposals and hear developers' presentations on May 18th.

8. Engineer's Report:

- Well 6 Pumping Station Construction: Sidewalk around the building is scheduled to be poured, and gas service is expected soon. Interior plumbing, electrical and HVAC are expected to be complete by mid-May, and startup of the well is expected the first week of June.
- Verona Area High School Construction Traffic Improvements: West Verona Avenue outside lanes are closed. Traffic will be shifted so both lanes are on the same side of the road while paving takes place. Work is beginning to build the new southbound and westbound lanes. Road base is complete for the new roads, Wildcat Way and Stewart Woods Road. Work has also begun on Nine Mound Road.
- CTH PD Construction – Woods Road to CTH M: The new eastbound lanes are complete. All traffic will be moved to the eastbound lanes on May 8th, with work on the westbound lanes beginning at that time.

9. Committee Reports

A. Finance Committee

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Payment of bills. Motion by Kemp, seconded by Cronin, to pay the bills in the amount of \$1,161,858.25. Motion carried 7-0.
- (2) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Small Business COVID-19 Support Program Applications. Motion by Kemp, seconded by Posey, to approve the Small Business COVID-19 Support Program applications for 53 approved applicants in the amount of \$195,970, pending final review by City Staff. Kemp explained the Finance Committee reviewed the applications at tonight's scheduled meeting, and thanked Staff for putting together this program. The grant criteria were met by all 53 applications that were accepted.

Diaz, Touchett, and Reekie thanked City Staff for their work on this program.

Reekie asked if there may be an opportunity for a program with less stringent criteria to open at a later date, possibly giving a chance for a grant to businesses that did not meet the criteria for this program.

Diaz replied that will be a decision for the Common Council.

Kemp stated we do not know how long this will last. He would like to wait for more information regarding how long the "Safer at Home" order will be in place.

On roll call: Alder Cronin – Aye; Alder Jerney – Aye; Alder Kemp – Aye; Alder Kohl – Aye; Alder Posey – Aye; Alder Reekie – Aye; Alder Touchett – Aye.

Motion carried 7-0.

B. Plan Commission

- (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution R-20-017 approving a certified survey map to create two (2) lots located at 421 South Nine Mound Road and 408 Venture Court. Motion by Kohl, seconded by Jerney, to approve Resolution No. R-20-017 approving a certified survey map to create two (2) lots located at 421 South Nine Mound Road and 408 Venture Court. Motion carried 7-0.

10. New Business

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Second amendment to lease agreement between the City of Verona and U.S. Cellular Operating Company, LLC for Country View water tower at 1252 Hemlock Drive. Sayre explained this lease amendment would allow U.S. Cellular to modify their equipment located on the water tower at 1252 Hemlock Drive. Staff recommends approval of the lease amendment. Motion by Kohl, seconded by Kemp, to approve the second amendment to the lease agreement between the City of Verona and U.S. Cellular Operating Company, LLC for Country View water tower at 1252 Hemlock Drive. Motion carried 7-0.
- B. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Agreement for City of Verona Fire Chief position. Sayre stated the Police and Fire Commission met this evening, and approved the appointment of Dan Machotka to the City of Verona Fire Chief position. Staff recommends that the Council approve the employment agreement between the City of Verona and Dan Machotka. Motion by Touchett, seconded by Cronin, to approve the employment agreement between the City of Verona and Dan Machotka. Motion carried 7-0.
- C. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Appointment of District 2 Alderperson. Sayre explained Dennis Beres and Charlie Ryan applied for this position, and both spoke to the Council at the May 11, 2020 meeting. This appointment fills the District 2 position vacated by Sarah Gaskell, with a term ending in April 2021. On roll call: Alder Jerney – Ryan; Alder Kemp – Ryan; Alder Kohl – Ryan; Alder Posey – Ryan; Alder Reekie – Ryan; Alder Touchett – Beres; Alder Cronin – Ryan.
- Motion by Kohl, seconded by Cronin, to appoint Charlie Ryan to the District 2 Alderperson position. Motion carried 7-0.

11. Adjournment:

- Motion by Cronin, seconded by Kemp, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Ellen Clark
City Clerk