

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2026**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 by Council President Steve Willis for Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom # 87164238154 with Alderpersons Seth McClurg, Andrew Bergum, Todd Kirking, Todd Spaeth, Cyndy Hubbard, John Thompson, Tanja Birke, and Steve Willis present. Alderperson Emma Hood was excused. Mayor Running arrived late. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt, Roger Call, Colonel Bill Benson, Nathan Olson, and Chan Johnson.

2. Approval of the February 10, 2026 Regular Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. Council Announcements – None

4. First period for public comment – None

5. Presentation and update on the National Guard Readiness Center – Colonel Bill Benson gave a slide presentation and answered questions for Council. Construction should be complete by fall of 2026 with occupancy in 2027. There will be 3-4 full time staff and 140 soldiers training once a month at the facility for the 107 Maintenance Company.

6. Review and approval of extraterritorial certified survey map – Parr & O'Connor (Plan Commission) – Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson McClurg to approve the CSM. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

7. Discussion with possible action on garage door replacement at street shop (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the total of \$25,036.39 from Swenson Doors and La Crosse Glass using non-lapsing funds as discussed. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Review and approval of pay request # 3 – Hanson Farm project (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve pay request #3 for \$256,958.94. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

9. Operator license approvals (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve licenses for Julia Engh, Ashlynn Reynolds, Clifford McCann, and Amy Skarda. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

10. Discussion with possible action on temporary beer license for Viroqua Fire Department Association annual fundraiser on March 14, 2026 (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Bergum/second by Alderperson Willis to approve the temporary beer license. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion with possible action on temporary beer license for Viroqua Area Hockey Association Founders Cup Tournament on March 23-27, 2026 (Public Safety) Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the temporary beer license. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Discussion with possible action on updates to noxious weed ordinance – First Reading (Public Safety) – the amendments were recommended by our municipal prosecutor. Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve ordinance 26OR001 and waive the second reading. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

13. Discussion with possible action on amendment to parking ordinance fines – First Reading (Public Safety)
- tabled

14. Payment of Bills (Finance)- Motion by Alderperson Kirking/second by Alderperson Birke to approve the payment of bills on report date 02/19/2026 in the amount of \$314,468.48 and additional bills on report date 02/24/2026 for \$137,511.89. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Possible closed session per Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(e) – deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Predevelopment agreement with Marketpointe regarding hotel development – Torres gave a background of the timeline to get to today. Discussions started in 2021 with other developers and they did not work out so we are looking at Marketpointe to build a Grandstay hotel in the Business Park. Chan Johnson gave a slide presentation to introduce the Council to the Grandstay concept and answered questions. They met with VDA and they want to move the project forward. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Willis to enter closed session at 7:30 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

16. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Bergum to reconvene in open session at 7:52 pm. Motion by Alderperson Hubbard/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the predevelopment agreement with Marketpointe with the feasibility study contingency if needed. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Possible closed session per Wis. Stats 19.85(1)(e) – deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session – Fire Contract with Towns (Public Safety) – Motion by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Kirking to enter closed session at 7:54pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Bergum/second by Alderperson McClurg to reconvene in open session at 8:25pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Birke/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve the Fire Contract as discussed with the optional administrative fees. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

19. Second Period for Public Comment – None

20. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Kirking/second by Alderperson Bergum to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk