

CITY OF VERONA
COMMON COUNCIL
MINUTES

May 23, 2022

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, Phil Hoechst, Chad Kemp, Christine Posey, and Heather Reekie. Evan Touchett and Rye Kimmett were absent and excused. Also present: City Administrator Adam Sayre and City Clerk Holly Licht.
4. Public Comments
 - Jesse Charles, Verona Area Historic Society, spoke regarding the former New Century School. He advocated that the building be registered on the National Register of Historic Places. He stated that it would be important to keep the outside looking the same, as well as common places like hallways. He stated that the estimate that was given for the Matt's House was \$1.2 million and almost led to its demolition. He stated that the estimate for the New Century School is just one estimate for one use and that the council should keep their options open.
 - Jerry Eykholt, 907 Enterprise Dr., spoke regarding creating a makerspace, whether it's in the New Century School or another building.
 - Alderperson Helmke stated that she appreciated the Gun Awareness Day Proclamation, and we need to do more to prevent gun violence.
5. Approval of Minutes from the May 9, 2022 Common Council meeting
Motion by Reekie, seconded by Kemp, to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2022 Common meeting. Motion carried 6-0.
6. Mayor's Business
 - A. May Diaz presented the Gun Violence Awareness Day Proclamation.
7. Announcements
 - A. Cronin stated that this Thursday you can pick up a copy of the community read at the library starting at 5:30 p.m.
8. Administrator's Report: Adam Sayre presented the Administrator's Report and it was entered into the record.
9. Engineer's Report: Carla Fischer presented the Engineer's Report and it 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 Posey to pay the bills in the amount of \$622,317.35. Motion carried 6-0.
11. New Business
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. 22-022 Establishing in-person absentee voting locations for the 2022 Partisan Primary and 2022 General Election

Motion by Posey, seconded by Kemp to approve Resolution No. 22-022 Establishing in-person absentee voting locations for the 2022 Partisan Primary and 2022 General Election. Motion carried 6-0.

B. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Former New Century School building located at 401 West

Verona Avenue

City Administrator Sayre gave an overview of the New Century School including the details of the proposed park design. The initial proposal would use part of the building for the bathrooms, warming area and concession stand. The distance from the ice rink to the building is 250 to 300 feet. There is also a possibility for a bathroom facility outside of the building.

There are newer windows that won't need to be replaced, wood floors underneath, and possible tin ceilings. There is no accessible entrance to upper level, exterior brick requires report, many interior walls are load bearing, there is no air conditioning. There is likely asbestos in the 1950s wing.

Kemp stated that if the public bathrooms were inside the building, it may be less attractive to a potential buyer.

Cronin stated she would be in favor of the bathrooms being closer to the ice rink.

Helmke stated that the bathrooms by the ice rink would be better for accessibility.

Reekie stated it would be beneficial to have a shelter that can be rented out. Sayre stated that there is a possibility a shelter could go near the stage.

Diaz stated that if council decides to do an RFP it should be transparent and open to everyone that would be interested.

Helmke and Posey stated that they are interested in listing it on the registry. Sayre stated that it can be listed, but it might turn away potential developers.

Hoechst stated that the City should not continue to own it. He added that if it is listed on the national registry, it should be in conjunction with the sale of the building.

Kemp asked if the historical society was interested in the preservation of the outside or the inside. Charles stated that registry would preserve the outside and preservation of the interior common spaces would be important.

Posey stated that a makerspace would be a great use for the building whether the City owns it or not.

Hoechst stated that the makerspace is a good idea, but we need to think about who would operate and administer things. Diaz agreed that whatever goes in there, must work financially. Kemp suggested reaching out to the other makerspaces in the area to see how they operate.

12. Adjournment: Motion by Kemp, seconded by Helmke to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.