

**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 22, 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, Rye Kimmett, Christine Posey, and Evan Touchett were present. Reekie was absent and excused.
4. Public Comments
  - Le Jordan, Verona Chamber, spoke in favor of approving the proposal from the Ice Arena to build a second sheet of ice. She stated that a second sheet of ice would provide opportunities for more youth programs, especially girls. She added that would increase traffic to our local businesses. Jordan stated that the addition would generate more room tax that would benefit the city as a whole.
5. Approval of Minutes from the August 8, 2022 Common Council meeting  
Motion by Touchett, seconded by Helmke to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2022 Common Council meeting. Motion carried 7-0.
6. Mayor's Business
7. Announcements: Helmke stated that the Badger Prairie Needs Network is looking for volunteers.
8. Administrator's Report: Sayre stated Board of Review meets tomorrow at 6:00 p.m.
9. Engineer's Report: Jess Billmeyer presented the Engineer's Report and it was entered into the records.
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 \$461,125.90. Motion carried 7-0.
  - B. **Public Safety & Welfare Committee**
    - (1) Discussion and Possible Action Re: Special Event Permit application and Temporary Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage license from Simeon Alder for the Madison 56ers Fall Invitational on Friday, September 9-Sunday, September 11  
Motion by Touchett, seconded by Hoechst to a Special Event Permit application and Temporary Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage license from Simeon Alder for the Madison 56ers Fall Invitational on Friday, September 9-Sunday, September 11 contingent upon approval of operator licenses. Motion carried 7-0.
11. New Business
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Resolution No. R-22-037 approving West Lawn Avenue and West Lawn Circle to be renamed Westlawn Avenue and Westlawn Circle

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Kemp to approve Resolution No. R-22-037 approving West Lawn Avenue and West Lawn Circle to be renamed Westlawn Avenue and Westlawn Circle. Motion carried 7-0.

- B. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Lease agreement between the City and Krupp General Contractors to lease office space at 401 West Verona Avenue  
Motion by Kimmitt, seconded by Kemp to approve the Lease agreement between the City and Krupp General Contractors to lease office space at 401 West Verona Avenue contingent upon final review and approval of the City Administrator and City Attorney. Motion carried 7-0.

- C. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Agreement between the City and I.C.E. Inc. for the Verona Ice Arena

Cronin stated that she thinks that the expansion is a great idea, but she doesn't believe that one organization should get 80-90% of the room tax dollars in a given year. She stated that she thought they should apply for a loan from the revolving loan fund.

Helmke stated that she is in favor of the project and wants to see the council come to an agreement.

Touchett stated that he thinks this is a good use of room tax dollars and it will bring people to Verona and puts heads in beds.

Hoehst stated that he is in favor of the project and the use of the funds. He stated that the City won't have to borrow for this agreement.

Kemp asked how much money was in the revolving loan fund. Sayre stated that it is around \$400,000. Kemp asked what the interest rate was generally. Sayre stated that the last loan was at 4%.

Posey asked how much money I.C.E. Inc. would be borrowing. Mike O'Brien stated that they would be borrowing \$5 million.

Kimmitt asked if there would be more time for the community to use the ice if Edgewood College and others were going to be using the ice. Mike O'Brien stated that Edgewood will be using the ice for a minimal amount of time.

Sayre stated that the City's 30% of the room-tax money is a revenue line item in the budget.

Touchett suggested postponing action tonight and waiting to see what the tourism commission says.

Kemp asked how this would affect funding personnel needs. Sayre stated anytime you commit yourself, it makes the budget more challenging. It wouldn't be a debt issue, but it would be a levy and commitment issue.

Kimmitt asked if the bank would still issue the loan if the City said no. O'Brien stated that this agreement would be the turning point. He stated that a lot of people are waiting to see what the City does before they contribute.

Diaz stated while this has an impact on the budget, but it will also have a positive impact on the community.

Posey stated that she would like to look into additional revenue streams.

Motion by Kimmett, seconded by Hoechst to approve an agreement between the City and I.C.E. Inc. for the Verona Ice Arena. Motion carried 6-1 with Cronin voting 'no'.

D. Discussion and Possible Action Re: Interim Police Chief agreement

*The Common Council may convene in a closed session for discussion and possible action regarding an Interim Police Chief Agreement as authorized by Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee subject to the jurisdiction or authority of the City of Verona. The Common Council may reconvene in open session to discuss and take action on the subject matter discussed in the closed session.*

Motion by Posey, seconded by Kemp to go into closed session at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried on roll call vote 7-0.

Motion by Touchett, seconded by Kemp to reconvene in open session at 8:06 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Kemp, seconded by Touchett to approve the Interim Police Chief agreement with Dave Dresser. Motion carried 7-0.

11. Adjournment: Motion Touchett, seconded by Helmke to adjourn at 8: 07 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Holly Licht, City Clerk