



City of
RIVER FALLS
CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN
COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

January 12, 2016

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall.

City Council Members Present: David Cronk, Dan Gulick, Scott Morrissette, Jim Nordgren, Diane Odeen, Aaron Taylor, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Steve Weld, City Attorney; Gordon Young, Police Chief; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator; Keri Schreiner, Management Analyst Fellow; Brent Buesking, Management Analyst Fellow; Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director; Reid Wronski, City Engineer; Ray French, Management Analyst; Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk; Bridget Hieb, Deputy Clerk; Nancy Miller, Library Director; Tony Steiner, City Planner

Others: Andrew Schmitz, Don Fowell; Mark Paschke, others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 8, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Cronk/Gulick move to approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills of \$1,876,259.05 (from December) and \$ 4,647,839.12 (current bills)

MSC Cronk/Watson move to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PUBLIC HEARING:

“Class B” Combination Liquor and Malt Beverage License, Jama Investments, LLC - Bo’s ‘N Mine, 110 S. Main Street; Hearing and Disposition by Motion

The Mayor recessed into a public hearing at 6:31 p.m. As there were no public comments, the Mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:32 p.m. For purpose of discussion, Morrissette moved to approve the license. Taylor seconded the motion.

After the first motion was made, Morrissette immediately amended the motion to approve license contingent upon Jama Investments paying the outstanding utility bills, taxes and assessments. Cronk seconded.

Aldersperson Nordgren asked if this was a change of ownership. The answer was yes.

New owner Andrew Schmitz noted the bank may be paying the taxes. City Attorney Weld said the City has an ordinance which can revoke licenses for unpaid taxes and said this is the time to take care of them. Aldersperson Gulick asked when it would be resolved. Schmitz was unsure but it could be 45 days. There was discussion by Council regarding using ‘pending’ language for the motion. City Administrator Simpson told Council that staff does not typically issue a license unless everything is clean. There was further discussion about payment of the taxes, issuing the license and operating under the current license.

The Mayor asked if there were any more questions and confirmed the motion. Schmitz continued to express concern over payment of the taxes.

There was a request to restate the motion. The Mayor said the motion is to grant the license pending upon that everything is cleared up (taxes, licenses, utility bills, anything else).

The Mayor asked for a vote. The Council voted unanimously to issue the license contingent upon payment of all outstanding items.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 5993 - Approving TAP Grant Application for the Family Fresh to Lake George Connection

Aldersperson Nordgren wanted more information. He wanted to know if this was just the 'trestle' part. City Planner Tony Steiner said the application also included the approaches. He said the piers would cost the most. There was further discussion about land ownership for the project.

MS Nordgren/Odeen move to approve the resolution. Aldersperson Watson asked about percentage of payment and this project in relation to the river corridor project. Steiner explained briefly the project, grants and timeline. There were further questions from Aldersperson Gulick about the timeline.

City Administrator Simpson said staff considered this project in relation to the Kinni River Corridor project. He talked about how incredible it was to have received the grant on the first try and talked further on guidelines.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Mayor asked for any other comments. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2016-01 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 8.36 Regarding Solid Waste Collection and Disposal-
First Reading

Gulick asked for clarification on what a Class 1 publication was. There were no other questions.

Resolution No. 5994 - Approving the Master Relationship Agreement for the St. Croix Valley Business
Incubator

Simpson provided a presentation for the Council on the St. Croix Valley Business Incubator project. He talked about its purpose and programming, the market, the partnerships, the partners in the project, and the master relationship agreement. He talked about grants, staffing, funding in relation to the project and fielded questions from Council.

Simpson talked about the different firms vying for the engineering services. He explained why Ayres was chosen. He answered other questions including the land the incubator would be built on. He answered other questions from the Council.

At the conclusion of discussion, the Mayor asked for a motion. MSC Cronk/Odeen move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 5995 - Approving Selection of Firm for St. Croix Valley Business Incubator
Architectural/Engineering Services

MSC Odeen/Cronk move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.

REPORTS:

2016 Elections Report

Deputy Clerk Bridget Hieb provided an overview of the 2016 elections to the Council. She talked about the four polling locations, poll workers, the election dates, voter turnout, local offices up for election, and the photo ID requirement. Hieb also talked about resources for voters.

River Falls Reads Report

Library Director Nancy Miller gave a presentation on the library's upcoming program, River Falls Reads, which runs January 23-February 28. She talked about the origin of the program, this year's book, and upcoming events.

Administrator's Report

Council asked staff some questions which were answered. Simpson asked Council for feedback on a report format.

Comptroller's Report for November 2015

Comptroller Odeen read the following: general fund revenues through the end of November were \$8,914,056 or 94 percent of budgeted. Recent revenues include \$1.64 million for the remainder of 2015 shared revenue payments, \$25,270 for medical payment reimbursement, and \$7,570 for the final plat for Highview Meadows. Expenditures for the same period were \$7,941,023, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$973,033.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointment

The Mayor asked for approval of his reappointment of Eric Amundsen to the Board of Appeals through October 2018. **MSC Morrissette/Cronk moved to approve the appointment. Unanimous.**

River Falls Reads Proclamation

The Mayor read the proclamation.

MSC Cronk/Morrissette moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan,
Deputy City Clerk