



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

July 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: Todd Bjerstedt, Jeff Bjork, David Cronk, Scott Morrissette, Hal Watson

Members Absent: Christopher Gagne, Diane Odeen

Staff Present: Dan Gustafson, City Attorney; Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Gordon Young, Police Chief; Reid Wronski, City Engineer; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator; Keri Schreiner, Management Analyst; Amy Peterson, Assistant Community Development Director; Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director; Mary Zimmerman, Communications Manager; Buddy Lucero, Community Development Director; Tom Schwalen, Facility Maintenance Supervisor

Others: Jim Larson, Mark Larsen, Jim Nordgren, Donna Burger others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 28, 2016, Regular, Workshop and Closed Session Meeting Minutes

MSC Cronk/Morrissette move to approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills - \$413,965.39

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Mayor announced that there would not be a Closed Session.

Mark Larsen and Jim Nordgren, residents living in the Grotenhuis Addition, expressed their support for the Ordinance 2016-11 and thanks for Officer Bill Rasmussen for his efforts to bring uniformity to parking in their neighborhood.

Candidate for St. Croix County District Attorney Donna Burger introduced herself and made some comments.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution Regarding Demolition of 206 Union Street→→***Pulled by Morrissette***

Resolution No. 6051 - Regarding Variance to Industrial Park Covenants/ Best Maid

Resolution Approving 2016 Fee Schedule→***Pulled by Bjork***

Resolution Authorizing 2016 Funding for Greenwood Cemetery →***Pulled by Bjork***

Resolution No. 6052 - Awarding Bid for Sterling Ponds Corporate Park Phase 2 – Bid Package B

MSC Cronk/Morrissette move to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6053 - Regarding Demolition of 206 Union Street

Aldersperson Morrissette pulled the item because it needed a budget adjustment and roll call vote. **MS Morrissette/Watson move to approve item. The roll call vote passed unanimously.**

Resolution No. 6054 - Approving 2016 Fee Schedule

Aldersperson Bjork asked if this would approve all the fees in the schedule. He had concerns about charges for residents versus non-residents for reserving park shelters.

City Administrator Simpson said it would approve the schedule in its entirety. He said this was more of a technical approve of the fees but said a yes vote signals the Council is in favor of the fees. Simpson said Council could make amendments to the schedule but suggested that changes typically aren't done in this format.

Bjork didn't feel it was fair for residents to pay for non-residents. The Mayor suggested the Council could approve the schedule and make changes at another time. As the Park Board Representative, Aldersperson Watson offered to work with Bjork on park fees. Aldersperson Morrissette was more comfortable to approve the fee schedule as presented rather than go through it line by line. Simpson said that staff could provide Council with more information about any of the fees.

MSC Bjork/Bjerstedt move to approve fee schedule as presented. Bjork stated he would like to review resident versus non-resident fees in the future. The motion passed 4-1 with all voting in favor except for Cronk.

Resolution No. 6055 - Authorizing 2016 Funding for Greenwood Cemetery

Aldersperson Bjork asked about the funding plan for the cemetery and the City's role. He doesn't feel the City should go past one year with assistance. Aldersperson Cronk felt the association wanted more time to get a plan together.

Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom said she offered to help the association with developing a plan. She said with the financial statements presented, they would need multiple years even if a plan was in place by year's end. Bjork asked about the amount the association has for perpetual care.

Jim Larson from the Greenwood Cemetery Association said there was \$155,000 available but the association cannot touch it – only the municipality can. Aldersperson Watson stated there are a certain amount of fixed costs to operate the cemetery and the revenue hasn't matched that. If the community wants to keep the cemetery open, it will have to step up to help make it happen by providing the modest amount of money requested and the City helping with a plan. Watson noted if the cemetery association goes bankrupt, then the cemetery would be turned over to the City to maintain.

Aldersperson Morrissette said he agreed with Watson. He said there are a group of committed people who maintain and care for the cemetery now rather than having the upkeep fall on City staff.

Bjork asked about the increase in wages from \$9,000 to almost \$20,000 over the last five years. Larson said the cost of living has increased and the association has to pay people a reasonable wage.

With no other discussion, Watson moved and Morrissette seconded the resolution. The resolution passed 4-1 with all voting in favor except for Bjork.

Simpson clarified that the Council was in favor of voting for the resolution as written for the years of 2016, 2017 and 2018. Watson said yes.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2016-10 Mann Valley Annexation Ordinance-First Reading

There were no comments.

Ordinance 2016-11 – Amending Chapter 12.06 – Residential Parking Permit System (No Parking in Grotenhuis Addition)-First Reading

There were no comments.

Resolution No. 6056 -Awarding a Contract for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan

MS Morrissette/Watson move to approve resolution. The Mayor asked for questions. Cronk asked why the lowest bid was not accepted. Community Development Director Lucero said the lowest bidder had a subsection where additional work could be added. Once the additional work was added it, it would meet the bid the Council accepted. He said they didn't meet the qualifications of the other consultants. **With no other questions, the Council voted unanimously to approve the resolution.**

REPORTS:

Blue Bike Program

Conservation and Energy Efficiency Coordinator Mike Noreen provided a presentation to Council on the free bike share program which was started this year. It is a partnership between the City, Pierce County Public Health, UW-River Falls, National Honors Society and Crankworx. All bikes are donated and free to use. A grant was received from New Belgium Brewery. There are five racks in the City. He said most bikes are returned. Bike donations are accepted. At the conclusion of the presentation, Noreen stood for questions.

Morrissette asked how many were in service and how many are missing and about using a driver's license to check a bike out. He said that if bikes continue to be lost, we need to find a way to make people accountable. There were other questions by Council. Noreen provided contact information for persons interested in donating to the program.

Utility Department Report

Utility Director Westhuis provided a report for Council. He provided project updates on the wastewater treatment plant, the power plant, Sycamore water tower, Chapman Drive, South Fork relay, sanitary sewer lining, and North Interceptor. He thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance with Chapman Drive. Westhuis talked about the hydro and solar output for this year. There were no questions.

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson talked about the City hosting a listening session with Wyman Winston of WHEDA. He talked about projects in the corporate parks and invited the public to the Customer Appreciation event.

MSC Cronk/Morrissette to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan,
Deputy City Clerk