



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

August 9, 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, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Dan Gustafson, City Attorney; Gordon Young, Police Chief; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director/Assistant City Administrator; Keri Schreiner, Management Analyst; Amy Peterson, Assistant Community Development Director; Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director; Karen Bergstrom, Human Resources Director; Michelle Heinze, Human Resources Coordinator; Fire Chief Scott Nelson; Tony Steiner, City Planner

Others: Sue Beckham, Mary Emberger, Ruben Garcia, Heidi Heinze, others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

July 26, 2016, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Cronk move to approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills - \$816,841.10

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Sue Beckham, 207 N. 4th – came representing the “Motion to Amend” people. She asked to Council to let the constituents express their opinion by being able to vote on the referendum on the November ballot.

Mary Emberger, 126 Vine – brought signed postcards in support of getting a referendum on the ballot. She asked Council to change its mind about putting their referendum on the ballot.

Change of Agent for Dolgencorp LLC dba Dollar General Store #6482

MS Morrissette/Gagne moved to approve change of agent. Alderperson Morrissette asked Agent Ruben Garcia if he understood his role as an agent; if he understood that if he wasn't present and if something happens liquor related, he was responsible; and if he had taken his responsible server's course. Garcia asked yes to all the questions. **With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 6066 - Approving 2015 Annual Report for the River Falls Fire Department

Resolution No. 6067 - Regarding Safe Ride Home Program

Resolution No. 6068 - Approving Management Agreement between the City and the River Falls Housing Authority

MSC Bjork/Odeen move to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2016-12 - Modifying Chapter 17.104 – Administration and Enforcement Section of the Municipal Code Regarding Administrative Relief of Specific Zoning Requirements (setbacks, building height, site coverage, open space, parking) - First Reading

There were no comments from Council.

REPORTS:

Historic Preservation Commission Presentation

Heidi Heinze, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, presented a report for Council. The City is a certified local government which enforces an ordinance for the designation and protection of local properties; it has created a Historic Preservation Commission, and maintains a survey system for local properties and provides for public participation. Heinze talked about the Historic Preservation Plan and the Historical and Architectural Survey which was done last year with grant money. She talked about the ‘Historic Preservation’ denotation of homes and the national historic designation for the swinging bridge. Heinze talked about a current project – an online historic walking tour story map. She acknowledged the members of the Commission: Jayne Hoffman, Mark Anderson, Rebecca Prendergast, Pam Friede, and Jeff Bjork. Heinze talked about a historic museum. She thanked the staff for their hard work.

Heinze stood for questions. The Mayor asked how homes are given historical designation. She gave some different examples of how homes could be designated as ‘historical’. There was more discussion about historical designations including for the City’s swinging bridge.

Human Resources Presentation

Human Resources Director Karen Bergstrom and Human Resources Coordinator Michelle Heinze gave a presentation for Council. Bergstrom talked about the department’s functions including recruitments. She talked about HR information on the City’s website. Bergstrom talked about training and development and thanked the Council for funding it in the budget. Bergstrom closed by talking about compensation and performance evaluations.

Heinze talked about a software product that was purchased to streamline the payroll and other HR functions. She talked about legal compliance and reporting and benefit administration. They stood for questions.

Aldersperson Bjork asked about the high number of terminations. It was explained it was due to seasonal workers. Aldersperson Morrisette asked about the average years of service for employees.

Administrator’s Report

City Administrator Simpson appreciated having the CIP #2 workshop and understood Council members would be contacting him if they had questions. He reminded citizens that they had time to go and vote.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor’s Appointments

Board of Appeals/ETZ Board of Appeals

Reappointment of Jeanette Leonard through October 2019

Historic Preservation Commission

Reappointment of Pam Friede through January 2018

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Library Board

Reappointment of Joyce Breen through July 2019

New appointment of Purnendu C. Vasavada through July 2019

MSC Morrissette/Gagne move to approve the Mayor's appointments. Unanimous.

MSC Cronk/Morrissette to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan,
Deputy City Clerk