



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

**January 22, 2019**

Mayor Dan 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, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson, Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; City Clerk Amy White; Development Director Amy Peterson; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Human Resources Director Karen Bergstrom; Community Development Director Buddy Lucero; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Management Analyst Jason Rohloff; Safety Coordinator Angelina Symicek; Water Wastewater Superintendent Ron Groth

**Others Present:** Judy Foster Babcock; Susan Reese; Jeff McMenimen; Members of the Kinni Corridor Committee

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

January 8, 2019, Meeting Minutes

**MSC Morrissette/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

\$3,551,873.79

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

State of the City Presentation

City Administrator Scot Simpson showed the State of the City video. He thanked staff members Josie, Jon, and Mary, for their work on the project. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their guidance and thoughtful contributions in the next five-year strategic plan. Simpson thanked the community for its support, volunteerism, and commitment to institutions and organizations in the City. He thanked City staff for living our values, going the extra mile, and for always searching for ways to do better.

Simpson talked about employees' efforts including Bill Swensen and Jacob McNabb who saved \$30,000 by making a repair to a rotor on an oxidation ditch; the effort led by Cindi Danke and a small group of staff to create/open the City's dog park; and Kevin Moore, a US Marine Corp veteran, who formed the City's honor guard.

Simpson talked about employee hiring in 2018 and recognized employees who retired. He talked about new technology including SCADA and AMI. Simpson talked about the purchase of a building for the Police Department, the renovations at Glen Park, the 'jug handle' on Hwy. 65, and Anchor Paper coming to River Falls.

Simpson talked about housing needs including more rentals, senior housing, Sterling Ponds lots, and other possible projects.

Simpson talked about a boundary agreement with the Town of Kinnickinnic that has been in the works for five years. He spoke about building projects at CVTC and UWRF including infill development along Cascade Avenue.

Simpson thanked everyone who contributed to the Kinni Corridor Process including the City Council, the Kinni Corridor Committee and the community. He talked about the formation of a public/private partnership group which will be key in driving forward the adopted plan. He concluded by thanking the City Council.

#### Public Comment

Judy Foster Babock, President of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust, thanked the Council for its work on the plan. She appreciated all the work the parties did. She looks forward to seeing the final plan and working (as a private citizen) on the P3 committee. She was appreciative of the invitation that was made to Kinnickinnic River Land Trust to participate as a stakeholder and ended by thanking the Council.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

Police and Fire Commission – 8/20/18; River Falls Housing Authority – 11/14/18 and 12/12/18; Library Board – 12/3/18; Business Improvement District – 12/11/18; Joint Meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission and Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 12/12/18; Utility Advisory Board – 12/17/18

Resolution No. 6335 - Regarding City Administrator Review Process

Resolution No. 6336 - Approving South Fork Substation Transformer Rebuild Project

Resolution No. 6337 - Approving Professional Services for South Fork Substation Project

Resolution No. 6338 - Awarding Engineering Contract for Waste Water Treatment Plant Ditch Aeration and Front-end Screening Project

Resolution No. 6339 - Approving Agreement for Professional Services-Safety Coordinator

Resolution No. 6340 - Approving Concept Design Services from Ayres Associates Inc. for Infill Development

Resolution No. 6341 - Approving Lease for School District of River Falls for 2815 Prairie Drive

**MSC Morrissette/Page approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance 2019-01 - Annexing Certain Territory of the Town of River Falls to the City of River Falls, Wisconsin- First Reading

There were no comments.

Resolution No. 6342 - Approving a Cooperative Plan between the City of River Falls and the Town of Kinnickinnic

Community Development Director Buddy Lucero provided a presentation for the Council. The Cooperative Plan started 4-5 years ago with conversations between Mayor Toland and Town Chair Jerry Olson. Two committees were formed – one from the Town and one from the City - with the objective to investigate a law passed by the State allowing two municipalities to work together to develop a vision for the future of their areas. One of the plan's objectives was to reduce the number of boundaries around the City. Lucero talked about the four boundaries. The goal was to find an area to grow into in the future with the least amount of impact to the Town and City. One of the Township's concerns was requiring residents to annex. The City will not require annexations and would allow property holders to keep the type of development they have – all but one was agriculture. Lucero said about 24 units would be affected; most are large properties. He talked about future impacts and infrastructure. Lucero said that the Town reviewed the plan and approved it. The plan has been forwarded to the Council for its review. Lucero is recommending approval. He noted the City Attorney has helped develop the plan. Lucero feels it is a good process for the City to move forward with. He stood for questions.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about next steps. Lucero said plan would be forwarded to the State's Department of Administration for review; if approved, it would be forwarded back to the Town and City for their approvals.

**MSC Odeen/Morrisette move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6343 - Approving the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan

Lucero provided a presentation for Council. In 2016, a the Kinni Corridor Committee was formed. He asked committee members in attendance to stand and be recognized. He said it was one of the biggest challenges in his career with the City. It was an excellent process with much community involvement. The first step was to look at the hydro facilities and determine the best course - relicensing or surrender. A draft report and resolution was provided to the Council in 2018; it was adopted. Lucero talked about the other part of the process which was looking at the overall corridor. HKgi, an expert in river planning, was hired as the City's consultant. They worked with the committee and staff. Lucero thanked Mary Zimmermann and Angie Bond for their work. He thanked the Council for allowing the process to take place.

Jeff McMenimen from HKgi talked about the plan which provides a long-term vision for the corridor in River Falls. It builds on decades of planning and engineering studies and input from thousands of community residents. Their work began last spring with a study of past studies, reviewing community input, developing a set of key takeaways, and toured the site. Their goal was not to get in the way. Ideas were developed about enhancing the natural resource of the river, enhancing water quality and wildlife habitat, preserving and protecting the corridor, finding ways to better connect the community to the river, providing better access to the river, future parks and recreational opportunities, and ways to optimize economic development and land use. He talked about other things which were included such as projects. The ideas were all vetted with the community at the open houses which were well-attended. He said the community was front and center on the project.

Lucero said the plan is a living document with guidance for the future. He said it has been a pleasure working on the plan. Lucero talked about the resolution that was forwarded to the Council. He stood for questions.

Alderson Gagne talked about all the time and work that went into the plan. He felt it was representative of the community and not just one stakeholder. He wanted to see the plan carried out with the public/private partnership and not just one person or group to come in and undo all the work. He said the committee did a fantastic job.

**With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a motion. MS Watson/Odeen to approve the resolution.**

Alderson Downing wanted to make an amendment to the plan. The amendment would add the words "and power house structures" to page 5-11. He read the current wording and noted where the amendment would be. He felt it represented part of the City's identity and history.

**Motion by Downing to amend section on 5-11 to read: "Plan for and steward the repurposing of the Junction Dam Power Plant and power house structures. The community has asked for a public/private reuse of this facility."**

**Page wanted to offer a friendly amendment. To the end of the amendment, he wanted to add the words: "if feasible." He didn't feel the practicality of maintaining a lower power house has been investigated. He said it is a little beaten up.**

**Alderson Morrisette asked for a point of order. Morrisette seconded Downing's amendment. The Mayor asked if there was a second for Page's amendment. Odeen offered a second.**

**With no other questions or comments, the Mayor asked for a vote on Mr. Page's amendment. The amendment passed unanimously.**

**The Mayor asked for a vote on Downing's amendment. The amendment passed unanimously.**

**The Mayor asked for a vote on the main resolution.** Alderson Page asked to speak. He is in favor and supports this plan, the work, the effort, and coming together of the community. The final product is amazing. He

wanted to lodge his concern and opposition of the timeframe of 2030-2040 for the final restoration of the river but that his only issue. Otherwise, he supports it and will be voting in favor.

**With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.** A round of applause followed the vote. The Mayor noted this was a long process and the community has been a big part of it. He appreciated the community's participation, the committee members, and the staff's work. He said the next step – the public/private partnership, the P3 – will be the real defining thing. He said it will not be a City thing – neither he nor the Councilors will be on the committee. It will be up to the citizens to come together and develop a plan. He invited citizens to the meeting on January 24.

The Mayor recognized Buddy Lucero's involvement in the boundary agreement and Kinni Corridor plan. He read a statement about the Kinni Corridor Plan, thanking the committee and staff, and recognizing and thanking Lucero for his leadership, transparency, calm demeanor, innovation and problem solving. The Mayor presented Lucero a City of River Falls flag. Lucero received a standing ovation.

**REPORTS:**

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson gave updates including upcoming meetings.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointments

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Appointment of Melissa Pedrini through May 2022

**MSC Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve appointment. Unanimous.**

**MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk