



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

March 13, 2018

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, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrisette, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Management Analyst Keri Schreiner; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; Operations Director Mike Stifter; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Management Analyst Follow Jason Rohloff; IT Coordinator Mike Reardon

Others Present: Jamie Benson, Chris Blasius, Greg Peters, Stacy Johnson Myers, Kit Luedtke, Jason Kjos, others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 27, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrisette/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills \$624,801.64

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Jamie Benson, Superintendent of River Falls School District, provided a presentation on the School District's upcoming referendum. He referred the public to the district's website for information. The referendum consists of two questions on the April 3 ballot which are both facility-related. He talked about the history of the academy building and the plans for it. Benson talked about building and safety improvements, technology, classroom additions, and tax implications. He talked about question two which asks to add artificial turf, lighting, and a parking lot at the high school. There were no questions from Council.

Chris Blasius, CEO of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, came to give a presentation on 2018 Chamber events. She opened by thanking the volunteers and City staff for assistance with events and then spoke about this year's events. There were no questions from Council.

Greg Peters, President of the River Falls Baseball Council, provided a presentation to Council. He shared the Baseball Council's financial standing and the loan balance along with his expectations for

loan repayment. Peters talked about 2017 highlights and the goals for 2018. He talked about garnering more funds to pay down the loan, a new PA system, a new fence, and a concert scheduled for the fall. He thanked the Council for its support. He stood for questions. Alderperson Bjork asked how many seasons the ballpark was open. Peters said six. Bjork liked the community interaction, wanted to continue the partnership and make it grow.

Mike Reardon, IT Coordinator – recognized Dennis Hildreth for his service to the City and expressed his thanks.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution Approving River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for City Assistance for Special Events for 2018→→***Pulled by Downing***

Resolution Authorizing Release of Easements for 1567 Sullivan Court →→***Pulled by Morrisette***

Resolution No. 6235 - Approving Development Agreement with Michelle Maher (Falls Theatre)

Resolution No. 6236 - Approving Budget Adjustment (Falls Theatre Project)

Resolution Approving Revised State/Municipal Agreement for a Highway Safety Improvement Project - STH35/Division Street (Jug Handle) Intersection→→***Pulled by Gagne***

Resolution Approving Land Lease with UW-River Falls (Mann Valley) →→***Pulled by Bjork***

MS Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote on the Consent Agenda items. The roll call vote was 7-0 with all voting for the approval of the Consent Agenda.

Resolution No. 6237 - Approving River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau Request for City Assistance for Special Events for 2018

Alderperson Downing appreciated all the Chamber events but had a concern. He asked how late the Chamber wanted the noise ordinance lifted. He shared what he thought were appropriate times and asked other's thoughts.

The Mayor asked what the resolution was saying exactly. City Administrator Simpson quoted Chapter 8.28 of the Municipal Code saying there was specific prohibition against loud radios, yelling, shouting, hooting, whistling or singing. The noise ordinance basically says when it bothers the peace of others, it can be a violation. The City Council can make an exception to the noise ordinance. If the Council does so, the Chamber will be allowed to operate its event with exception for the entirety of the event. The resolution does not set any limits. The Mayor asked Blasius if the bands were done around midnight or 1 a.m. She said yes. Alderperson Morrisette noted River Falls Days has been going on for a long time. It's two nights a year and the town appreciates it. He didn't feel it was too much to ask – 1 or 1:30 a.m. is not too late.

Alderperson Gagne asked if there were any complaints from neighbors. Simpson said yes, there has been complaints from adjacent neighbors. There was further discussion by Councilors.

Alderperson Bjork asked Blasius if the Chamber was asking to have the resolution changed so that they don't have to come back each year to make the request. Morrisette said yes, he interpreted that

way. Bjork's preference was that the Chamber come to Council with the request yearly. Blasius understood through conversation with City staff that since the same request was made each year, this resolution would be changed to be more efficient and save time by allowing the Chamber to not have to come back each year. She would, however, come and provide yearly updates.

Blasius challenged the perception of neighborhood complaints, and said it happened at the old location too. She talked about ways they have tried to make modifications and said there have been discussions about ending time. She noted that the primary funding source for the events usually comes in the later hours. That revenue helps fund the parade, fireworks and bands. Morrissette said not all the noise comes from the Chamber's bands. Some are bands playing at local establishments. We need to consider everything with the noise issue.

MS Bjork/Watson move strike the last whereas clause from the resolution which reads: "Whereas, approval for City assistance for all Chamber events will continue annually by way of informational correspondence by the Chamber outlining the dates, times, and needs until Common Council deems necessary to revisit the Chamber's request at a future time." There was follow up discussion. **The Mayor asked for a vote on the amendment. It passed unanimously.**

The Mayor asked for a motion on the resolution as amended. MSC Downing/Odeen move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6238 - Authorizing Release of Easements for 1567 Sullivan Court

Aldersperson Morrissette is in favor of easements being removed. He felt the resolution should reflect the additional easement that replaces Section B. He worked with staff and asked Council to consider his changes to the title and wording in the body of the resolution.

MS Morrissette/Odeen move to approve amendment to resolution. Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked about the purpose of the second easement. Morrissette provided an explanation. **The Mayor asked for a vote on the amendment. It passed unanimously. MSC Morrissette/Downing move to approve resolution as amended. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6239 - Approving Revised State/Municipal Agreement for a Highway Safety Improvement Project - STH35/Division Street (Jug Handle) Intersection

Aldersperson Gagne asked about the alignment of the jug handle and new entrance of the park. Simpson explained there will be modifications to Hanson Drive and changes in circulation and parking. City Engineer Wronski talked about a realigned entrance coming off Division Street and other details. **MSC Gagne/Morrissette move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6240 - Approving Land Lease with UW-River Falls (Mann Valley)

Aldersperson Bjork asked if the shed was included in the lease. Simpson said it has been in the past and asked if it the lease had been modified. City Administrator Bergstrom felt that rules prohibited the University from paying for a building. She was not sure but said lease rates for others in the area are similar.

Jason Kjos from UW-River Falls said yes, he understood the shed is included in the package. He said there is a State policy prohibiting the University from renting a building. Kjos met with Mike Stifter and negotiated a price. The University appreciates working with the City. **MSC Gagne/Morrissette moved to approve resolution. The motion passed with all voting in favor except for Bjork.**

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Simpson will not be at the next Council meeting. He shared there is a great deal of interest in the City's corporate parks. He talked about the release of the housing study. Alderperson Gagne asked about dog park planning. Simpson provided an update. Alderperson Downing asked the Glen Park swinging bridge. Development Director Peterson provided an update. Gagne thanked Bill Lubich for his service at the Fire Department.

CLOSED SESSION:

MS Morrisette/Odeen recess into Closed Session at 7:35 p.m. per Wisconsin State Statutes for the following purposes:

§ 19.85(1)(c) "considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercise responsibility, to wit: City Administrator"; § 19.85(1)(e) "deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: purchase/sale of property in River Falls Industrial Park"; and § 19.85(1)(g) "conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved, to wit: update on Town of Troy appeal." **The Mayor asked for a roll call vote to move into Closed Session. It passed unanimously.**

MSC Gagne/Downing at 8:05 p.m. to move back into Open Session. Unanimous.

MSC Odeen/Morrisette move to approve City Administrator amended contract. Unanimous.

MSC Bjerstedt/Morrisette move to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk