



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

May 22, 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, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Management Analyst Fellow Jason Rohloff; Management Analyst Keri Schreiner; Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Civil Engineer Zach Regnier; Senior Civil Engineer Crystal Raleigh; City Clerk Amy White; City Treasurer Susan Langer; Library Director Nancy Miller; Management Analyst Brandt Johnson

Others Present: Daniel Suffield, Eric Amundsen, Jeff Bjork, others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

May 8, 2018, Regular and Closed Session Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Watson approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills \$321,322.09

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Mayor recognized Library Director Nancy Miller for her 33 years of service to the City. She received a standing ovation from the audience. Miller read an excerpt from her resignation letter, and she thanked the Council and the Library Board for the opportunity. Miller said it has been her great honor to serve as the Library Director.

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Annual Liquor License and Beer License Renewals

The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:35 p.m. and moved back into Open Session.

Alderperson Morrissette wanted to ask Erickson's new agent questions but the agent was not present. The Mayor took a roll call of agents present. Agents were present from Falls Theatre, Luigi's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Steve's Pizza, American Legion, Bo's 'N Mine, Broz Sports Bar, Emma's Bar, Johnnies Bar, Mainstreeter Bar and Grill, Mariachi Loco, Maverick's Corner Saloon, Mel's Midtowner, River Falls Copper Kettle, Moose Lodge, River Falls Golf Course, Selah Vie Bistro, Shooters Pub, Westwind, Devine Liquors, Dollar General, Kwik Trip, the Co-op, Kinni View Kitchen and Event Room and Kinni Café.

Agents not present were from: Bob and Steve's Store, Erickson's, Holiday Station, Lazy River, Shopko, and Walgreen's.

MSC Morrissette/Page move to grant renewals for the Class "B" beer licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Falls Theatre, Luigi's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Steve's Pizza and Balazi LLC. Unanimous.

Alderson Morrissette made a motion which was later retracted due to questions Councilors wanted to ask agents. The Mayor asked the City Attorney for clarification on the motion for agents not present.

MS Watson/Odeen move to grant renewals for the combination "Class B" liquor and Class "B" beer licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for American Legion Post 121, Bo's 'N Mine, Broz Sports Bar & Grill, Emma's Bar, Johnnies Bar, Mainstreeter Bar & Grill, Mariachi Loco, Maverick's Corner Saloon, Mel's Midtown, River Falls Copper Kettle, Moose Lodge, River Falls Golf Club, Selah Vie Bistro, Shooters Pub, and Westwind.

Morrissette had concerns about the agent from MK Corner Saloon. He talked about his disorderly conduct charge and character issues. Morrissette did not feel he was a qualified agent, and he was not in favor of renewing his license.

Motion by Morrissette to non-renew MK Corner Saloon's license. There was no second.

Alderson Gagne had a question for the agent from Shooters pub regarding the premises address. Agent Daniel Suffield explained that his bar was in an old building with different street addresses. Gagne asked if he planned on doing anything outdoors. Suffield said no and provided further explanation.

The Mayor asked for a vote on the original motion. It passed 6-1 with all voting in favor except for Morrissette.

MSC Morrissette/Watson move to grant renewals for the combination "Class A" liquor and Class "A" beer licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Devine Liquors, Dollar General, Kwik Trip and the Co-op. Unanimous.

MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to grant renewals for the "Class C" wine licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of reissuance for Kinni View Kitchen & Event Room, Steve's Pizza and Kinni Café. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2018-04 Amending Title 17-Zoning of the Municipal Code Related to Fences – Second Reading and Disposition

The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m. With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:47 p.m. and moved back into Open Session.

MS Watson/Odeen move to approve ordinance. Alderson Downing had a concern about the cost of landscaping and wondered if there was an approximate cost. The Mayor thought it would be relative to the amount of fencing being put up.

Morrissette said there was discussion in Plan Commission regarding the cost. It was not intended to be burdensome, and it is open to interpretation. Downing asked if there was a grievance process. It would go to the Plan Commission. Gagne thanked staff for its work and citizens for coming forward with feedback. Downing also thanked the Plan Commission. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Ordinance 2018-05 Amending the Official Traffic Control Map, Speed Limit on Huppert Street from Chapman Dr. to Arrow Court – Second Reading and Disposition

The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:50 p.m. With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:51 p.m. and moved back into Open Session. MSC Odeen/Morrisette move to approve ordinance. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2018-06 Creating a One-Way Alley for Riverwalk- Second Reading and Disposition

The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:51 p.m.

Eric Amundsen, Agent for Broz – had some concerns about making Riverwalk a one way. He said employees and vendors access the alley from the south. He talked about special events and wondered about access during those times. He asked why it was being changed and felt it would create a hassle for his business.

Morrisette asked if his concern was for special events or year around. Amundsen said both. He talked about ease of access for the business from the south and a concern for special events. The Mayor said this was discussed during Plan Commission meetings. He said not to worry about special events because access would be figured out. The City is working on the river corridor and making the alley more pedestrian friendly. He understood that all the businesses were talked to about this issue and were in favor. He said vendor trucks would be able to access any of the businesses. Amundsen said he was speaking from a point of view of someone who uses it on daily basis. It is a convenience factor.

The Mayor asked if staff had any comments. City Administrator Simpson said staff would be happy to provide comments upon completion of the public hearing.

Jeff Bjork, 759 River Ridge Road – talked about more car traffic for pedestrians using the walking bridge.

With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m. and moved back into Open Session. MS Morrisette/Odeen move to approve ordinance.

City Administrator Simpson said Riverwalk Mercantile is not in favor of a change as they have concerns about increased traffic. Staff has had conversations with several of the business owners both in favor and not in favor. Simpson said there is a lot more pedestrian and bicycle traffic. There are width issues on both north and south ends of Riverwalk. Simpson talked about the traffic, problems with parking, opening the sidewalk, and the one-way making it more predictable for walkers and bikers. Morrisette asked Chief Young if he could make changes to Riverwalk for special events. Young said yes.

Alderson Downing asked how many businesses were contacted. Senior Civil Engineer Crystal Raleigh has contacted all the businesses and have had a conversation with most of them. Overall, she felt most were in favor. Downing asked Chief Young if there was a safety issue and if there were a lot of accidents there. Young said no.

Alderson Bjerstedt asked why we just don't close it off to general traffic if that's what we are considering. Simpson felt we were a decade away from that. He expanded and provided further details. Bjerstedt asked if it could be undone if it doesn't work well. Simpson said yes.

Alderson Watson met with Mr. Vocovich, owner of Riverwalk Mercantile. There is a concern about the amount of traffic on the north end. He talked about using speedbumps and kids riding bikes without stopping across Riverwalk onto the bridge. He talked about doing a safety assessment in the future and improving some safety features.

Alderson Gagne seconded that. He was in favor of a heavy speed bump but could see both sides of the issue. Downing didn't feel there was a need to rush this. He agreed with Watson and thought there should be a plan for safety and a more designated pedestrian area.

Aldersperson Odeen felt the area was a mess and entering from the south is dangerous. She is in favor of this just in terms of letting pedestrians know where the traffic is coming from. People will have to drive another block but they will get used to it. She feels this will make the alley more tidy and clearer for pedestrians and bikers. Morrisette agreed with Odeen. He asked about adding speed bumps. City Engineer Wronski said there was a speed bump which lasted a month due to two bike accidents. He reminded Council there is a stop sign, a mirror, and other multiple measures in place to prevent accidents.

Morrisette felt something was needed near the bridge. There was further discussion by Council. Simpson suggested that if Council was uncomfortable with the ordinance, they weren't ready to pass it. He talked further about background and provided other information. He feels it is worth trying but doesn't feel like Council should include a bunch of contingencies. The Mayor said if things don't work, it could be changed back.

The Mayor asked for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. It passed 4-3 with Page, Odeen, Morrisette and Bjerstedt voting in favor and Watson, Gagne and Downing voting against.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: River Falls Housing Authority – 4/11/18; Plan Commission – 5/1/18→→**pulled by Gagne**; Historic Preservation Commission – 5/9/18; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 4/16/18; BID Board – 4/10/18; Library Board – 4/2/18; Utility Advisory Board – 4/16/18

Resolution No. 6267 Approving 2018 Sewer Lining Project

Resolution No. 6268 Approving Development Incentive Policy

Resolution No. 6269 Approving Agreement to Sell City Property within Sterling Ponds Development and Provide Funding for Street Construction

MSC Gagne/Bjerstedt move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

Gagne wanted to address the South Main Street item. He talked about the need for it as identified in the housing study. He supports it and looks forward to seeing it in the future. **MSC Gagne/Downing to approve minutes. Unanimous.**

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 6270 Providing for Sale of Approximately \$2,600,000 Electric System Revenue Bonds

MSC Odeen/Morrisette move to approve resolution. Unanimous. Simpson asked for a roll call vote. The vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor.

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Simpson talked about presenting gifts to the South Korean Jeju delegation and upcoming projects.

Comptroller's Report for April 2018

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of April were \$4,024,304 or 40 percent of budgeted. Revenues in May include \$173,217 in transportation aids and lottery credits from the state of Wisconsin, and \$34,497 in quarterly cable franchise fees. Expenditures for the same period were \$2,956,607 or 29 percent of budgeted, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$1,067,696.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointment to the Library Board:

Reappointment of Janet Johnson through December 2020

MSC Gagne/Odeen move to approve the Mayor's Appointment. Unanimous.

The Mayor read a proclamation for EMS Week.

MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk