



***RIVER FALLS CITY COUNCIL FISCAL PLAN #2 WORKSHOP***  
**May 22, 2018, 5 p.m.**  
**Training Room, City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, River Falls, WI 54022**

**City Council Members Present:** Mayor Dan Toland, Sean Downing, Chris Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

**City Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; Operations Director Mike Stifter; Management Analyst Keri Schreiner; Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Management Analyst Fellow Brandt Johnson; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; City Treasurer Susan Langer

**The Mayor called the workshop to order at 5:07 p.m.**

City Administrator Simpson talked about the five-year look for the Fiscal Plan. The City is planning what can be funded for the next five years. It is conservative – we want to be pleasantly surprised. Growth projects are conservative. He would like feedback from Council on whether a third fiscal plan workshop is needed.

Simpson talked about revenues and expenditures, assessed values, shared revenues, and the implementation of street light utility in 2019. Items included in expenditures are increases in wages and benefits, more staff, and street maintenance.

He talked about levy targets and about getting the library's portion of the general fund reduced to 10 percent.

Simpson talked about the annual levy increase and retiring TIDs. He explained what projects are included. The debt service levy includes Glen Park 2018-2019 construction; Police building construction in 2022 (delayed three years) for a cost of \$7.5 million resulting in a debt service amount of \$552,000 per year. The Fire/EMS building has been delayed until 2029.

The Mayor asked about delaying the Police building for 10 years. He talked about finding income to do projects. Alderperson Gagne felt it was a waste of money to delay the Police building. He didn't feel the current building would last 10 years. Alderperson Morrissette also talked about delaying the construction. It would be seven years and aligning the Police and Fire tear down at the same time in 2029.

Simpson talked about the need to do maintenance of the building and roof. Alderperson Bjerstedt asked about state funding.

Projects also included are Sterling Ponds Phase 3, Mann Valley limited funding supported by project.

Projects not included are Main Street, Division to Locust, Library building updates, Mann Valley Corporate Park except for design, and the Glen Park pool. Gagne talked about the importance of a capital campaign.

Simpson talked the funding, the general fund balance, and TIDs' impact on funding.

Simpson brought up items for Council policy discussion. Can service priorities be made when it comes to flat staffing? The plan includes implementation of street light utility. Is a delay in the public safety building acceptable? Is a zero levy for Kinni Corridor acceptable? Is a 10 percent levy target for the library acceptable?

Gagne asked about the library budget if it experienced a decrease in funding. Simpson talked about how the library was funded and noted that it will be getting an increase from Pierce County.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked about costs going up for the construction of a Police station. Cost percentages go up each year. There was discussion about a capital campaign.

Aldersperson Morrissette reminded Councilors that a street light utility is not an easy sell. He talked about it being a tough sell to the public. Morrissette talked about being able to deduct taxes and not being able to deduct fees. Simpson said it would be the approximate equivalent of raising taxes by one percent. Morrissette said 49 percent of the property owners are paying for lights but non-profits are not paying.

Simpson asked about a third workshop. The Council did not think it was needed. He asked if there is something in our assumptions that we should change? The Mayor wondered about the staffing amount as it seems small.

Aldersperson Downing felt that roads are a top priority. Aldersperson Watson said pushing Main Street out into the future is a mistake. He would like debt service to come down. We are going to have to redo Main Street at some point. Bjerstedt said we could redesign or rebuild. Watson said we may need to redesign to compete with Hudson and other towns to get businesses downtown.

Simpson asked if there was a desire to put more revenue into plan? Aldersperson Page felt it was balanced right now.

**The workshop concluded at 6:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan

Deputy Clerk