



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

**June 12, 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, Hal Watson

**Members Absent:** Michael Page

**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; Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; City Clerk Amy White; City Treasurer Susan Langer; Operations Director Mike Stifter

**Others Present:** Randy Boser, Maureen Otwell, Troy Foxen, Alejandro Castro, Riley Larson, others

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

May 22, 2018, Regular Meeting and Workshop Minutes

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills \$1,378.309.01

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

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

Update from St. Croix Valley Habitat for Humanity

Interim Executive Director Randy Boser and Board Chair Maureen Otwell were present to provide an update to Council. He talked about a revised loan agreement for the Eco Village which has worked well. Boser talked about three objectives Habitat was focusing on. They recently broke ground on a home in Hammond. He felt they are making major strides forward including ways to manage expenses and generate cash. He talked about the new board members they have added. Boser thanked the City staff for the work they did in coming up with an agreement that Habitat could work with. There were no questions from Council.

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.**

The Mayor took a roll call of agents present. Agents were present from: Bob & Steve's Stores 4 and 6, BX Moonshiners, Dick's Hometown, Family Fresh, Holiday, Lazy River Bar and Grill, River Falls Baseball Council, Shopko, St. Croix Lanes and Walgreen's.

**MSC Morrissette/Gagne move to grant renewals for the Class "A" beer license contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Bob & Steve's Stores 4 and 6. Unanimous.**

**MSC Downing/Odeen move to grant renewals Class “A” liquor and “Class A” cider only licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Holiday Station Store 8. Unanimous.**

**MS Watson/Gagne 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 Dick’s Hometown Liquor, Family Fresh Market, Shopko and Walgreen’s.**

Alderson Morrissette noted a change of agent for Family Fresh. He asked the new agent, Troy Foxen, to come to the podium to answer questions. Morrissette asked if he had taken his responsible server class, if he understood the role of an agent, and if he understood that if an alcohol violation happened while he wasn’t there, he was still responsible. Foxen answered yes to all. **With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSC Morrissette/Downing move to grant renewals for the Class “B” beer licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for the River Falls Baseball Council. Unanimous.**

**MSC Morrissette/Downing 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 Lazy River Bar and Grill, St. Croix Lanes and BX Moonshiners.**

Morrissette asked the agent from BX Moonshiners, Alejandro Castro, to come forward to answer questions. Morrissette asked about two recent violations for open after hours on successive nights. He has spoken to the Police Chief who feels the problem has been resolved but Morrissette wanted to hear Castro’s side of the story. Castro confirmed they did receive the violations and will be closing one hour prior to the closing time hour. Morrissette thanked him and wanted to get it corrected. **With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSC Watson/Morrissette move to grant renewals for the “Class C” wine licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for the River Falls Baseball Council. Unanimous.**

Request for a Combination “Class B” Liquor and Class “B” Beer License – R2K Enterprises, LLC dba Emma’s Bar- 222 S Main Street

**The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:41 p.m. With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:41 p.m. and moved back into Open Session. MS Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the combination license for R2K Enterprises, LLC dba Emma’s Bar.**

Morrissette asked agent, Riley Larson, to come forward and answer questions. Morrissette asked if he understood the role of an agent, if he understood that if an alcohol violation happened while he wasn’t there, he was still responsible, and if he had taken the responsible server class. Larson answered yes to all. Morrissette wished him luck with his new business. **With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution No. 6271 Regarding Open Container Exemption Request for Lincoln Street Between Fremont/Lewis Street Block Party

Resolution No. 6272 Awarding Bid for 2018 Mill and Overlay Program

**MSC Morrissette/Bjerstedt move to approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

**ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance 2018-07 Amending Chapter 15.12 Municipal Code Related to Electrical Contractor Licenses-First Reading

The Mayor asked if there were questions. Alderson Gagne asked if a permit was needed to do the work. Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom said yes and provided further clarification.

Ordinance 2018-08 to Amend Section 12.04.030 of the Municipal Code Related to Snow and Ice Removal-First Reading

Aldersperson Downing asked if residents could have the City shovel at their property if they were gone. City Administrator Simpson said no. Morrisette said the City is not encouraging that but suggested residents could call businesses around town for help.

Resolution No. 6273 Awarding the Sale of \$3,460,000 General Obligation Bonds for Park Project

The Mayor introduced Sean Lentz from Ehlers. Lentz provided a presentation for Council. He talked about background on the sale and the process, the City's rating of AA2, and factors that can lead to up or down grades including expansion of tax base and reserve funds. Aldersperson Morrisette asked about reserve levels. Lentz answered and provided more details.

Lentz walked the Council through the sale. There were three bids from BOK Financial, Baird, and Northland Securities with BOK being the lowest bidder. He explained how the amount of the bond had decreased. He recommended the approval of the resolution.

Downing asked about the call date. Lentz said the call date is April 1, 2025. The owner of the bonds cannot trigger an earlier date. He provided further information. **With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. MS Morrisette/Watson move to approve the resolution. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote. The resolution passed 6-0 with all voting in favor.**

Resolution No. 6274 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$2,500,000 Electric System Revenue Bonds of the City of River Falls, Pierce and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin, and Providing for the Payment of the Bonds and Other Details with Respect to the Bonds

Lentz talked about the rating for the electrical utility. It was rated A2 in 2009. Because the utility is currently debt free, it has no rating. A new rating of A1 has been assigned. Lentz provided further details. There were six bidders with Baird being the winning bidder. He explained how the bond amount had decreased and recommended approval. Morrisette asked about call date which is April 1, 2024. Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked about a prepayment penalty. Lentz said there was not one.

City Administrator Simpson said the rating increase on the electric is significant. He doesn't feel it could have been rated higher. He gave kudos to Bergstrom, Westhuis and other employees.

**MS Watson/Odeen moved to approve the resolution. The Mayor asked for a roll call vote. The resolution passed 6-0 with all voting in favor.**

**REPORTS**

Administrator's Report

Simpson said Aldersperson Page was away on a military commitment. Downing asked if Simpson could provide an update on the taxi. Simpson said one of the City's taxis was involved in an accident so we are down one until it is replaced.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**At 7:10 p.m., MS Morrisette/Downing move to recess into Closed Session per Wisconsin State Statutes for the following purposes: § 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: sale of property in Sterling Ponds, Whitetail and Mann Valley Corporate Parks."**

**Closed Session items were discussed. At 7:54 p.m., MSC Watson/Morrisette to move into Open Session. Unanimous. MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk