



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

February 26, 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 Morrisette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson, Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Police Chief Gordon Young; Development Director Amy Peterson; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Management Analysis Fellow Jason Rohloff; EMS Director Jason Stroud; Senior Civil Engineer Crystal Raleigh; Civil Engineer Zach Regnier; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Electric Superintendent Wayne Siverling; Library Director Tanya Misselt; Operations Director Mike Stifter

Others Present: Kent Johnson, Chris Blasius, others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

February 12, 2019, Meeting Minutes

MSC Gagne/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

\$8,307,900.56

MSC Watson/Page to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chris Blasius, River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism – Chris wanted to update Council on the River Falls Days Carnival for 2019. She indicated the committee explored 14 proposed sites and due to circumstance, like access to power and water, overhead electrical, impacts to businesses, they were eliminated. They have decided to discontinue the search for 2019 and focus efforts on other family friendly activities that are offered that weekend. Council member Morrisette asked if the carnival will ever come back. Chris was unsure what will be available at that time but would continue to consider it.

Kent Johnson, Hudson – he is a resident of Hudson but a member of Trout Unlimited. He wanted to commend the City of River Falls staff for their commitment to storm water and their approach to storm water management.

Strategic Plan Update

Brandt Johnson, Assistant to the City Administrator, provided a presentation with the fourth quarter update on the Strategic Plan. The strategic goals covered four areas: Connected to the Community,

Economic Vitality, Financial Sustainability, and Quality Municipal Service. Johnson reviewed the desired outcomes for items in each area and how the City has met or exceeded those outcomes.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 2019-02 – Adopting an Increase in Room Tax – Second Reading and Final Disposition

Brandt Johnson, Assistant to the City Administrator, provided a presentation on the background of room tax and what it is used for. Revenues are used to support tourism and development in support of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce. The increased revenue will allow the Chamber to provide support to additional initiatives in the community.

The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:49 p.m. With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 6:50 p.m. and moved back into Open Session. MSC Morrissette/Page to approve ordinance. Unanimous

Aldersperson Morrissette questioned a participant's late fees. Is it a true late fee and is this a problem? Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom responded it is a late fee, and at times, we do have an issue collecting. She does not see it as a problem.

Aldersperson Downing inquired as to the last increase. Johnson responded there has not been an increase in the tax since the original adoption in 2008. Adjustments have been made, such as allocations, but no increase from the five percent.

Aldersperson Gagne questioned if the allocation changes were at the legislative or City level. Johnson replied in was a combination with the most significant coming from legislative authority.

Aldersperson Watson added that additional monies collected for the City with the increase could offset some of the in-kind contribution we make to the Chamber events.

Storm Water Permit – 2018 Annual Report Resolution No. 6348 Resolution Authorizing Content of 2018 Annual Report to Discharge Water

Zach Regnier, Civil Engineer, provided a presentation detailing the storm water annual report and how the City meets the requirements to obtain the Municipal Separate Storm Water Sewer System (MS4) General Permit.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked Crystal Raleigh, Senior Civil Engineer, to come forward to talk about a question he posed to her earlier. She provided statistics from the 2012 TMND report. Morrissette was impressed with the low rate of phosphorus output River Falls storm water contributes. Adding, we do great work and are good stewards of the river.

Aldersperson Watson thanked City staff for their ongoing work and commitment to storm water.

Aldersperson Gagne inquired how one could "Adopt a Pond" and what we expect people to do. Regnier indicated there are several ponds still available and to contact the City if interested. The City does not expect anyone to physically go into the pond - simply remove trash build up around the pond. Information is also available on the City's website.

The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m. With no one wanting to speak, he closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m. and moved back into Open Session. MSC Odeen/Downing to approve ordinance. Unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

River Falls Library Board – 1/7/19; River Falls Housing Authority – 1/9/19;
Powerful Choices – 01/09/19; Plan Commission – 11/06/18 →→ *Pulled by Gagne*
Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 01/16/19; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Annual Meeting – 11/15/18; Historic Preservation Commission – 1/9/19

Resolution No. 6349 Resolution Adopting Legislative Priorities for 2019

Resolution No. 6350 Resolution Referring Vacation of Right-of-Way in Blocks 78 and 79 of NN & OS Powell's Addition of the City of River Falls to the Plan Commission for Report and Recommendation

Resolution No. 6351 Resolution Awarding Bids for Glen Park Site Improvements

Resolution No. 6352 Resolution Approving Electric Utility Work – UWRF Substation Rebuild Project

MSC Watson/Bjerstedt approve Consent Agenda excluding 5d pulled by Gagne. Unanimous.

Plan Commission Meeting Minutes

Gagne needed clarification on why the minutes were delayed. City Administrator Simpson explained Council's approval of Board/Commission minutes come after the Board/Commission approve the minutes. Plan Commission recently held their subsequent meeting to the November 6, 2018, meeting.

MSC Gagne/Bjerstedt approve 5d-Plan Commission Minutes of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2019-03 – Adopting the Wisconsin Municipal Records Schedule – First Reading

No comment.

Ordinance 2019-04 - Amending Section 10.12.030 of the Official Parking Control Map (No Parking Zone Between 500 Crescent Street and 508 Crescent) – First Reading

Morrisette needed clarification. He thought we already dealt with this location already. Mayor Toland indicated this is a different area.

Ordinance 2019-05 – Amending Section 8.40.050 of the Municipal Code Related to Weeds and Noxious Growth-First Reading

No comment.

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson highlighted the areas of the administrator's report noting the April election and continued snow removal effort.

Gagne recommended looking at the corner of 6th and Cemetery Road. This intersection is becoming dangerous due to the high level of snow.

Comptroller's Report

Comptroller Odeen read the report: General Fund revenues through the end of January were \$495,274 and include the January property tax settlement and 1st quarter transportation aids. Expenditures for the same period were \$451,003 or four percent of budgeted, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$44,271.

MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy White, City Clerk