



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

**March 14, 2023**

Mayor Dan Toland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**City Council Members Present:** Mayor Dan Toland, Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow (virtual), Sean Downing, Diane Odeen

**Members Absent:** Alyssa Mueller, Todd Bjerstedt, Scott Morrisette

**Staff Present:** Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jonathan Thoen; Police Chief Gordon Young; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Assistant to the City Administrator Jennifer Smith; Management Analyst Fellow Ellen Massey; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Police Services Specialist Supervisor Ailene Splittgerber; Fire Chief Steven Cash; Officer Derek Hokkanen, other police staff

**Others:** Gary Donath, others

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 28, 2023, Workshop and Regular Minutes

**MSC Odeen/Bjork move to approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$2,429,842.62

**MSC Downing/Bjork move to approve bills. Unanimous.**

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

There was none.

**Officer of the Year Presentation**

Officer Derek Hokkanen was presented with the 2022 Officer of the Year award. Gary Donath, Police and Fire Commission, read a statement about Officer Hokkanen. Hokkanen accepted the award saying it was an honor, and he appreciated it. Police Chief Young expressed his appreciation and thanked the mayor and council for their support.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ordinance 2023-03 - An update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, to replace the 2005 Comprehensive Plan – First Reading

**At 6:37 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing. With no public comments, the mayor closed the public hearing and moved into Open Session and asked if council had questions.**

Aldersperson Downing said there was a lot of good work that went into the comp plan. He was curious about if there would be a vision statement from the library. He knows departments work differently and the library is unique in that sense. They are in the middle of doing a master plan. It would be good to capture what their board's community vision is and all the public input they have collected and reflect that in our comprehensive plan if possible. He asked Assistant City Administrator Stroud if that was something we can do.

Stroud understood his question to be if a vision statement from the library could be included in the comprehensive plan. He noted the community development director is here and hears your question. He can talk with her after. He believes the library stakeholder input has been incorporated throughout the engagement process. He isn't sure the comprehensive plan blueprint allows itself to incorporate vision statements from the many different stakeholder organizations and departments. We can again verify that the library's future and importance in the community is incorporated into comprehensive plan.

Downing thanked Stroud. He is on the library board and has heard different opinions of board members saying they didn't feel they were included. It wouldn't take much to get a vision statement that is more comprehensive to what they are seeing and in the middle of. He knows it's difficult because they are in the middle of it.

Aldersperson Odeen responded saying she has reviewed the comprehensive plan periodically through the last 18 months and believes the library's concerns are addressed in the comprehensive plan which is mostly a document about future growth and land use and a 60,000' vision for the city. She would have a problem if we preferred the library over other city departments by focusing on them. She is sure their planning documents will come before council. She'd love to hear more about them but is not sure the comprehensive plan is the ideal place for that.

Downing responded saying it would be a mistake not to have more input from the board. He doesn't like the walls that separate the buildings and thinks it is important to have a shared team approach.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolution No. 6753 - Referring a Request for Rezoning in the Extraterritorial Zoning Area to the Extraterritorial Zoning Committee (PID 022010310100 in the Town of River Falls)

Resolution No. 6754 - Referring an Annexation Petition to the Plan Commission for the properties at 99 Highway 35 and 101 Highway 35

**MSC Odeen/Downing moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Aldersperson Bjork asked Mr. Rodewald and Ms. Smith had anything to share. They did not.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Administrator's Report

Stroud shared information about signing up for recreation programs, absentee voting, and library programs.

Aldersperson Bjork said Glen Park will be celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer.

Aldersperson Carow thanked Stroud for the report. He thanked city staff for their work in keeping clean city streets. He congratulated the Officer of the Year. He talked about comprehensive plan and asked people to read the report to learn more.

**MSC Odeen/Downing move to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk