



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

**April 11, 2023**

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

**City Council Members Present:** Mayor Dan Toland, Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow, Sean Downing, Alyssa Mueller, Todd Bjerstedt, Scott Morrisette, Diane Odeen

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jonathan Thoen; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Assistant to the City Administrator Jennifer Smith; Fire Chief Steven Cash; Assistant Director of Community Development Emily Shively; Community Services Director/City Clerk Amy White; Library Director Tanya Misselt; City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Economic Development Manager Keri Schreiner; Police Chief Gordon Young

**Others:** Russ Korpela, Michael Kranz, Krista Cleary, Adam Tripp, Kate Fisher, Alejandro Castro, Temma Meyers, others

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 28, 2023, Regular Minutes

**MSC Morrisette/Carow move to approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$2,140,212.46

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

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

Russ Korpela, Executive Director of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce – came to talk about his request for city assistance for 2023 events. He talked about the upcoming bluegrass festival which is almost sold out. Korpela said the request is almost the same as in past years. He talked about one change for River Falls Days and talked about Bacon Bash. He thanked the city for its help with the events.

Michael Kranz, 623 Oak Knoll Avenue – had a list of several concerns which he wanted to air before council involving the university. He wants to make Hillcrest and Oak Knoll no parking. He talked about items being stolen from his yard, people smoking near his house, people parking on the street with loud music playing, closing Cascade to traffic and having the university building parking there, loud noise from the university stadium and more.

Krista Cleary, W10577 880<sup>th</sup> Avenue – she is interested in the annexation. She talked about an increase in traffic on M and it being a danger to pedestrians.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ordinance 2023-04 – Annexation of land and right-of-way in the Town of Troy to the City of River Falls (Parcel Identification Numbers (PIDS) 040113010000 and 040113295025 at County Highway U and County Highway M); and applying a Zoning Classification of A – Agriculture District – Second Reading and Disposition

**At 6:48 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing and asked for comments. As there were no comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:49 p.m. for disposition. MSC Downing/Bjork move to approve ordinance. Unanimous.**

Ordinance 2023-05 – Annexation of the western portion of land and right-of-way in the Town of Troy to the City of River Falls (Parcel Information Number (PID) 040113295101 on County Highway M); and applying a Zoning Classification of R-3 Multifamily (High Density) Residence District to the westernmost portion and C – Conservancy District to the eastern portion of the annexation area – Second Reading and Disposition

**At 6:49 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing and asked for comments. As there were no comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:50 p.m. for disposition. MSC Morrissette/Bjerstedt move to approve ordinance. Unanimous.**

Ordinance 2023-06 - Amending the Extraterritorial Zoning Map to Rezone a Parcel from A-1 Exclusive Agriculture to A Agriculture (PID 022010310100) – First Reading

**At 6:50 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing and asked for comments.**

Adam Tripp and Kate Fisher, 208 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Hudson – they came as the future owners of this property. They wanted to be available in case there were questions.

**As there were no questions, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:52 p.m. There were no questions from the council.**

Ordinance 2023-07 – Amending Section 8.40.040 – Weeds and Noxious Growth – First Reading

**At 6:52 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing and asked for comments. As there were no comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:52 p.m. for question. There were none.**

Request for Combination “Class B” Liquor and Class “B” Beer License for Castro Corporation dba Burrito X.Com, 106 N. Main Street, River Falls, WI

**At 6:52 p.m., Mayor Toland moved into a public hearing and asked for comments.**

Alejandro Castro, 4312 Creso Court, Eau Claire – he is the owner and manager. He wanted to be available for questions.

**As there were no comments, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:54 p.m. for question. There were none. MS Morrissette/Bjork move to approve the license request.**

Aldersperson Morrissette had concerns. He asked Castro if he had his responsible server’s certificate, if he understood the role of an agent, and he understood if a violation occurs and he is not present, he is still responsible. Castro answered yes to all.

Morrissette was concerned about the situation at the business. A couple of weeks ago, there was someone else who wanted to take over as agent. He understood that city staff is having a difficult time communicating with him and receiving calls back. Morrissette asked Castro if he would give his cell phone number to staff so they can contact him. Castro said yes, he has been talking with Amy and Jackie.

Morrissette is concerned that past plumbing repairs were made without a permit and said that is not a positive thing for tonight. His biggest concern is that it appears Castro would be a straw agent – an agent in name only. Morrissette asked how much time can council expect you to be here so there is someone instilling the culture and approach to business that council expects? Castro said he would be managing the store and would be here four days a week. Morrissette asked further clarifying questions. He said there is a lot of turbulence with all the recent events. Morrissette asked if the

building is for sale. Castro said he owns the building. He said it was for sale because they weren't sure what was going to happen. Now he is here to open a restaurant. Morrissette wants him to be successful, but he is struggling with the history up to this point. He asked for other councilors' thoughts.

Aldersperson Downing would like to see an improvement with communications with the city. He asked the city attorney if council could request if communications didn't improve the ability to change an agent later. Attorney Gierhart said that council could not make this requirement; it would be up to the existing agent to make that request.

Downing asked for clarification on the 'arcade' – does it imply video games? Castro said there would be different types of video games, a pool table, and darts. He provided information about his concept.

Aldersperson Bjork was going to be voting yes. He is looking forward to more good food in town.

**With no other comments, the mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed with all voting in favor.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolution No. 6767 - Approving Request for City Assistance for River Falls Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau for 2023 Events

Resolution No. 6768 - Approving the 2023 Wisconsin DNR Urban Nonpoint Source and Stormwater Management Program Planning Grant Application

Resolution No. 6769 - Supporting 2023-2024 Legislative Priorities

Change of Agent – Kwik Trip Store #301 → → ***pulled by Morrissette***

**MSC Odeen/Bjerstedt moved to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Change of Agent – Kwik Trip Store #301

Morrissette asked new agent Temma Meyers to come forward for questions. Morrissette asked Meyers if she possessed her responsible server's certificate, if she understood the role of an agent, and if an alcohol related violation occurs, it is her responsibility. Meyers answered yes to all.

**MSC Morrissette/Bjerstedt move to approve change of agent. Unanimous.**

### **REPORTS:**

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson provided spring election statistics and upcoming meeting/event information.

Aldersperson Bjork made an announcement about Discover the Night which has to do with light pollution.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointments

Bid Board - Reappointment of Mike Miller through December 2025

Board Of Appeals - Reappointment of Jeanette Leonard through October 2025

Library Board - Reappointment of Rebecca Ferguson through July 2026

Library Board - Reappointment of Kari Heinselmann through July 2026

River Falls Housing Authority - Reappointment of Jacqueline Niccum through December 2027

Utility Advisory Board - Reappointment of Adam Gierl through May 2026

**MSC Morrissette/Bjerstedt move to the mayor's appointments. Unanimous.**

Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Toland read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

**MSC Bjerstedt/Morrisette move to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk