



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

**June 25, 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 Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; Operations Director Mike Stifter; Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Reference and Technology Librarian Kim Kiiskinen; Library Director Tanya Misselt; Communications Manager Mary Zimmermann; Senior Engineer Crystal Raleigh; City Engineer Reid Wronski; EMS Director Jason Stroud; City Clerk Amy White; Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth; other EMS staff

**Others Present:** Joyce Breen, Chelsea Leighton, Roman Dusek, Trevor Rothstein, Wesley Moss, Brian Lee, Melissa Abdouch, Daniel Suffield, others

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

June 11, 2019, Regular and Closed Session Minutes

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills \$1,488,255.92

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

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

There were no public comments.

**Communications Report**

Communications Manager Mary Zimmermann provided a presentation to Council on City communications. She talked about 'Visions and Values' which is a part of the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. Zimmermann talked about the City's Facebook pages which have 15,541 likes. She spoke on social media and how information is distributed, consistent communications, and awards the City has won. There were no questions from the Council.

**Library Board Report**

Library Board President Joyce Breen introduced the report. An evaluation was done for the past year after new Library Director Tanya Misselt was hired. The evaluation was extremely positive. Breen mentioned cuts to the library budget. She also said board members are working to better learn about their roles. Breen introduced Library Director Misselt.

Misselt greeted and thanked Council for its generous support of the library. She talked about the children's museum that Gallery Coordinator Cole Zrostlik created this past winter. It was popular and averaged 120

visitors per day. Zrostlik applied for a \$10,000 grant – which was received – to buy equipment for an annual children’s play space during the winter.

Misselt addressed the library’s reorganization. She talked to staff about reorganizing and getting their input and ideas. She talked about position and duty updates.

Misselt talked about the investment in new circulation technology. She spoke about maintaining what they have currently versus purchasing RFID software. Misselt said the annual projected cost of going to the new automation is slightly less. The system would also save staff time. Misselt talked further about staffing. She said the Library Board would be willing to fund the circulation technology. She showed a video which showed the equipment and how it operated.

Aldersperson Gagne asked if the library had space for the conveyor belt system. Misselt said yes. The Mayor sat on the board last winter and said it was a pleasure watching the process. He said it would save time and money, and he appreciated it. There were no other questions.

**The Mayor announced that an Operator License Appeal which was originally on the agenda was pulled prior to the meeting.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Annual Liquor license and Beer License Renewals – Hearing and Disposition by motion for each License Class  
**At 7:01 p.m., the Mayor closed the Council meeting and moved into a public hearing.** The Mayor took a roll call vote of agents. Present were: Wesley Moss, Dollar General; Chelsea Leighton, Kinni Café; Roman Dusek, River Falls Baseball Council; Trevor Rothstein, St. Croix Lanes; and Brian Lee, Walgreens. **At 7:02 p.m., with no questions, the Mayor moved back into Open Session.**

Aldersperson Morrissette had questions for the new agents. Separately Morrissette asked Trevor Rothstein, Roman Dusek, and Wesley Moss if they currently possessed a responsible server’s license, if they understood the role of an agent, and if they understand that if there was an alcohol infraction in their absence, they are still responsible. All answered yes to all the questions.

**MSC Watson/Page move to grant renewal for Combination “Class A” Liquor and Class “A” Beer Licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Dollar General and Walgreens. Unanimous.**

**MSC Morrissette/Downing move to grant renewal for Class “B” Beer Licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Kinni Café and River Falls Baseball Council. Unanimous.**

**MSC Morrissette/Page move to grant renewal for Combination “Class B” Liquor and Class “B” Beer Licenses contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for St. Croix Lanes. Unanimous.**

**MSC Watson/Bjerstedt move to grant renewal for “Class C” wine license contingent that all licensing requirements are met at the time of issuance for Kinni Café and River Falls Baseball Council. Unanimous.**

Ordinance 2019-08 Amending the Official traffic Control Map (Eliminate Stop Signs on Golf View Drive at Cudd Ave) – Second Reading and Disposition

**At 7:06 p.m., the Mayor closed the Council meeting and moved into a public hearing. At 7:06 p.m. with no one wishing to speak, the Mayor moved back into Open Session.**

**MS Gagne/Downing move to approve ordinance.** Aldersperson Gagne asked Police Chief Young if public safety had looked at the traffic flow going down Golf View from east to west and the risks of someone possibly

sliding into a home during the winter. Chief Young said yes, it was reviewed, and they are comfortable with the recommendation. Gagne was in favor. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. It passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

EMS Advisory Board – 4/1/19; Historic Preservation Commission – 5/8/19; BID Board – 5/14/19; Utility Advisory Board – 5/20/19; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 5/15/19; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 4/18/19, 4/25/19, 5/2/19; POWERful Choices Committee Meeting – 5/9/19

Resolution Regarding the 2018 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)→→***Pulled by Watson***

Resolution No. 6374 for the Acceptance of Public Improvements in Sterling Ponds 1st Addition

Resolution Regarding Utility Easement Release for Shopko Northside 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition→→***Pulled by Morrissette***  
**MSC Odeen/Bjerstedt move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6375 - Regarding the 2018 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR)

Aldersperson Watson asked Utility Director Westhuis for background on biochemical oxygen demand that was above the range in this report and where we are heading in terms of engineering to resolve it.

Utility Director Westhuis introduced Water/Wastewater Superintendent Ron Groth to explain the influent loading and low oxygen and how we are resolving the issue. Groth talked about the original 1979 design of the plant. It has outperformed expectations and 90 percent of the time, we only use one oxidation ditch. In 2017, we started to look at this issue. Groth said Strand Engineering was contracted to review the different options to improve aeration. They are in the last phases of design for a new aeration system. We will get rid of the old rotators and go with a diffused aeration grid on the bottom of each ditch. He thought construction could begin in June 2020.

Watson asked if the effluent was within accepted tolerances. Groth said yes; we are at less than a 1/3 of our effluent limits. Groth talked about the new 20-year design. There were no other questions. **MSC Watson/Page move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6376 - Regarding Utility Easement Release for Shopko Northside 2<sup>nd</sup> Addition

Aldersperson Morrissette said during the Utility Advisory Board meeting, he asked if the City would be getting a new CSM for this property and found out that we were not. He wanted to go on record that when we release easements, we should get a new CSM platted.

**MS Morrissette/Downing move to approve resolution.** Gagne asked what a CSM was. Westhuis said it is a certified survey map. It is usually done with a professional engineer and is signed and recorded. City Administrator Scot Simpson clarified that it is the Shopko Northside Addition and not the Shopko property. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution No. 6377 - Requesting Open Container Exemption – Special Event Application Elm Street Businesses

Gagne asked for a point of clarification. He asked about security and barriers. He wanted to make sure there is responsible serving and that people aren't wandering outside the barriers down the street with alcohol.

Daniel Suffield, the owner of Shooters, said he would be the only licensed establishment serving alcohol in the area. He explained where the area was and where barricades would be located. Suffield would be roving the area with security people posted at different locations.

**MS Gagne/Page move to approve resolution.** Morrissette wanted clarification. The Mayor said the Police had already approved the street closure. The resolution would approve or deny the open container request. Watson asked for clarification on the motion. Gagne said he moved for approval on the open container. Page seconded. The Mayor asked for questions or comments. Watson was concerned about how this grows over time. How widespread does this become with open containers during the middle of the day?

Alderson Odeen also shared the concern. She does feel it can be run well but is concerned as we already have a lot of open container variances over the year. She is concerned that other businesses will want the same. It gives her pause.

Melissa Abdouch, from Mei Mei's Cookies, said they are viewing it as a 'patio setting' for Shooters rather than a block party. She talked about other instances with patios and fencing them in for events.

Gagne was a proponent on making sure when establishments have patios that there is someone licensed on-duty who is maintaining a visual and barricades in place, so people can't come and go.

Suffield said they are trying to create a kid friendly environment. They talked about the events that will be offered. He talked about an adult bean bag tournament from 3-6 p.m. and allowing people to have alcohol in an authorized cup.

Gagne asked about security being lax for some of the open container variances. Suffield affirmed that he would have staff in place for this event.

Morrissette said the request was for 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. and asked if Suffield wants it for that time or 3-6 p.m. Suffield said 3-6 p.m. **MS Odeen/Morrissette to amend resolution for the request to be from 3-6 p.m.** Watson asked if the amendment only refers to the open container. The answer was yes.

Morrissette doesn't expect a problem with the event but is concerned about Police support. He also has concerns about subsequent years. Morrissette asked if there would be another request next year. Suffield said yes, if there wasn't a kid's carnival. The Mayor didn't understand why there was a need for an open container if this is a family friendly event. Suffield reiterated the request was for 3-6 p.m.

Gagne felt there were a ton of events that allow open container. He felt it was in line with other requests. The Mayor said not all the events are advertised as family friendly. Abdouch provided further clarification on events and times.

**Gagne called the question.** City Administrator Simpson felt some clarification was needed. Simpson said motioner was Council member Gagne and seconder was Council member Page. Simpson asked if Council member Page accepted the amendment. Page answered, "I do." Simpson asked if Gagne accepted the amendment. He said he did, and he also called the question. Gagne asked for a vote.

**The Mayor said if no one had any other questions, he would ask for a vote on the call to question. All voted in favor except for Downing.**

**The Mayor asked for a vote on the resolution as amended 3-6 p.m. for open containers. All voted in favor.**

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Administrator's Report

Simpson provided upcoming event information. Gagne thanked everyone who came to the June 20 Cookout Conversation.

##### Comptroller's Report for May 2019

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of May were \$4,535,882. Revenues in the month of May include \$228,044 for Rural Fire Association and \$106,951 for School Liaison

Officer (School District pays for 50 percent of cost). Expenditures for the same period were \$3,781,080 or 35 percent of expenses, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$754,802.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointment

**MSC Gagne/Odeen move to reappoint Joyce Breen to the Library Board through July 2022. Unanimous.**

**MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk