



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

**September 10, 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; Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; City Engineer Crystal Raleigh; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; Project Manager/Engineer Jason Raverty; Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth; City Clerk Amy White

**Others Present:** Sal Salmonsson; Chris Amundsen; Jena Beranek; Girl Scouts Jenna, Clare, Addy, Emily, Josie, Maddie, Grace, Payton, Emily; Girl Scout Troup Leaders Jeanette and Brittany; others

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

August 27, 2019, Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills \$2,385,425.02

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

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

Sal Salmonsson, 1819 Rodao Drive – she has safety concerns about her neighbor’s concession stand which is left parked on the street for long periods of time. She is especially concerned for the children as the stand is large and obstructs the view. Salmonsson talked about the large propane tank that was attached to the stand while it was parked in the street this past weekend. The Police have been called. Salmonsson asked the City Council for its help to create a safe environment free of commercial equipment – whether that means an ordinance with size and weight restrictions for equipment parked on streets or an alternate night parking. She thanked the Council.

Chris Amundsen, Girl Scouts River Valleys – he said the Girl Scouts will be receiving a proclamation for Girl Scout Spirit Week next week. The energy provided in the front rows are from Girl Scouts, the next leaders in the community and country. It is a pleasure to be here and have the Council recognize them with a proclamation. Amundsen provided statistics on U.S. leaders who were past girl scouts.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ordinance 2019-09 to Rezone and Amend Future Land Use Map for 1520-1570 Cemetery Road – Second Reading and Disposition

**At 6:35 p.m., the Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing.**

Steve Leitch, N8259 945<sup>th</sup> Street – is a town resident. He had concerns about potential access to the property. Leitch feels it raises a couple of concerns with the residential area and the high school. He talked about a shortcut road that is a favorite of the high schoolers and he is concerned about it. Leitch spoke about controlling access to avoid the through traffic.

Development Services Director Amy Peterson said that one public comment was received since the first reading. The caller was concerned about the traffic and the closeness of the access to the roundabout.

**At 6:38 p.m., with no other comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing and moved into Open Session. MS Morrissette/Page move to approve ordinance. The Mayor asked for comments.**

Aldersperson Gagne has had a couple of people contact him directly. There is no convenience store between Ellsworth and Hudson. Gagne thinks it will be a huge benefit for commuters and will bring money into the community. He hasn't heard anything negative directly except at a Council meeting. He thinks it would be a great addition.

Aldersperson Watson has a couple of concerns. One is the closeness of the roundabout. He asked about a business like that being at Cascade and Hwy. 29. He asked if other Councilors have been thinking about this.

Aldersperson Odeen thinks the land at Hwy. 29 and Cascade is owned by the state for future road use. Odeen asked City Engineer Crystal Raleigh if she could share if the City has influence in access to the site.

Raleigh said that Kwik Trip is doing its own traffic study to analyze access in and around the site. Until staff has a chance to review the study, she can't provide more information. Odeen asked if it would come before the Council. Raleigh said yes. Gagne asked if the state would be looking at it. Raleigh said no, the state's portion of the highway ends before the driveway.

Aldersperson Morrissette reminded Council that the item before them is rezoning as the discussion had moved off-topic.

Watson commented that the Comprehensive Plan hasn't been done in over a decade, so a lot of rezoning is being done at the Plan Commission and Council in order to get the future land use map on the Comprehensive Plan in line with what someone wants to do with their land. He wonders why a Comprehensive Plan was done if the City isn't going to follow it. He doesn't like going back and changing land use. Watson was on the Plan Commission when the Comprehensive Plan was done. He thinks it is a good document, and we should pay more attention to it.

**The no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote on the motion. All voted in favor except for Watson who voted against.**

Request for Class "B" Beer License and "Class C" Wine License – Jena Beranek dba Smokey Treats, 127 N. Main Street

**At 6:43 p.m., the Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing. At 6:44 p.m., with no comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing and moved into Open Session. MS Morrissette/Page move to approve license.**

Morrissette asked Agent Jena Beranek if she understood the role of an applicant; if she understands that if she wasn't present and an alcohol violation occurred, she was responsible; and has she taken the responsible servers license. Beranek answered yes to all. **The no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote on the motion. All voted in favor.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution No. 6396 - Approving Contract for Glen Park Pool Liner Replacement Project→→*pulled by Downing*

Aldersperson Downing felt it gives the City an opportunity to get a community block grant along with other grants and have a pool plan in place. **MS Downing/Morrisette move to approve resolution. The Mayor asked for comments.**

Gagne talked about getting a plan in place for future pool replacement. He was in favor of the resolution. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote on the motion. All voted in favor.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance No. 2019-10 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5.08.140 Operator’s license – First Reading  
There were no comments.

**REPORTS:**

Administrator’s Report

Simpson provided updates.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor’s Appointments

**MSC Morrisette/Downing move to reappoint Ruth Kuss to the Library Board through July 2022 and appointment of Wayne Roen to the Library Board through July 2022. Unanimous.**

Girl Scouts Spirit Week Proclamation

The Mayor announced that Aldersperson Odeen would read the proclamation. He asked the Girl Scouts if they wanted to introduce themselves. Each Girl Scout introduced herself at the podium. Chris Amundson recognized Girl Scout Troop Leaders Jeanette and Brittany. Amundson provided information on getting involved in Girl Scouts.

Aldersperson Odeen asked for a point of privilege. She asked for a show of hands for adults that were Girl Scouts or those who had daughters who were Girl Scouts. Odeen then read the proclamation.

National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month Proclamation

Aldersperson Watson read the proclamation.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**At 6:55 p.m., MS Downing/Watson moved 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: 1347 and 1369 E. Division Street.” **The roll call vote to recess into Closed Session was unanimous.**

**RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION:**

**MSC Watson/Downing move to return to Open Session at 7:08 p.m. Unanimous.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk