



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

September 24, 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; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; City Clerk Amy White; Fire Chief Scott Nelson; Firefighter Neil Engel; SCADA Engineer Greg Dietsche; Management Analyst Dennis Dadashev; EMS Director Jason Stroud; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; Operations Director Mike Stifter

Others Present: Joleen Larson; others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 10, 2019, Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes

MSC Watson/Bjerstedt approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills \$1,195,969.49

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no public comments.

Report from the Fire Department

Fire Chief Nelson introduced Neil Engel. Engel, who is Chair of the Truck Purchase Committee, provided a report on the acquisition process for purchasing a fire engine. It is a seven-step process beginning with forming a committee that defines the mission. The committee then identifies desired capabilities of the equipment using a department-wide questionnaire that provides feedback. Once feedback is received, potential suppliers are determined. Specifications for the engine are created followed by a request for bids. Once proposals are received, a lengthy bid evaluation process ensues to determine that bidders are conforming to the desired specifications. After the department finalizes its recommendation, it is forwarded to the City Council for approval.

Engel talked specifically about the fire engine that is on the agenda providing details including drawings. Engel stood for questions.

Aldersperson Downing appreciated the amount of time spent on the process. He asked if there was a warranty comparison. Engel said yes, both warranties were compared in sections.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked if we currently have equipment from this company. Engel said yes, the department's engine and ladder.

An audience member asked a question, which the Mayor allowed, regarding capabilities. Engel provided an answer.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about the equipment replacement plan. Engel said the truck that is being replaced is 31 years old. NFPA has guidelines for vehicle replacement.

Engel invited the public to the Fire Department's Open House.

2019 Citizen Survey Results Report

Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson provided a report on the Citizens Survey results. In June, 1,700 surveys were distributed by National Research Center (NRC), and 477 responses were returned. An online survey was also posted on the City's website. Johnson talked about the five reports that were generated from the survey. He talked about the community livability report which showed that residents identified safety, economy, and national environment as priorities in the next two years. Johnson shared other highlights of the survey and talked about areas which could be improved such as the need for more affordable housing. He stood for questions.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked about the affordable housing question and residents' support of increasing density housing in the City. He asked we got feedback on the housing type. Johnson said no.

Aldersperson Gagne talked about the need for reviewing public services with higher density housing.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance No. 2019-10 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 5.08.140 Operator's license – Second Reading and Disposition

At 6:54 p.m., the Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing and asked for public comment. At 6:55 p.m., with no comments, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing and moved into Open Session. MS Morrissette/Gagne move to approve ordinance. The Mayor asked for comments.

Bjerstedt asked how we will know if the state statutes have been changed. City Administrator Simpson said changes are typically tracked by Municipal Attorneys and Municipal Clerks. There is always activity but not always changes. Anything involving alcohol usually has a lot of attention. Staff would make you aware of anything that you need to know.

Downing asked if it allowed for an appeals process. City Attorney Gustafson said there is a requirement in the statute if you deny or revoke a license, an appeals process is offered to the person that is denied.

Aldersperson Watson asked if we are adopting the language of the state statute into our ordinance. Gustafson said as he read it, it changed the existing ordinance to refer to the statutes and not to incorporate the language into the ordinance. Simpson said we would be using the guidelines under state statutes instead of referring a separate City Council document.

Gagne felt it was a state issue. He talked about fair employment practices. He supported this.

The no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote on the motion. All voted in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

- Utility Advisory Board – 8/10/19; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility – 7/18/19;
- River Falls Housing Authority – 8/14/19; Plan Commission – 8/6/10; Historic Preservation Commission – 8/14/19; Police & Fire Commission – 3/6/19

Resolution No. 6397 - Approving Contract for Revaluation and Assessment Services

Resolution No. 6398 - Approving an Amendment to the Historic Preservation Plan

Resolution No. 6399 - Repealing Resolution No. 3804 – Guidelines for Operator License Review

MSC Morrissette/Downing move to approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2019-11 – an Ordinance to Rezone and Amend Future Land Use Map for 1300 S. Main Street – First Reading

Downing asked how the neighborhood feels about this. Gagne received a ton of complaints about the old hotel before it was demolished. After it was torn down, the community wondered when something would be done. He said generally everyone was in favor of moving forward. Downing was happy about Westcap's involvement.

Ordinance 2019-12 – an Ordinance to Rezone and Amend the Future Land Use Map for 805 E. Division Street (Bakken Young) – First Reading

There were no questions.

Preliminary No. 6400 - Resolution Declaring Intent to Exercise Special Assessment Police Powers under Section 66.0703 Wisconsin Statutes for the Benefit of the River Falls Business Improvement District

Joleen Larson, President of the BID Board, provided a presentation. She thanked the Council its support and help and also City staff, Sam, Amy, and Zach, for their help.

The board's task is to be good stewards of the monies they receive. She talked about the budget and expenses. They started in 1989 and have put almost \$1 million back into downtown River Falls. They sponsor Music in the Park and provide the hanging baskets.

Larson explained where the BID District is. The businesses are assessed and that is how they get their money. She talked about assessments – they are based upon value. Larson talked about other events including the Riverdazzle. The BID Board provided money for wayfinding and façade grants. Projects done this year include Dollar General, St. Croix Gas, the dance project, the Nutty Squirrel, and the hotel's new paint job.

Larson said the membership was surveyed. Owners were encouraged to take the survey. Twenty responses were received. There were no negative responses and 78 percent were extremely satisfied. She talked about some of the questions and responses. Larson will get copies of the survey to the City Council.

Morrissette asked about the number of affected properties. Larson said 100 building owners pay the assessment. Morrissette asked about the survey.

Gagne asked if everyone received the survey. Larson said yes and explained personalized touches on the survey. She talked about City staff being good about referring new businesses to the BID Board.

Downing asked about trends from other municipalities. Larson offered to find some information.

MSC Morrissette/Page move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6401 Approving Replacement Fire Engine

MS Watson/Page move to approve resolution.

Bjerstedt asked about timing of the truck. Fire Chief Nelson said it was 300 days but dependent upon purchase date. He thinks September 2020.

Morrissette asked about existing equipment transferring to the new truck. Nelson said that is too premature to know. Money is set aside for 'loose equipment'. Morrissette had further questions.

Watson asked if extrication equipment would be put on this truck. Nelson said yes. He talked about changes in technology.

Gagne asked about an overlay between trucks. Nelson said the old truck would be kept for a month. Simpson talked about doing a fleet analysis. He talked further about trucks being out of service and having backups. Nelson talked about the replacement schedule. Safety is our main concern. We have settled on 30 years.

Watson asked if the old truck will be sold. Nelson was not sure. Watson noted the truck bid came in \$22,000 less than the budgeted amount.

With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. It passed unanimously.

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

Simpson provided updates. Downing asked where the Citizen Survey could be found on the website.

Comptroller's Report for August 2019

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of August were \$8,073,156 or 74 percent of budgeted revenues. Revenues in August include \$1,998,689 of final tax settlement. Expenditures for the same period were \$6,342,675 or 58 percent of expense, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$1,730,481.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointments

MSC Downing/Watson move to appoint Kari Heinselmann to the Library Board through July 2020.

Unanimous.

MSC Bjerstedt/Watson move to adjourn at 7:33 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk