



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

**October 27, 2020**

Mayor Dan Toland called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in a virtual meeting format due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The City Council Chambers was open for public to attend.

**City Council Members Present:** Todd Bjerstedt, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Ben Plunkett, Hal Watson

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; IT Specialist Jon Smits; Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; Community Development Director Amy Peterson, others

**Others Present:** Tony Steiner

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 13, 2020, Meeting Minutes

**MS Morrissette/Odeen move to approve minutes. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$905,360.39

**MS Bjerstedt/Downing move to approve bills subject to the Comptroller. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

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

There were no public comments.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 08/20/2020; POWERful Choices Committee Meeting – 03/12/2020; UAB Minutes – 09/21/2020; Plan Commission - 9/1/2020; Board of Appeals - 1/22/2020; River Falls Housing Authority – 8/12/20, 9/23/20; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 9/16/20

Resolution No. 6523 - Accepting the Public Improvements for the Depot and City Station Developments

Resolution No. 6524 - Authorizing Application for River Planning Grant to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

**MS Morrissette/Watson move to approve the Consent Agenda. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance 2020-10 Repealing and Replacing Chapter 17.120 Floodplain Protection Regulations of the Municipal Code-First Reading

There were no questions.

Ordinance 2020-11 - An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 2.20, Emergency Medical Services Department and Chapter 2.52, Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board - First Reading

There were no questions.

Ordinance 2020-12 - An Ordinance Appropriating the Necessary Funds for the Operation of the Government and Administration of the City of River Falls, Wisconsin, for the Year 2021 - First Reading

City Administrator Simpson noted that the video from the previous two workshops that were held was available on the City's website along with the full-length budget book. Finance Director Sarah Karlsson or City Administrator Scot Simpson will take inquiries from the public.

Aldersperson Gagne asked if there would be a presentation at the public hearing. Simpson said staff would be prepared to do a short presentation. We will cover items in the cover memo with the focus being the transmittal letter. There were no material changes from the second workshop to the presented budget.

**REPORTS:**

Review of Resolution No. 6501 - Resolution Relating to the Covid-19 Public Health Emergency; Recommending the Use of Face Coverings in Public in the City of River Falls

The Mayor asked Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud if he had any comments. Stroud had nothing planned but would take any questions. Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked if anything was changing. Stroud said in terms of our actions as a City, nothing is changing.

Aldersperson Plunkett asked what we are hearing from Pierce and St. Croix counties about communicable disease ordinances. Stroud said Pierce County passed theirs a couple of weeks ago which gives the Health Officer some codified authority. As far as St. Croix county, he doesn't have any updated information. He heard that they went to forward something, but it was bumped back to a subcommittee. The Mayor said he heard the same thing. Simpson believed that was a subcommittee of the Health Board.

Plan Commission Report

No questions on the report.

Administrator's Report

Gagne asked for an update regarding polling places and what voting in person will look like for the November 3 election. Simpson said absentee voting in person is ongoing. We surpassed 4,000 absentee ballots with approximately 600 ballots outstanding. Simpson provided locations of polling places. He talked about coordinating with UWRF and River Falls School District staffs regarding Covid. We will be using commons area at the high school. Simpson provided other details.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about 2020 versus 2016 numbers. Simpson didn't have them. He provided rough numbers and believed that we would surpass 2016 numbers, but the lack of UWRF students may impact that. He gave more details. Plunkett said numbers in 2016 were 7,463 cast in both counties.

Simpson said the holiday lights were also going up.

Comptroller's Report for September 2020

Comptroller Diane Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of September were \$8,576,068 or 78 percent of budgeted revenues. Revenues in September include \$57,452 in building permits and \$33,691 in State Disaster Aid related to the emergency repairs of the Powell Ave. Bridge. Expenditures for the same period were \$7,120,291 or 65 percent of budgeted expenses. Expenses for September included \$157,339

for the 2020 street micro-surfacing program. Net revenues over expenditures as of September 30, 2020, were \$1,455,777.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointments

**BOARD OF APPEALS**

Reappointment of Gary Horvath through October 2023

**MS Gagne/Morrisette move to approve the Mayor's appointment. The roll call vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

**CLOSED SESSION:**

*At 6:56 p.m. MS Watson/Gagne 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: consider purchase of property on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street."*

Simpson clarified for the public that we do not expect to come back into Open Session as there would be no action taken out of Closed Session. The video will end when we go into Closed Session.

**The Mayor asked for a roll call vote. The roll call vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor to move into Closed Session.**

**At 7:42 p.m., MS Morrisette/Odeen move to reconvene in Open Session. The roll call vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

**At 7:42 p.m., MS Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn. The roll call vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk