

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

**April 8, 2008**

Mayor Don Richards called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers located in City Hall.

**City Council Members Present:** Alderpersons Tom Caflisch, Dave Cronk, Matt Fitzgerald, Joleen Larson, and Michael Woolsey.

**City Council Members Absent:** Wayne Beebe, Jim Nordgren

**Staff Present:** Bernie Van Osdale, City Administrator; Bill Thiel, City Attorney; Reid Wronski, City Engineer; Carl Gaulke, Utilities General Manager; Matt Parent, Planning Intern; Tony Steiner, City Planner; Lanny Gleason, Public Works Director; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director; Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk; Nancy Miller, Library Director

**Others Present:** Heather Zinda, Russ Kivinieni, Mike Moody, Mark Vrieze

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

March 25 , 2008, Minutes

**MSC Cronk/Woolsey to approve minutes as submitted. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

City – \$586,292.30                      Utility - \$673,157.77

**MSC Fitzgerald/Caflisch to approve the bills. Unanimous.**

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

The Mayor recognized outgoing Council member, Matt Fitzgerald, for his service on City Council. The Mayor said that Fitzgerald had been a good Council member. The Mayor read the plaque that he presented to Fitzgerald and noted his many contributions including his service on the Powerful Choices Committee.

City of River Falls Fire Response Area Update

Heather Zinda and Russ Kivinieni from Cedar Corp. gave a presentation on the study they are doing for the Fire Department. The study will focus on several areas including population projections, existing and future land uses, water distribution and availability, transportation routes and response time.

Kivinieni added that a large part of the study included looking over areas which affect the Fire Department's insurance rating. He discussed the ISO ratings and noted that the City's current rating is a 3. He discussed the different stages of the study and said they would be meeting with all the townships. He said the study would be complete in six months. Kivinieni fielded questions from Council.

Change of Agenda – Coach's – Ryan Washkuhn, Agent

**MSC Caflisch/Cronk move to approve the change of agent. Unanimous.**

Mark Vrieze – Appeal License Denial

Mark Vrieze came before Council to appeal the denial of his bartender license. Vrieze didn't feel it was fair for his license to be denied due to his past behavior. He said he has taken care of his problem and feels like he could be a bartender without alcohol becoming an issue.

The Council asked Vrieze questions in regard to his appeal. After the discussion ended, Fitzgerald and Larson expressed concern about an incident from last July. Fitzgerald did not feel enough time had passed for Vrieze to develop a new pattern of behavior.

**MSC Woolsey/Fitzgerald move to deny license appeal. Unanimous.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ordinance 2008-10 – Rezoning of Land from (R2) Multi Family and (I1) Industrial to (B2) Limited (Commercial)/Redevelopment Area for New City Hall - Second Reading and Disposition

Mayor Don Richards recessed Council at 6:54 p.m. and went into a public hearing. At 6:54 p.m. with no one wishing to speak for or against this issue, Council reconvened into Open Session for

disposition. **MS Cronk/Larson to approve ordinance. Motion passed with Caflisch voting against.**

Ordinance 2008-13 – Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Sections 17.08.02A of Title 17 Zoning of the Municipal Code of the City of River Falls (Driveway Regulations) – Second Reading and Disposition

Mayor Don Richards recessed Council at 6:55 p.m. and went into a public hearing. At 6:55 p.m. with no one wishing to speak for or against this issue, Council reconvened into Open Session for disposition. **MSC Larson/Cronk to approve ordinance. Unanimous.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledge Receipt of the following Minutes:

Cable Communications Advisory Committee – 3/5/08; Design Review Committee – 3/24/08  
Plan Commission – 3/4/08; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 3/19/08  
Utility Commission – 2/18/08

Resolution No. 5102 - Approving Library Aide Job Description

Resolution Approving 2008 Rain Barrel Rebate Program→→***Pulled by Fitzgerald***

**MSC Larson/Cronk move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 5103 - Approving 2008 Rain Barrel Rebate Program

Fitzgerald donned Mickey Mouse ears to comment on the rain barrel program. He explained to the viewing audience that a year ago when this item came before Council, a Council member told Fitzgerald the rain barrel program was a “Mickey Mouse” idea. Fitzgerald said the Council person felt we should do more. Fitzgerald said that person went out and converted a large tank into a rain barrel. Fitzgerald said because of that kind of innovation, he felt this was a good program. Fitzgerald suggested the rebate should be raised to \$50.

Caflisch said that he didn’t get a rebate for his rain barrel. He felt people who wanted to do the right thing would do so regardless if they received a rebate. He talked about his experience with the rain barrel.

Woolsey said he was in favor of the program.

**MS Fitzgerald/Woolsey move to approve resolution with a paragraph added to cap the rebates at \$50.**

Caflisch expressed his displeasure with the rebate and asked why the rain barrels can’t be worth something. Fitzgerald noted that the rain barrels could be linked together. Woolsey said the program helped to raise awareness to think about the river and erosion, but he acknowledged Caflisch’s practical approach to the program.

Cronk spoke against raising the cap to \$50. He was in favor of the program with the \$30 rebate.

Larson agreed with Cronk and said it was an educational tool. She agreed with Caflisch that people should just be doing it. She was in favor of leaving the rebate as is.

Woolsey withdrew his second. **MSC Cronk/Larson move to approve motion as originally stated. Motion passed with Caflisch voting against.**

Caflisch asked if the City had any liability for the rain barrels. Thiel said no.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution Approving Budget Adjustment - Purchase of Trailer and Canopy for Public Works

**MSC Caflisch/Cronk move to approve resolution. Roll call vote approving resolution was unanimous.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointments to Boards, Commissions and Committees

Mayor Richards asked consideration of the following appointments:

Business Improvement District

Reappointment of Mark Paschke through December 2010

Appointment of Don Fowell through December 2010

Appointment of Jen Burleigh-Bentz through December 2008

Appointment of Eric Anderson through December 2009

**MS Cronk/Larson move to approve committee appointments.** Caflisch noted that the President of the Main Street Project made the appointment recommendations. **The appointments were passed unanimously.**

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

Youth Advisory Committee

Larson said she asked to have this item put on the agenda and said the committee has only met about three times after last year's organizational meeting. She said the committee is not active and felt the committee was driven by a past Council member.

Woolsey asked for clarification on when the committee last met. The Mayor wanted to see a youth committee driven by youth. Cronk saw no sense in having a committee that wasn't meeting.

Larson discussed further that the committee was not meeting on its own. She felt the committee had a goal of building a skateboard park and once that was complete, the committee lost its focus.

The Mayor asked if there needed to be action on this item. Attorney Thiel said Council shouldn't adopt a motion as it was just an item for discussion. Caflisch felt it was appropriate to discuss this committee at the Organizational Meeting next week.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**MS Woolsey/Fitzgerald move to recess into Closed Session at 7:15 p.m., per Wisconsin Statutes §19.85(1)(c) Wis. Stats., for the following purposes to engage in the evaluation of an employee over whom the governing body exercises jurisdiction or responsibility; to-wit: City Administrator. The roll call vote to recess into Closed Session was unanimous.**

**MSC Cronk/Woolsey to reconvene into Open Session at 7:45 p.m. Unanimous.**

**MSC Cronk/Larson move to adjourn. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk