

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

September 23, 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: Wayne Beebe, Tom Caflisch, Dave Cronk, Bob Ebert, Joleen Larson and Michael Woolsey

City Council Members Absent: Jim Nordgren

Staff Present: Bernie Van Osdale, City Administrator; Bill Thiel, City Attorney; Reid Wronski, City Engineer; Buddy Lucero, Planning Director; Tom Schwalen, Maintenance Supervisor; Bob Schwalen, Fire Chief; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director; Roger Leque, Police Chief; Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk

Others Present: Mark Paschke, Richard Pelletier, Elaine Baker, Bonnie Rubinstein

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 9, 2008, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Beebe/Cronk to approve minutes as submitted. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

City – \$753, 205.39 Utility - \$2,066,711.43

MS Woolsey/Ebert approve the bills subject to comptroller. Woolsey noted \$732,899 is a payment to WPPI and \$1,407,993 is an annual revenue bond payment for electric infrastructure. **The bills were unanimously approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

The Mayor congratulated City Engineer Reid Wronski for receiving Professional Manager of the Year Award in Water Resources from the American Public Works Association. Wronski received the award due to River Falls' proactive efforts to safe guard the Kinnickinnic River.

Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk came to speak about the Healthy Choices Committee Request for a Clean-Up Day on October 13, 2008. Hecht read their Mission Statement and listed the different events and activities that this committee has provided. She asked for Council's approval and support.

Buddy Lucero, Community Development Director said the Wellness Program the Committee has been working on is a good program. It addresses wellness but also bring different departments together. He said the Clean-Up Day is a good idea and hopes the Council supports it.

The Mayor introduced a foreign exchange student who is a junior attending River Falls High School. He emailed the Mayor indicating that he wanted to learn as much as he could about City government. The Mayor welcomed him to the City.

Elaine Baker, on behalf of the Royal Ambassadors, thanked the Council for considering their funding request. She thought they were on tonight's agenda. Van Osdale said their request was discussed at the budget meeting and their requested amount was allocated in next year's budget. He said the Council would need to vote on the budget.

City Hall Construction Report Update – Frisbie Architects

Mark Paschke from Frisbie Architects gave a presentation on the construction process for the new City Hall. He reviewed a timeline that began with the pre-construction in July and continued to the present. The Mayor noted that 91 percent of the scrap metal was diverted from a landfill. He felt that was an impressive figure.

Woolsey agreed, and he said a constituent had asked him about how of the demolished material is going in a landfill and now he has a figure to tell people.

Larson hoped this information could get out the public. She was also impressed with the number.

Caflisch asked about having a walkway on the east side of the construction site. Paschke said it was the contractor's site and their issue. He said the contractor had issued a memo to Van Osdale citing their concerns about the request and why they cannot allow that to happen. Paschke said it was for safety reasons. Further discussion continued. Beebe asked if the building was on schedule. Paschke said it was and they were looking at a March completion date.

Cafilisch revisited his previous question and asked for a copy of the letter. Van Osdale asked Rick Pelletier from Greystone to address Cafilisch's request.

Rick Pelletier, Greystone Construction thanked Council for placing their trust in Greystone to build the new City Hall. He said part of the trust is the safety of the employees, subcontractors and general public – it is a real liability issue. He said for his company to maintain his safety rating, they must maintain a safe site. Pelletier said he is the Safety Director for Greystone. He said to accommodate this request would be to expose them and the City to a lot of liability. He strongly recommended against the request.

Presentation by Cedar Corporation – Draft Report for River Falls Fire Response Area Study
Patrick and Russ, representatives from Cedar Corporation, came to present to Council a fire response study. Patrick gave a slideshow presentation about the study. The study covered existing stations, insurance implications, population growth, response calls and comparisons with other fire departments. After the presentation concluded, there was discussion by Council regarding insurance ratings, coverage overlap by surrounding cities, and the Townships' role with the City fire department.

Bob Schwalen, Fire Chief, talked about the Rural Fire Association.

Cronk didn't see how response times would improve if people had to drive to an outer station to get into a truck to get to a fire. Lucero said that they are looking into the future when more people live outside of town.

Further discussion continued. Patrick noted that one area that needed to be addressed was personnel. He said that if the City had full-time personnel, their ISO rating score would be higher. The Mayor noted that the study said in 1997 25 people responded to a structural fire and in 2007 the number remained the same at 25.

Woolsey asked if the upcoming renovations adding square footage to the Fire Department would help the ISO score. Schwalen said it would help with congestion within the department adding office space and training areas. It would only help minimally with the ISO score.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledge Receipt of the following Minutes:

- Plan Commission – 8/5/08; River Falls Housing Authority – 8/12/08;
- River Falls Fire Department – 8/4/08; Police and Fire Commission – 8/4/08
- Ambulance Commission – 8/4/08; Park Board – 8/20/08

Resolution No. 5165 - Special Use Permit Northern Natural Gas – Relocation of Natural Gas Town Border Station to an Area of the City Zoned Conservancy

Resolution Approving Ambulance Agreement with Towns for 2009 → → ***Pulled by Cafilisch***

Resolution No. 5166 - Approving Shared-Ride Taxi Grant Application To The State Of Wisconsin, DOT For Operating Assistance For The Year 2009

Resolution Supporting the Healthy Foundations Wellness Clean-up Day (October 13, 2008)
→ → ***Pulled by Woolsey***

MSC Beebe/Larson move to approve remainder of consent agenda.

Resolution No. 5167 - Approving Ambulance Agreement with Towns for 2009

Cafilisch noted the ambulance serves 8,631 people outside of the City who live in the surrounding Townships. The ambulance service receives \$8 per person for serving this group. He also noted that there are 14,000 City residents that the ambulance serves.

MSC Cafilisch/Cronk move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 5168 - Supporting the Healthy Foundations Wellness Clean-up Day (October 13, 2008)

Woolsey felt it was appropriate that City offices be staffed during office hours. He felt both offices should remain open – there is a need to be consistent. He said he was in favor of the Wellness Day but felt both doors should remain open.

MSC Woolsey/Larson move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2008-27 - Amending Chapter 8.08 of the Municipal Code - Abandoned and Junk Vehicles –

First Reading

No comment

Preliminary Resolution No. 5169 - Declaring Intent to Exercise Special Assessment Police Powers Under Section 66.0703 Wisconsin Statutes for the Benefit of the River Falls Business Improvement District

MSC Carlisch/Cronk move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

City Hall Public Art Process

Bonnie Rubinstein came before Council to make any clarifications needed regarding the public art proposal at the September 9 meeting. She read the information for applying for a State funded grant. She provided information about her background with art. She said she would apply for the grant.

Larson asked who was the fiscal receiver for the grant. Rubinstein said she is working on that and is thinking it may be the St. Croix Community Fund. There was further discussion about matching funds for the grant.

Cafilisch asked that the proposed object be brought before Council for approval.

Larson wrote to Ann Katz from Arts Wisconsin to get ideas and information on how to proceed with getting art into the new City Hall. She said Ann would be willing to come and speak to Council on October 28.

There was discussion about the Hudson Hospital and how they have incorporated art into that building and further discussion continued on establishing a process to get art into the new City Hall.

REPORTS:

Comptroller's Report

General Fund revenues through the end of August were \$4,837,186, or 61 percent of budgeted. Revenues included the August tax settlement from the counties, and \$15,470 in housing license fees. Expenditures for the same period were \$4,659,403, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$177,783 for the year. Expenditures to date are 58.6 percent of the amount budgeted for the year.

MSC Cronk/Cafilisch move to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan
Deputy City Clerk