

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

**January 27, 2009**

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, Jim Nordgren and Michael Woolsey

**Staff Present:** Bill Thiel, City Attorney; Julie Bergstrom, Finance Director/Interim City Administrator; Reid Wronski, City Engineer; Carl Gaulke, Utility General Manager; Buddy Lucero, Community Development Director; Tom Schwalen, Maintenance Supervisor; Judge June Cicero

**Others Present:** David Luka, Susan Reese, others

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 13, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes

**MS Beebe/Cronk to approve minutes as submitted.** Nordgren noted a typo that needed to be corrected on page four. **The minutes were approved unanimously.**

January 13, 2009, Closed Session Meeting Minutes

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

City – \$467,557.49

Utility - \$971,561.85

**MS Ebert/Woolsey approve the bills subject to comptroller.** Nordgren said the Utility paid \$657,000 to WPPI. **The bills were unanimously approved.**

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

The Mayor recognized retiree, David Luka, with a plaque and thanked him for 30 years of dedicated employment to the City.

The Mayor read a letter from former Council member, Carol Robinson, commending Dave Hovel and Joe Lenzen, for their excellent work.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledge Receipt of the following minutes:

- Fire Department – 12/1/08; River Falls Library Board – 12/1/08;
- Historic Preservation Committee – 12/3/08;
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 12/20/08;
- Utility Commission – 1/5/09; 12/15/08; 12/15/08 Workshop;
- Joint Council/Utility Commission Workshop – 1/15/09

Resolution Authorizing Professional Services for Whitetail Ridge Phase III→→***Pulled by Caflisch***

Resolution No. 5217 - Authorizing Fire Department Compensation for 2009

**MSC Caflisch/Beebe move to approve remainder of consent agenda.**

Resolution No. 5218 - Authorizing Professional Services for Whitetail Ridge Phase III

Caflisch clarified that the Council was only voting for the base item tonight. Wronski said yes and that as the project moves forward, it will be brought back to the Council for an update and for Council to move forward.

**MS Caflisch/Larson move to approve resolution.**

Cronk did not believe this was the correct place for a business park and felt the hilltop needed to be preserved. He understands the City needs more room for the industrial park but does not believe this is the correct place. He said he will vote against it.

**With no other discussion, the motion to approve the resolution passed 6-1 with everyone voting in favor except for Cronk.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance 2009-1 – Amending the Official Parking Control Map of the City of River Falls, Wisconsin ("No Parking 1 a.m. to 6 a.m., effective April 1 to October 31, on South Side of West Park Street from State Street to Bartosh Lane") - First Reading

No discussion.

Resolution No. 5219 - Approving Hiring a Planning Intern (tabled at 1-13-09 meeting)

**MSC Beebe/Ebert move to remove item from table. Unanimous.**

**MS Cronk/Nordgren move to approve resolution.**

Cronk felt there were some important things done by the intern. He felt the City was getting a lot for its money, and he also felt the City has an obligation to train interns.

The Mayor agreed and noted the length of the request had been reduced and was for four months. He hoped the Council would look favorably upon the addition of an intern.

Nordgren said Lucero had done good work to look at this more closely. He would like the department heads to examine areas in their budget to trim when needed rather than having the Council do it.

The Mayor acknowledged Susan Reese for comment.

Susan Reese, 425 N. Wasson - thanked the Council for their comments. She addressed comments that were made at the last meeting. She noted the importance of the intern in relation to a historical markers project in the downtown area which could not have been completed without the intern's help. She also noted the Council wanted the park inventory to be done internally and said this project has been done by the interns. She wanted the Council to consider hiring an intern for a year.

Cafilisch still felt the intern was not necessary.

Woolsey asked about internships within the City. Both Lucero and Wronski responded to Woolsey's question. They discussed their departments working together with interns and noted different projects done by interns. Lucero noted that all of his past interns were able to find a job and that they used their experience at the City on their resume.

Larson appreciated the work Lucero had done and asked if the park inventory would be completed. Lucero said it was his goal to have the inventory completed. Larson said that some of the work could be completed by volunteers. Further discussion continued.

**Nordgren called to question. The motion to approve the resolution passed 6-1 with Cafilisch voting against it.**

Resolution No. 5220 - Approving Purchase of Furniture and File Storage System for New City Hall  
**MS Nordgren/Cronk move to approve resolution.**

Beebe noted the funds for this item were in the budget. Nordgren said a file storage system was included in the amount and hadn't been previously budgeted. He said it would save the City money to put it in now rather than later.

Resolution Approving Installation of Additional Power Door Operators for New City Hall

Nordgren said that according to code, the City does not have to have power door operators on both floors because the floors are accessible by elevator. He said there were power door operators on the upper level. He said it would not cost the City more to wait to install these items. Nordgren said this item could be delayed.

Schwalen gave a brief report on this item.

**No motion was made on this item. The item died due to lack of a motion.**

Resolution No. 5221 - Approving Purchase of Phone System for New City Hall and Replacing Existing Phone System in Remodeled Public Safety Building  
**MS Nordgren/Beebe move to approve resolution.**

Caflisch asked about the budget on this item. Nordgren noted the item was over budget. Woolsey noted there was a monthly saving by going with this phone system.

**A roll call vote passed 6-1 with all voting in favor except for Caflisch.**

Resolution No. 5222 - Approving Purchases of Computer Switches for New City Hall and Remodeled Public Safety Building  
**MS Nordgren/Larson move to approve resolution.**

Caflisch asked if this item was an add-on. The Mayor noted it was and said it was \$28,110 after rebates.

Caflisch felt having non-City residents serving on the building committee resulted in extra expenses with the new City Hall. He felt this item was an example of this.

The Mayor disagreed. He felt that just because a person doesn't live in the City, doesn't mean that he doesn't care about keeping taxes down.

Woolsey said with technology, you would have overruns. He felt it was a balance issue. When is the City going to pay for it? Now or later when it is more expensive?

Caflisch brought up the fact there was no contingency fund to cover the overages.

Nordgren disagreed. He said a contingency fund could have been put into the project and the costs would have stayed under \$5 million. He felt if there were a contingency fund, it would be easier to spend it. He said without the fund, they have been fighting against spending extra money. He said Tom Schwalen has been very helpful and influential to their committee. He is hoping to have an overrun of no more than three percent.

Larson said since Council passed the telephone system, this item also needs to be passed. She noted the different benefits to the system and said the Council needed to vote for the upgrade.

Woolsey said that it is always easy to say "no", but then no one ever says when the problem will be taken care of. He said the Council needs to stand up for "when". He hopes with the low rates for refinancing that some of the cost can be recouped.

Nordgren said in perfect world, a contingency fund wouldn't be needed because everything would have been anticipated.

Woolsey said that if you follow the City's trend on replacement, this phone system would be here for 20-25 years.

**Larson called to question. A roll call vote passed 6-1 with all voting in favor except for Caflisch.**

**REPORTS:**

Preliminary 2008 General Fund revenues through the end of the calendar year were \$7,453,593, or 93.2 percent of budgeted. Expenditures for the same period were \$7,557,157 or 94.5 percent of budgeted, for a net of expenditures over revenues of \$103,564 for the year.

**MSC Cronk/Caflisch to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan  
Deputy City Clerk