

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

June 23, 2009

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

City Council Members Present: Tom Caflisch, Dave Cronk, Bob Ebert, Randy Kusilek, Joleen Larson, Jim Nordgren and David Reese

Staff Present: Bill Thiel, City Attorney; Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Carl Gaulke, Utility Manager; Roger Leque, Police Chief

Others Present: Andrew Dyb

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 9, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

City – \$597,755.28

Utility - \$957,706.31

MSC Nordgren/Cronk approve the bills subject to comptroller. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Kusilek asked about the City emergency response for Farm Tech Days. Larson said there was an emergency response plan already in motion. She referred to Chief Leque.

Leque said that Jeff Rixmann, Ambulance Director, is chairing a committee and has been working on the EMS aspect for some time. He said the law enforcement for the event is under the County's jurisdiction. Leque said Rixmann is going to this year's Farm Tech Days to observe.

Change of Agent – Holiday Stationstore Number 8 – Disposition

MSC Caflisch/Nordgren move to approve Change of Agent. Unanimous.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Liquor License for River Falls Junction Hotel, Junior's Bar and Grill, Gary Laventure, Agent

Mayor Richards recessed Council at 6:36 p.m. and went into a public hearing.

Andrew Dyb believed the hotel should open early July with the bar/restaurant following a month later. He said the bar/restaurant would be family-oriented.

Reese asked about the agent's address as it was in Ashland, Wisconsin. He wondered if the agent would be moving to River Falls. Dyb stated that he was going to be the agent.

At 6:38 p.m. with no one wishing to speak for or against this issue, Council reconvened into Open Session for disposition.

MSC Larson/Ebert move to approve license. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2009-6 - Amending §9.20.020 of the City Code; Airguns and Slingshots – Second Reading and Disposition

Mayor Richards recessed Council at 6:40 p.m. and went into a public hearing. At 6:40 p.m. with no one wishing to speak for or against this issue, Council reconvened into Open Session for disposition.

MSC Larson/Ebert move to approve license. Unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

Fire Department – 5/11/09, River Falls Housing Authority Board – 5/12/09; 4/28/09; 4/14/09;
Ambulance Commission – 5/11/09; Police and Fire Commission – 5/18/09; 5/11/09; Design Review
Committee – 5/11/09; Utilities Commission – 5/18/09; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 5/20/09

Resolution No. 5283 - Regarding Release of Highview Meadows Phase I Lots 14 and 15 Easement

Resolution Approving Compliance Maintenance Annual Report Wastewater Treatment Plan (2008)

→→***Pulled by Ebert***

Resolution Regarding Irrigation System and Landscaping for City Hall →→***Pulled by Kusilek***

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

Resolution No. 5284 - Approving Compliance Maintenance Annual Report Wastewater Treatment Plan (2008)

Ebert thanked Gaulke and the utility staff for their fine work. He said he also appreciated them keeping the river water clean.

MSC Ebert/Cafilisch moved for approval of the resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 5285 - Regarding Irrigation System and Landscaping for City Hall

Cafilisch said he would abstain from discussion and voting because he was employed by one of the vendors.

Kusilek didn't feel he could vote for this project. He wondered how many more projects there would be to fund.

Reese said neither he nor Kusilek were on the Council when the original plans were done. He felt it would be terrible mistake not to fund the project. He noted that this price saved \$15,000 from a previous bid. He said it is Council's job to make sure wise decisions in regard to the building.

Larson noted that if trees and grass are planted and are not watered, they would not grow which would cost the City money. She said if an irrigation system were not installed, the City would spend more than the irrigation system cost in staff time and use of equipment. She noted the grounds would be here with the building for over 50 years and it behooves the City to finish the project.

Nordgren noted the original bid price for this project at \$150,000 was removed. He said a landscape project was also scaled back. He felt this project needed to be done to enhance the building and maintain the grounds.

MS Nordgren/Larson move to approve resolution. Simpson asked if the motion included the City Administrator to do the landscaping portion. Nordgren said yes. The motion passed 5-1 with Kusilek voting against and Cafilisch abstaining.

REPORTS:

Building Report

Nordgren said there was an overage of 8.48 percent over amount included in the budget for the building. He said some items were added, deleted and some cost more than expected.

City Administrator's Report

Simpson offered to answer any questions. He added that the State might be approving the budget by July 1. He said a letter was sent to the City regarding the highway aid funding. He said the State would be reducing the amount the City would receive by 6 percent.

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COMPTROLLER'S REPORT:

Comptroller's Report for May 2009

General Fund revenues through the end of May were \$2,824,205 and include \$15,694 for the Local Road Improvement Program reimbursement for 2008 and \$11,685 in recreation fees. Expenditures for the same period were \$2,595,051, or 30.3 percent of budgeted, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$229,154 for the year.

Reese added that he has general fund balance sheet for the City. The City has assets of approximately \$8.5 million and liabilities of \$2.6 million resulting in a fund balance approximately \$5,870,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor read a Proclamation proclaiming the week of June 21-27, 2009, to be America in Bloom Week.

The Mayor recommended the River Falls in Bloom book to the public.

MSC Cronk/Nordgren move to adjourn meeting at 7 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan
Deputy City Clerk