

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

September 22, 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, Jim Nordgren and David Reese

City Council Members Absent: Joleen Larson

Staff Present: Bill Thiel, City Attorney; Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Carl Gaulke, Utility General Manager; Reid Wronski, City Engineer

Others Present: Elizabeth Covelli, Monica Morgan, Lizzie Blaser, Anastacia Janovec, Wayne Beebe

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

September 8, 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes

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

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

City – \$506,457.21

Utility - \$1,764,492.24

MSC Kusilek/Caflisch approve the bills subject to comptroller. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

River Falls Ambassadors – Elizabeth Covelli, Monica Morgan, Lizzie Blaser and Anastacia Janovec came to introduce themselves and thank the Council for its financial and morale support. The Ambassadors shared with the Council their busy parade schedule. The Mayor thanked the Ambassadors for the great job they do in representing the City. They received a round of applause.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: Fire Department – 8/10/09;

Cable Communications Advisory Committee – 9/2/09; Historic Preservation Commission – 8/12/09

Library Board – 8/3/09; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 8/19/09

River Falls Housing Authority – 7/14/09; 8/11/09; River Falls Utility Commission – 8/17/09;
8/31/09

Resolution No. 5300 - Approving Shared-Ride Taxi Grant Application To The State Of Wisconsin, DOT For Operating Assistance For The Year 2010

Resolution Approving Revised Board and Commission Policy →→*Pulled by Caflisch*

MSC Nordgren/Ebert move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

Resolution Approving Revised Board and Commission Policy

Caflisch was glad the policy is being updated but wanted the policy to require committee members to be a resident of the City of River Falls rather than the River Falls School District.

Caflisch moved to change the wording to “shall be a resident of the City of River Falls.”

The motion died to lack of a second.

The Mayor asked about number four in the policy which addressed excessive absenteeism. Simpson said the absenteeism is addressed in Section 2.36.

Caflisch noted that the Mayor could appoint non-City residents to committees who do not pay taxes in the City but could spend the City’s money.

Reese asked about committee membership make-up. Ebert used Historic Preservation as an example said there are certain roles on the committee that need to be filled. Reese said the Council had the final say on spending money and wanted clarification on Caflich's comment. Simpson said it would be rare for a committee to have the authority to spend money.

Caflich felt a City the size of River Falls should have plenty of citizens to appoint to committees and felt the Council was telling the citizens they weren't smart citizens by leaving the requirement be "a resident of the River Falls School District." The Mayor disagreed. There was further discussion by Council.

MS Nordgren/Reese move to approve resolution.

Ebert said he has been on a number of committees over the years and has never run into problems with non-City residents on committees. He felt the Council was making a mountain out of a molehill about an old issue and felt it should move on. Cronk agreed with Ebert. Nordgren agreed but felt the Council should make any necessary edits while they were making policy changes. He suggested adding a majority or preference to City residents. The Mayor suggested looking at the requirements of the committees before a motion about residency.

MS Nordgren/Kusilek move to table resolution. The resolution passed 5-1 with Ebert opposing.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Preliminary Resolution No. 5301 - 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 Caflich/Nordgren move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Administrator's Work Plan

Simpson asked the Council to review the plan. The Mayor had a question about a bike plan project which Simpson answered.

REPORTS:

City Administrator's Report

Simpson said report was included in the Council packet and he would be happy to answer any questions. There were no questions.

Building Updates

There were no questions or comments.

Comptroller's Report for August 2009

Reese said the General Fund revenues through the end of August were \$5,030,269 and included \$1,084,745 from the August tax settlement and \$9,553 from the sale of surplus equipment. Expenditures for the same period were \$4,533,500 53.0 percent of budgeted, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$496,769.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointments:

Utility Commission

Appointment of Wayne Beebe to the Utility Commission through October 2015

MS Nordgren/Cronk move to approve appointment. Caflich asked if Beebe lived in the City. Beebe said yes. **The motion to appointment the appointment was unanimous.**

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CLOSED SESSION:

MS Caflish/Nordgren move to recess into Closed Session at 7:02 p.m., per Wisconsin Statutes:

19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats., for the purpose of considering employment of a public employee over which the Common Council has jurisdiction; to-wit: consideration of employee request for unpaid leave of absence

The roll call vote to move into Closed Session was unanimous.

MSC Caflish/Cronk move to reconvene into Open Session at 7:10 p.m. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 5302 - Authorizing Leave of Absence

MSC Caflich/Cronk move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Cronk motioned to adjourn meeting at 7:11 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan
Deputy City Clerk