

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

April 13, 2010

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 Cafilisch, David Cronk, Bob Ebert, Randy Kusilek, Joleen Larson, Jim Nordgren, David Reese

Staff Present: Bill Thiel, City Attorney; Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Carl Gaulke, Utility General Manager; Buddy Lucero, Community Development Director

Others Present: Scott Morrissette, Mike Woolsey, Aria Woolsey, Kelly Cain, Amy Muzzy

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 23, 2010, Workshop Meeting Minutes

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

March 23, 2010, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Nordgren/Cafilisch to approve minutes as submitted. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

City – \$717,655.39 Utility - \$1,303,247.91

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Alderperson Larson announced a meeting for the Downtown Business Improvement District on April 23. She said the BID is purchasing a portion of new garbage cans and benches for the downtown. She wanted to let residents know that the gardens on Second Street are paid and cared for by volunteers from the BID and that tax dollars are not being used. She said the BID also purchases the hanging baskets and hopes to increase the number to 40 this year.

The Mayor recognized two outgoing City Council members, Joleen Larson and Bob Ebert. The Mayor thanked Larson for her service and presented her with a plaque. Larson said it was an honor and privilege to serve.

The Mayor thanked Ebert for his service and presented him with a plaque. Ebert thanked the citizens who voted and supported him; he thanked the Council, and several City staff members for their hard work. Ebert also mentioned a pancake breakfast fundraiser for Grow to Share. The Mayor thanked Ebert for recognizing the people who do not get recognized, as it is a valuable service.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 5351 - Approving City of River Falls Organizational Chart

Resolution No. 5352 - Approving Job Description for Development Assistant

Resolution No. 5353 - Approving Job Description for Communications Coordinator

Resolution No. 5354 - Awarding Bid for 2010 Rout and Seal Program

Resolution No. 5355 - Approving Purchase of 2008 Ford Van from Bell Mobile, Inc., for Building Maintenance Operations

Resolution No. 5356 - Authorizing Sale of Surplus City Equipment

MSC Cafilisch/Cronk move to approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Set Date/Time for CIP Tour

City Administrator Simpson felt it would be beneficial to do a CIP tour. He asked for suggestions on dates. Cafilisch suggested 4 p.m. on April 27. The rest of the Council approved the date.

REPORTS:

Habitat Project Update

Kelly Cain and Amy Muzzy provided Council with an update about the Habitat for Humanity Project. Cain said they are refining the conceptual design of the project and are looking at carbon neutral net zero construction design for the houses. The chapter is planning to build one to two homes in 2011.

The Mayor asked Cain to explain the carbon neutral net zero homes. Cain said these homes would minimize the use of fossil fuels and rely on renewal resources for heating, cooling and electrical generation.

The Mayor asked what the homes would look like. Cain said the final design was not yet determined.

Cronk asked how many homes would be constructed on the site. Cain thought there would be 24-30 homes dependent upon the final design.

The Mayor asked about grants. Cain said they are continuously seeking grants for the project. He said it is hard to apply for the larger grants without being in the final stages of the project.

The Mayor asked about the site design and if it still included the terrace gardens and other design elements previously shown to Council. Cain said yes.

Kusilek asked how close the homes would be to each other. Cain said there would be a compact design but adequate distance between homes would be maintained for privacy and fire regulations.

Reese has how the housing market has affected the project. Cain said homes are still being built in surrounding communities. He said construction does not begin until there is an agreement in place. It is still a very attractive option.

Larson asked the cost of the homes. Cain said the cost is usually around \$80,000. Muzzy said the homes built in Baldwin were \$79,000.

Reese asked about first time buyer credits. Muzzy said they receive the credit if they qualify.

City Administrator's Report

Simpson said the City has been nominated for Water Star Cities program. He said Channel 16 was recognized for outstanding programming by the Wisconsin Association of PEG Access Channels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointment:

River Falls Housing Authority

Appointment of Peter Dahm to fill vacancy through April 2015

MSC Cronk/Nordgren move to approve appointment. Unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION:

MS Cafilisch/Nordgren move to recess into Closed Session per Wisconsin State Statutes § 19.85 (1)(e) and 19.85(1)(g) for the following purposes:

For deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, or whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; to-wit: sale or lease of City property, discuss purchase of corporate park land and discuss voluntary release and separation agreement;

and for conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved; to-wit: discuss accounts receivable litigation strategy.

Cafilich recommended that Scott Morrissette be allowed to participate in the Closed Session. The Mayor asked Attorney Thiel about legality. Thiel said it was up to the Council who they wished to sit in Closed Session. Cronk agreed with Cafilich.

The roll call vote to move into Closed Session was unanimous at 7:04 p.m.

MSC Nordgren/Cronk to move into Open Session. Unanimous.

MSC Reese/Cronk to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy City Clerk