



**COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA  
February 27, 2018**

Call Meeting to Order – 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes – February 13, 2018, Workshop and Meeting Minutes; Closed Session Minutes [page 2](#)

Approval of Bills (Bjerstedt) §

**\*\*\* NOTE: OFFICIAL ACTION MAY BE TAKEN ON ANY AGENDA ITEM \*\*\***

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

1. Public Comments

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

2. Acknowledgement of the following minutes:
  - a. Utility Advisory Board – 1/15/18 [page 9](#)
  - b. EMS Advisory Board – 1/8/18 [page 13](#)
  - c. Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 1/17/18 [page 16](#)
  - d. Historic Preservation Commission – 1/10/18 [page 18](#)
  - e. Plan Commission – 2/6/18 [page 20](#)
  - f. Business Improvement District – 1/9/18 [page 22](#)
  - g. Library Board – 1/8/18 [page 23](#)
3. Resolution in Support of Increasing the State Limit on the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit [page 24](#)

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

4. Resolution Authorizing Hydro Relicensing [page 27](#)

**REPORTS:**

5. Administrator’s Report [page 36](#)
6. Comptroller’s Report

**ADJOURNMENT**      Posted (City Hall/PSB/Library): 2/16/18; Published: 2/22/18



***RIVER FALLS CITY COUNCIL FISCAL PLAN WORKSHOP***  
**February 13, 2018, 5 p.m.**  
**Training Room, City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, River Falls, WI 54022**

**City Council Members Present:** Mayor Dan Toland, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Chris Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson

**City Staff Present:** Development Services Director Amy Peterson, Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom, City Administrator Scot Simpson, Finance Director Al Rolek, Management Analyst Brandt Johnson, Operations Director Mike Stifter, Management Analyst Keri Schreiner, City Engineer Reid Wronski

**Others:** Aaron Taylor, Ben Fochs, Michael Page, Patricia LaRue, Nathan Stauner

The Mayor called the workshop to order at 4:59 p.m.

City Administrator Simpson would provide a presentation for Council. The Fiscal Plan will come before Council for approval. He provided background on how the Fiscal Plan relates to the City's other plans. Simpson talked about the revenues and expenditures. Revenues are consistent with historical trends. He talked about expenditures.

He showed a slide of the annual levy increases with both the gross levy versus net levy increase. The target for levy appropriations is 60 percent operations, 20 percent debt, 10 percent library, 10 percent capital.

He talked about library support. The library took 16 percent of levy in 2014; shooting for 11 percent by 2023. The average library budget for a town with 10-20k population is \$600,000.

The debt outstanding – over 50 percent from alternative sources, not all TID revenues available, some levy would be needed.

Simpson talked about debt service levy. The Glen Park project is slated for \$3.41 million; the Police building would likely be \$7 million rather than \$5 million with the project moving to 2021; Fire and EMS would be delayed to 2024 or later.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about updates or needs on the Police/Fire/EMS building. There were questions from Council about building maintenance.

Simpson showed a tax supported debt service levy chart and a spreadsheet summary.

Simpson wanted to ask Council if it can make service priorities when it comes to flat staffing? The City can't continue to keep same service levels if no FTEs are hired.

We should assume \$4.3 million for Glen Park. The shelter alone is \$1.43 million leaving \$2.9 million. Is the delay in public safety building acceptable? It is a domino effect. Other projects following will be delayed.

Is \$0 levy for Kinni corridor acceptable? We should assume the plan is funded by non-general fund levy. Is a 10 percent levy target for the library acceptable with the understanding we may not get to 10 percent but we want to hold it flat.

Aldersperson Downing wanted more staffing for cable. Simpson said the City would have to pull back on other staffing then. Aldersperson Gagne agreed partially with Downing but felt we should work toward a plan to get rid of cable.

The Mayor said the City needs to phase cable out within next couple of years. We can work on what people need and get it to them. Both Alderspersons Morrissette and Odeen thought the plan was to phase out the cable. Morrissette mentioned also exploring if the Chamber wants a channel for tourism. Odeen said compared to other projects this is a small issue.

Aldersperson Bjork would be in favor of bringing two FTEs to provide more services. Mayor said this is something we should look at as we go along. Simpson talked about what needs to happen when adding staff. He talked about limiting big projects if you remain flat staffed. He talked about needing staff for public works, utility. Council was interested in adding another code enforcement person. Simpson talked about adding staff for code enforcement, fire inspection, police.

Aldersperson Gagne expressed concern about library – the worn carpet, other building repairs. He wants to be careful on how to strict we are with their budget.

Simpson asked about acceptance for target for library? There was discussion. Morrissette said there were other opportunities for library. They could seek sponsors for exhibitions or events.

Aldersperson Bjork asked about funding for Glen Park. He asked if it could be diverting elsewhere. Simpson said staff is assuming Glen Park is proceeding and will get done. Aldersperson Watson, who is on the Park Board, said \$4.3 million will do highlights only. He talked about what will be done such as parking, roads, a shelter, splash pad. He didn't know how we could do less and honor the commitment to community. Aldersperson Odeen would be against spending less.

Simpson asked about objection about pushing the Police station back. Gagne expressed concern about building's condition. He feels like it is falling apart. Simpson feels like this is a project that Council has pulled it forward. It was originally slated to be done later. Aldersperson Bjork says it feels like 2021 is around the corner.

Simpson talked about Council's uneasiness about adding no FTEs. He needs to understand their comfort level with raising taxes. Even raising the levy one percent would amount to significant revenue. What's the feeling with Council?

The Council would like to hear more about it in 1:1s with a possible workshop.

The Mayor asked if there were more questions. There were none. The workshop adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan



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

**February 13, 2018**

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

**City Council Members Present:** Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson

**Members Absent:** Todd Bjerstedt

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Sergeant Jeff Sather; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Management Analyst Keri Schreiner; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; Community Development Director Buddy Lucero; Operations Director Mike Stifter; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Recreation Coordinator Cindi Danke; Human Resource Director Karen Bergstrom

**Others Present:** William Hansen, Ben Fochs, Michael Page, Patricia LaRue, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn, Lauren Kaminski, Dave Fodroczi, Gary Horvath, Dave Drewiske, Scott Wagner

**The Pledge of Allegiance was said.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

January 23, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes

**MSC Morrissette/Bjork approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills \$927,053.58

**MSC Bjork/Downing move to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.**

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

Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn – Volunteer Director for Among Friends, along with other volunteer officers, came to talk about a five-part series on dementia to be held at the public library.

Gary Horvath, Pine Street – came to talk about the corridor project. He thanked the Mayor for appointing him to the committee. He is Vice President of Trout Unlimited. He talked about the group's concern for the river. Horvath talked about concern about rising river temperatures. He is very appreciative on the early data on the Powell removal and would like to move the date of removal up for Junction Falls.

Lauren Kaminski, 1110 Wasson Circle- she is Vice President of Friends of the Kinni. She came to deliver a petition to free the Kinni of the two dams. She read a prepared statement in support of dam removal. Kaminski thanked the Council for its consideration.

Dave Fodroczi, retired Director of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust – he thanked Council for the opportunity to participate on the committee and for its commitment to the process. He appreciates a long-term vision for a free-flowing Kinni and associated restoration of the river. He also mentioned there are other parties that would feel this process is taking too long.

David Drewiske, Director of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust – finds many good things in the resolution especially a free-flowing stream. He talked about the outcome needing to be done in an environmentally sound

manner and be fiscally prudent. Drewiske feels sooner is better for the health of the river. He likes the thought of a public/private partnership. He talked about working with the City for a mutually beneficial outcome.

Michael Page, 315 N. Fremont Street – is President of Friends of the Kinni. The committee has appreciated the interactions with the City. The resolution is an amazing step forward for the community. He noted the removal of the lower dam. Page is concerned about Section 5 which addresses the time frame for the removal of the upper dam. He feels far too much time is elapsing before complete restoration of the river. Page asked for reconsideration of Section 5.

William Hansen, Town of River Falls – he is a great fan of renewable energy and emergency power. He talked about the dams which provide energy and profits. Hansen also talked about emergency power and the importance of having a backup plan and being prepared.

Scott Wagner, resident of Hudson – he is an example of someone outside of the community who is willing to use his time and energy for the benefit of the community and watershed. He is a member of the Kinni Land Trust and Trout Unlimited. He feels there is a lot of others like himself. Wagner talked about the removal of the dams and would appreciate moving up of the timeframe for dam removal.

Bill Hansen – he felt the dates in Section 5 don't seem too soon. He feels they could be extended dependent on what we learn after the removal of the dam. He gave examples. Hansen feels like there could be better uses for spending money that would benefit more of the community such as a waterpark like Hastings.

Patricia LaRue, 489 Marcella Court – she is a member of the Kinni Corridor committee. She shared the committee's mission which was engaging and listening to the community. LaRue said people didn't mention the subject of trout or renewable energy but were interested in was having restrooms and a drinking foundation along the pathway, controlling the buckthorn to be able to see the river and lake, and having benches. The community talked about improvements to Lake George and maintaining the health of the river – not for the trout but for us. She said the committee considered all the issues and landed on a recommendation which respects each of our neighbors, the process, and the City which invested in the process where everyone had a voice.

Aldersperson Downing thanked Among Friends for coming to the meeting. He also recognized Police Chief Young for his efforts regarding an emergency detention center. He talked more about caring for mentally ill people.

Aldersperson Gagne noted the long drive the Police Department must make to Winnebago for someone who needs assistance. He feels State officials are now taking steps to address this. Gagne feels mental illness is an important issue.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Ordinance 2018-03 - An Ordinance Annexing Certain Territory of the Town of Troy to the City of River Falls, Wisconsin-Second Reading and Disposition

**The Mayor recessed into a Public Hearing at 6:56 p.m.**

Ben Fochs, 680 County Road MM – he was concerned about access to the properties from the south. **As there were no other comments from the public, the Mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:58 p.m. MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution No. 6230 - Regarding EMS Rates for 2018

Resolution No. 6231 – Resolution Regarding Hoffman Park Camping Rates

Resolution Approving Farm Lease with Peterson Family Dairy Inc. →→Pulled by Downing

**MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6232 - Approving Farm Lease with Peterson Family Dairy Inc.

Aldersperson Downing asked about when this land may become a park. Aldersperson Watson, who is the Park Board representative, said that hasn't come up lately. He feels originally the land purchase was for soccer fields but the direction has changed since then. The land has continued to be leased. Adjacent to this land, there is discussion about putting in a dog park. **MSC Downing/Bjork move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

**REPORTS:**

Relicensing of the Hydro Electric Facilities Report with presentation by SEH

Mark Lobermeier from SEH provided a presentation to Council. He thanked the committee for its hard work for the last 15 months. They worked hard to come together with a resolution.

Lobermeier started by talking about the power generation from 1986-2016. He talked the net revenue from the hydro facilities. He provided information about each of the hydro facilities including construction, capacity, electrical production and depreciation date.

Lobermeier talked about the three scenarios: 1) relicense both the Junction Falls (upper) and Powell Falls (lower) hydro facilities; 2) surrender the existing license and remove both facilities; 3) relicense and keep the Junction Falls facility and remove the Powell Falls facility.

He then talked about the costs to relicense versus the cost to surrender in 2017 dollars. The numbers were presented to the UAB in January.

Lobermeier talked about the Corridor Committee and the work they have done. He talked about the highlights of the policy framework including a vision for a free-flowing river and action target dates. He finished by talking about the next steps in the process. He stood for questions.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked if Lobermeier could add more narrative on the financial projections and cost estimates. Lobermeier said it was a compilation of work by different groups in particular Inter-Fluve. He talked about their numbers that they used.

Aldersperson Bjork asked what the Council would be voting on at the next meeting. City Administrator Simpson noted they had been given the draft resolution on which they would be voting. It would be modified only be feedback received from Council. Simpson explained the Council's options on making any changes to the resolution. He noted there was only one project; the license is for the project. The Corridor Committee has provided policy guidance. He provided further information.

Bjork looks at it in two ways: financially and freeing the river. He said financially, it makes no sense to take either dam out. Bjork talked about the life spans of the dam and the timeline for removal. He noted the history and livelihood of River Falls is important to him. Bjork asked if the lower dam was removed, does the area remain a 'natural river' or do things like beaver dams get removed? Lobermeier felt it would be managed the same as the upper river is now. It would be natural but managed as it is classified. Bjork further asked about turtle habitat. Lobermeier talked about the number of studies being done and the need to review them. Bjork asked if we are even ready to take the dams out.

City Administrator Simpson said that was a policy question for Council. The committee believes they have forwarded Council enough information to make that decision knowing that this isn't happening tomorrow. Simpson said this was a decision Council needs to make on whether it has enough information to proceed. Bjork questioned including removal dates in the resolution. He talked further about renewal energy. Simpson explained the committee's thought process in detail.

The Mayor, who is a member of the committee, said it did a lot of hard work on the resolution. This was its recommendation to the Council. The committee would like the Council to pass the resolution as is. Bjork appreciated the committee's work but he preferred to take out the dates and the statement saying that this is the final time to license.

Aldersperson Odeen commended the committee and appreciated all the hard work and compromises that have been done. She sees this as a policy document, and she supports putting dates in it. Odeen feels the Council needs to make a statement about what direction it wants to go. She is appreciative.

Aldersperson Morrissette understands the necessity for having dates in the resolution. He has listened to the community's input. He spoke about a vision for a public/private partnership for the river. Morrissette's biggest concern is stormwater. He feels removal of the lower dam will be good practice for us to figure out what is before us with the upper dam. He is in favor of this option and is willing to listen to other dates and different avenues to explore.

Aldersperson Watson thanked the committee and is proud of the community for coalescing around vision of a free-flowing river. He feels the document points us in the right direction. He appreciates the dams' history but believes now is the time to move into the future. Watson talked about the process and his pride for the community. He would like to talk more about the date on the upper dam - he feels it too long. The Council needs to be a leader, and he doesn't want to leave it up to the next generation. He is looking for a date around 2040. Watson feels a public/private partnership is a great concept.

Aldersperson Gagne commended the committee and the people who got involved. He noted a couple of things on the resolution that could worked – maybe the dates. He thought the committee did a great job.

Aldersperson Downing asked how the timeline was established. Lobermeier said dates and language were developed over the course of several meetings of the group. There was discussion about the cost of a new dam and removal costs of the dam at Willow River State Park.

Aldersperson Bjork asked what action the Mayor was looking on the resolution. The Mayor explained the options. The Council would be voting on it in two weeks. Watson asked about formally receiving the report. City Attorney Gustafson said that wasn't needed. Morrissette cautioned Council not to violate any open meeting laws. Bjork asked about the upcoming process.

Mayor Toland shared his thoughts about the process. He is proud to be part of the committee and recognized the committee for its work. He thanked the community for participating and showing they care. Toland has tried to look at this issue from both sides and feels that a framework has been developed that the community can make happen over time. No one will get everything they want. He fully supports the resolution. One of his main concerns is the potential financial impact on the City's taxpayers. There is language that requires any implementation to be fiscally responsible meaning tax levy will not be used to fund this project. The Mayor talked about the City's many priorities. It will be crucial for the ultimate plan to be supported with funding ideals that not only avoid tax impacts but rate impacts also. He talked about supporters of this project needing to turn their energy to assisting the City in finding ways to fund it. Toland hoped everyone would continue to stay involved in the process. He offered his thanks again.

#### Administrator's Report

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about an impasse with the DOT regarding speed limits on Highway 35. Simpson provided a detailed explanation on the status. There was more discussion by Council. City Engineer Wronski said there is a meeting with the DOT in March. He talked about concern with speed regarding the multi-modal operations in that part of the City. There was further discussion and explanation.

Morrissette asked about dates for the jug handle. Simpson felt it wasn't a significant modification in our staff's mind. Wronski provided further details.

Aldersperson Downing asked about the grant for the Falls Theatre. Simpson provided details about the project, the grant, and funding for the project. Downing thanked Jason Rohloff who was the grant writer on the project.

Aldersperson Odeen reminded citizens of the Spring Primary on February 20.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointment

Plan Commission

Appointment of Craig Hinzman through May 2021

**MSC Morrissette/Watson move to approve appointment. Unanimous.**

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**MS Morrissette/Watson at 8:14 p.m. to move to *Recess into Closed Session per Wisconsin State Statutes § 19.85(1)(e) for the following purposes: "deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: property in Sterling Ponds/Whitetail/River Falls Industrial Park."* The roll call vote to move into Closed Session was unanimous.**

**MSC Watson/Bjork move into Open Session at 8:45 p.m. Unanimous.**

**MSC Watson/Morrissette move to adjourn at 8:46 a.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy City Clerk

**RIVER FALLS UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING**

**2a**

**January 15, 2018, 6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers, City Hall**

The regular meeting of the River Falls Utility Advisory Board was called to order by Utility Advisory Board President Myszewski at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Adam Myszewski, Diane Odeen, Duane Pederson, Patrick Richter, Kevin Swanson and Tim Thum

**Staff present:** Kevin Westhuis, Utility Director; Rhonda Davison, Utility Program Coordinator; Lanae Nelson, Utility Administrative Assistant; Scot Simpson, City Administrator; Julie Bergstrom, Assistant City Administrator, Wayne Siverling, Electric Line Superintendent; Brian Hatch Electric Meter Tech; Mike Noreen, Conservation & Efficiency Coordinator ; Sue Langer, Accounting Manager; Ron Groth, Wastewater/Water Superintendent; Greg Dietsche, City SCADA Engineer; and Mary Zimmermann, Communications Manager

**Approval of Minutes:**

December 18, 2017, Regular Meeting Minutes

**M/S Odeen/Richter approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgment of the following minutes:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 11-14-2017;

POWERful Choices Committee Meeting – 12-14-2017

**MSC Odeen/Swanson approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**Resolution No. 2018-01 adopting recommendation for Hydro Electric Facilities –**

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis introduced Mark Lobermeier from SEH provided financial aspects of relicensing the Hydroelectric Facilities. Lobermeier has worked with the City Staff and Kinni Corridor stake holder group for the past 18 months. He provided detailed information about the hydroelectric facilities including generation history, condition of the Junction Falls and Powell Falls facilities, revenues, projected net revenues, and the relicensing process.

In reviewing the details of the resolution, it was noted that there was a typo under “Junction Falls Hydro Facility”. It should read: “Improvement from 1990 will be fully depreciated in 2030” (not in 2020).

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted the City’s request for a five-year license extension for the River Falls Hydroelectric Project (P-10489) to accommodate the Kinnikinic River

Corridor Planning Process. This action extended the license term to 2023 and delayed any notice by the City to FERC to August 31, 2018, on whether the City will relicense or surrender the license.

**In the presentation were three relicensing options adopted by the City Council:**

- 1) Relicense the current hydro facilities, maintaining both the Junction Falls and Powell Falls hydro facilities. Any further hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 will be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval.
- 2) Surrender the license, which would remove both the Junction Falls and Powell Falls hydro facilities and dams at some point in the future.
- 3) Relicense the Junction Falls hydro facility, and remove the Powell Falls hydro facility and dam at some point in the future. Any hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 will be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval.

**Discussion:**

There were three scenarios for consideration:

**Scenario 1: Relicense and maintain both the Junction Falls and Powell Falls facilities.**

Under Scenario 1, the City would seek a new 40-year license that would allow the City to continue to (but not be required to) generate power from the two hydro facilities. During this period, it is anticipated that no funds will be invested in Powell Falls to make identified structural and generation improvements. The current estimated base cost (2017 dollars) for this scenario is \$754,750.

**Scenario 2: Surrender the license, and remove both the Junction Falls and Powell Falls hydro facilities and dams at some point in the future.** Under Scenario 2, the City would endorse the ultimate removal of both facilities, surrendering the license for Hydroelectric Project P-10489, thus, eliminating power generation effective August 31, 2023, coincident with the expiration of the existing license on August 31, 2023. Implied in Scenario 2 is the timely remove both of facilities including establishment of a free-flowing river, developing stream habitat and restoring the adjacent reclaimed flood plain within the limits of the City's financial capacity and available funding from non-City sources.

The current estimated base cost (2017 dollars) for this scenario is \$8,012,846.

**Scenario 3: Relicense and maintain the Junction Falls facility.** Under Scenario 3, the City would seek a new 40-year license that would allow the City to continue to (but not be required to) generate power from the Junction Falls facility. During this period, the City could continue to produce power throughout the 40-year duration of the license which would expire in 2063. Implied in Scenario 3 is the removal of the Powell Falls facility at some point in the future including establishment of a free-flowing river below the Junction Falls dam, developing stream habitat and restoring the adjacent reclaimed flood within the limits of the City's financial capacity and available funding from non-City sources.

The current estimated base cost (2017 dollars) for this scenario is \$1,931,184.

There were comments from the public for 2 minutes.

**Public spoke at Public Hearing:**

Neal Gilbertson, River Falls, WI;  
Eddie Rivard, New Brighton, MN;  
Larry Larson, River Falls, WI;  
Michael Alwin, St. Paul, MN;  
William Hanson, River Falls, WI;  
Peter Davis, River Falls, WI;  
Judie Foster Babcock, River Falls, WI;  
Deb Wulf, Hudson, WI;  
Mark Spafford, River Falls, WI;  
Alison Bruflat, River Falls, WI;  
Nate Dodge, River Falls, WI;  
Steve Dodge, River Falls, WI;  
Emily Page, River Falls, WI;  
Alison Page, River Falls, WI;  
Sarah Hall, River Falls, WI;  
Dave Fehringer, River Falls, WI;  
Michael Page, River Falls, WI;  
Gary Van, River Falls, WI;  
Tony Stifter, Blaine, MN;  
Karen Hansen, River Falls, WI  
Bill Hansen, River Falls, WI;  
Ben Plunkett River Falls, WI;  
Rose Rude, River Falls, WI;  
Joel Donna, River Falls, WI;  
Christopher Gagne, River Falls, WI;  
Christopher Olson, River Falls, WI;  
Stan Meyer; River Falls, WI;  
Lynne McMullen, River Falls, WI;  
Lauri Wilson, River Falls, WI;

**Myszewski closed the public hearing and moved back into Open Session at 7:25 p.m.**

**MS Pederson/Thum to send whichever scenario is chosen on the resolution that the UAB send it directly to City Council and not to the Kinni Corridor Committee. Odeen opposed motion because City Council created the Kinni Corridor Committee to make a recommendation to the City Council. After brief discussion, motion failed 3-2.**

Myszewski asked for discussion on the resolution. There was brief discussion from Swanson, Thum, Pederson, Odeen, Richter, Myszewski, Westhuis and Lobermeier answered questions from the UAB about the three options. President Myszewski reminded public that public comments are

closed.

**MS Richter/Odeen to move for the approval of Option # 3 to Relicense the Junction Falls Hydro Facility, and remove the Powell Falls hydro facility and dam in the future.** Any hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 will be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval. **President Myszewski asked for a vote on the resolution. The resolution passed 4-1 with all voting in favor except for Swanson.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution No. 2018-02 adopting recommendation to City Council for Water/Wastewater SCADA System**

Greg Dietsche, City SCADA Engineer and Ron Groth, Wastewater/Water Superintendent with the City of River Falls presented. Dietsche and Groth recommended that the Utility Advisory Board approve the purchase of a replacement SCADA system for water and wastewater from PJ Kortens and Company, and forward to the Common Council with a positive recommendation.

**MSC Odeen/ Richter approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

**REPORTS:**

Westhuis said the Finance Report for December 2017 was unavailable and will be presented at February 19, 2018, UAB meeting.

Utility Dashboards for Electric, Water, Wastewater Treatment Plan and POWERful Choices were included in the UAB packets for review. Westhuis gave a brief overview and answered questions about the dashboards.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Westhuis announced that Wayne Siverling, Superintendent, is in attendance and the new power plant substation is nearing completion working with XCEL Energy to make some final change overs, and they are working with AT&T on phone lines.

Myszewski commented and Westhuis recognized Lanae Nelson as the new Administrative Assistant at the River Falls Municipal Utilities.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**MSC Thum/ Richter to adjourn. Unanimous.**

**Myszewski announced meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.**

Reported by: Lanae Nelson, Utility Administrative Assistant

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Duane Pederson, Secretary

**EMS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES****January 8, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.**

River Falls City Hall  
 Training Room  
 222 Lewis Street  
 River Falls, WI

Call Meeting to Order 6:30 p.m.

Advisory Board Members Present:

Carole Mottaz, Gary Donath, Ken McNiff, Jeanne Wespetal, Jeff Bjork, Kent Kittleson, Judy Edgar

Also Present: Julie Bergstrom, Asst. City Administrator, Dave Matteson, Interim EMS Director

Advisory Board Members Absent:

None

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2017.

MSC Jeff Bjork/Gary Donath to approve minutes. UNANIMOUS

1) Discussion of 2018 EMS Advisory Board Goals

Chair Mottaz led discussion regarding goals for the upcoming year. Board members expressed ideas on categories to pursue. Hiring a director was agreed upon to be the most important goal. Also discussed were goals falling under the categories outlined in Municipal Code 2.52.050 and setting up a routine schedule of review.

- A. The Board shall review the by-laws annually and when changes are needed.
  - a. After Discussion, reviewing the by-laws scheduled for the June meeting.
- B. The Board shall review the EMS Business Plan annually and make recommendations to the Common Council.
  - a. After discussion, this review was scheduled for October.
- C. The board shall approve operation policies excluding medical direction guidelines and protocols.
  - a. Lengthy discussion regarding policy vs. procedure and what parameters will be used for future changes. Current policies have previously been reviewed and approved. It was decided that the Director should have discretion to bring item that would be of concern to the Board following current practices and if citizens bring concerns regarding policies to the Board, the Board will ask Director for said information.
- D. The Board shall review the EMS service area boundary and make recommendations for boundary extensions and/or retractions.
  - a. Bergstrom brought to the Board's attention that the Prescott agreement for

- 2019 must be agreed on by June 2018. This will be discussed at April 2018 meeting.
- b. More discussion was had on working towards a more holistic approach to the service rather than separated out between River Falls, Prescott and the township, creating sustainable partnerships working in cooperation. Matteson brought to the Board's attention challenges in the region to protect the service currently provided. This topic will be discussed with the new EMS Director.
- E. The Board shall review the department's service levels.
- a. **BLS and ALS** It was agreed that continuing service is a given.
  - b. **Critical Care:** Requires investment in equipment, supplies, and staff and is important to the community. Discussion regarding:
    - Saving training costs by having trainers brought in-house under the direction of Dr. Duren rather than going through technical college. Not only will this be a cost saving but it will improve the level of training as ER doctors will be providing the training.
    - Medical Directors may write protocols that institutes a form of critical care services on a scene, prior to a patient receiving these services first at a hospital
  - c. **Community Paramedic:** Matteson described the recently state approved Community Paramedic System allowing EMS to provide short term care to people in their homes to prevent hospital re-admission through coordinating directly with the hospital. Two on staff are already licensed for this so initial training would not be needed. Matteson suggested having Dr. Duren help develop this system.
  - d. **Service Level Callout:** Chair Mottaz indicated she'd like to see conversation of level of service on runs meet the needs of the call and community, i.e. sending a critical care paramedic and multiple EMTs to a BLS call. Matteson explained that at time of dispatch limited information is available and they may not know to what extent the injuries are until they arrive on scene.
  - e. **Medicare Reimbursement:** Matteson described the reduction of 2-3% in Medicare reimbursement rates in 2018. The Wisconsin legislature will be approving the reimbursement rates for the three-year period 2019-2021 this year. Due to this reduction, an adjustment in service rates will be brought back to the Board at the February meeting.
- F. The board shall serve as the customer advocate by listening to the community members' concerns, desires and needs.
- a. Discussion regarding how to reach the Prescott community. Chair Mottaz asked if the Board Meeting Minutes go to the Prescott City Council like they do the River Falls City Council. It was suggested they do from now on along with to the town boards. McNiff indicated he brings items back to Prescott Fire & EMS commission. Brainstorming around possible ideas to increase community involvement within Prescott and surrounding community. Matteson indicated he will talk with Jeff Rixmann to be aware as he works on community outreach for the Service.

- b. Another need in Prescott is to have more AEDs, specifically would like to see one in each police squad car. Discussion followed regarding grants and the success of AED placement in River Falls. Jeff Rixmann will be asked to address this issue.
  - c. Chair Mottaz challenged the board to think of ways to build equity within the service area.
  - d. Kittleson asked if community knows how to approach Board Members with concerns. A suggestion was made to put a photo of the Board in the paper. It was decided a photograph of the EMS Advisory Board would be taken at the June meeting.
- G. The board shall meet with the Common Council annually and at other times as necessary.
- a. Bergstrom indicated this is tentatively set for September 11, 2018.
- H. The Board shall provide three members to the hiring committee for the EMS Director position.
- a. It was indicated there are three members on the hiring committee. (Carole Mottaz, Ken McNiff, Gary Donath)
- 2) Other items:
- A. Matteson advised the Board the staff has team meetings between 6 & 6:15 a.m. and p.m. The team utilizes the phone to include the staff at the Prescott station in the meeting.
  - B. Matteson also advised that the seven full-time employees have each been tasked with specific areas of authority. This has been going well, and the staff are highly engaged.
  - C. Concern was raised regarding the reported “sporadic and unreliable” service of “First Responders”. After discussion, it was decided to request the new medical director to address this. Matteson indicated that the First Responders group are not employees of the City, rather a separate group outside of River Falls EMS.

Adjournment: MSC Donath/Kittleson 8:08 p.m.

Next meeting date February 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ailene Splittgerber  
Police Services Specialist Supervisor



2c

222 Lewis Street  
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone 715.425.0900  
Fax 715.425.0915

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## MINUTES

### PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 5:15pm

City Hall Lower Level Training Room

**5:15pm CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL** – Meeting convened at 5:15pm.

**Members Present:** Susan Reese (chair), Hal Watson (council rep), Brandon Dobbertin, Brenda Gaulke, Patricia LaRue, Jim Nordgren and Dennis Zielski.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Cindi Danke - *Recreation Manager*; Reid Wronski – *City Engineer*; Mike Stifter - *Operations Director*; Amy Peterson – *Development Services Director*; Tom Schwalen – *Facilities Maintenance Supervisor*

**Others Present:** None.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

**MSC Gaulke/Dobbertin to approve the minutes of the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion passed 7-0.**

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

### OLD BUSINESS

City Engineer Reid Wronski shared updated information about the Glen Park Pavilion plan. The design is currently 95% complete. The current construction cost for the pavilion is estimated to be \$1.35 million, which does not include engineering. There are about \$75,000 in add-in alternates/add-ons, and about \$40,000 in items that could be removed from the project. The exterior includes cultured stone wall, beams, 3 overhead garage doors, many windows, steel roof, and historic pictures (1/2" high density plastic which are \$1200-1500 each and seven are needed). Outside there will be a stone wall to sit on, a grill, gutters to rain gardens on each end of the pavilion, and plants to keep the patio area more private. The floor will be a lightly broomed concrete with sealer. The pavilion will seat about 80 people inside, and many more

outside on the plaza. City Staff will ask designers about a deeper sink in the prep area, and having fans inside the pavilion, as there is not air conditioning in the rentable space (only in the storm shelter area). The City will buy the furnishings such as benches and tables.

Tentative upcoming dates to keep looking at this project include a bid opening March 15<sup>th</sup>, Park Board March 21<sup>st</sup>, and City Council March 27<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully City Council will grant approval to award a contract in March. Construction may start after Labor Day 2018. (Recreation programs will not be affected this summer.) Parts of Glen Park will still be usable in the fall of 2018. At least one, and possibly two, of the current playground equipment sets will remain. The pool and much of the west side of the park will not be usable during the remaining construction in 2019. By the end of fall 2019 the whole park should be completed. We don't have enough money to do the entire master plan, so the east side of the park will likely not be updated at this point.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Reid shared results of citizens' priorities as indicated at the public meetings and the customer appreciation event. He then shared a sheet of costs for various parts of the project. The total preliminary estimate for five main areas (with engineering and inspection) is about \$4.6 million and we have a \$4.3 million budget, so ISG is looking for ways to reduce the cost. Naming rights may help with funding. There is not enough money to do the entire project at this time. The east side of the park will need to wait. Also, the aging pool will need to be re-done at some point, so the splash pad will be placed in such a way that the pool can be reached from the east side and replaced in the future. For next month, each Park Board member needs to come up with a list of their priorities. Focus on what you would buy for \$4.3 million. Also list 2-3 more priorities if additional funding was to become available. This information will be summarized and forwarded to City Council as the official Park Board recommendation.

The kayak entrance was discussed, but Park Board determined that they need to wait and see what the Kinni Corridor project decides. There is a concern about congestion and wonder if there is another location that kayakers can use. Park Board feels the current location needs to be managed until a new location can be determined.

The next Park Board meeting will be Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 5:15PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MSC Reese/LaRue to adjourn the meeting at 7:01pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle  
Recreation Assistant

**Community Development Department**

222 Lewis Street  
 River Falls, WI 54022  
 715.425.0900  
 www.rfcity.org



**MINUTES**  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**  
**January 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.**  
**Training Room**

Members Present: Heidi Heinze, Sean Downing, Mark Anderson, Jayne Hoffman, Denton Anderson  
 Members Absent: Pam Friede  
 Staff Present: Brandy Howe, Amy Peterson  
 Others Present: Jeff Bjork

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting convened at 5:33 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M/Hoffman, S/M. Anderson – motion carried 4-0 (D. Anderson arrived at 5:40)

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council member Bjork addressed the Commission. He indicated that he leads the River Falls High School Alumni Association which is working on a project that would create programming for the local cable channel. The concept would be interviews with local persons of interest regarding local history and stories. Bjork asked the Commission for their opinion on the project. Members indicated they support the project and are grateful that someone is taking on this initiative.

**CURRENT ITEMS****HPC Regroup – Purpose and Intent, Membership, Meeting Time and Location**

Heinze provided a refresher on the Historic Preservation ordinance, Section 17.76 of the Municipal Code. This section addresses the purpose and intent of the Commission as well roles, responsibilities, and membership requirements. Commission consists of seven members. Of the membership, if available in the community, one member should be a registered architect, one a historian, one a licensed real estate broker, one alderperson, and three shall be citizen members. There is currently one vacancy on the Commission; given the current makeup of the Commission, it would be preferred to appoint a new member that is either an architect or a real estate broker. The question was raised on whether or not members must reside in the City. Staff will investigate this question.

Heinze proposed moving the meeting location to the Council Chambers and asked to change the time. After discussion, it was agreed to adjust the start time to 6:00 p.m. for all future meetings and to meet in the Council Chambers.

**Historic Preservation Conference Report**

Heinze and Hoffman both attended the conference in October and provided a brief update on the sessions they attended. Hoffman emphasized the importance of this conference as a learning opportunity for members and inquired if there was room in the budget for more members to attend in the future. Staff will investigate this request during this year's budget process.

## **OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES**

### **River Falls Academy**

The Commission discussed the School District's request for HPC support of razing the River Falls Academy building. It was decided that staff would draft a letter on behalf of the Commission stating the Commission's purpose and intent to preserve and protect historic sites and structures in the community. Staff will distribute the draft letter to the Commission via email. Commission members may respond to staff on a one-on-one basis to prevent conflicts with the open meetings law. The letter will be signed by the Commission Chair.

### **Photo Project**

This item was deferred to the February meeting.

## **CALENDAR**

The next HPC meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

## **AJOURNMENT**

Downing made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m.

M/Downing, S/M. Anderson – motion carried 4-0 (D. Anderson departed prior to adjournment)

Respectfully submitted,



Brandy Howe, AICP, Senior Planner

**Community Development Department**

222 Lewis Street  
 River Falls, WI 54022  
 715.425.0900  
 www.rfcity.org



**MINUTES**  
**PLAN COMMISSION**  
**February 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Chambers**

Members Present: Scott Morrissette, Lisa Moody, Susan Reese, Bill Stuessel, Dan Toland, Michael Woolsey  
 Members Absent: None  
 Staff Present: Brandy Howe

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting convened at 6:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

M/Morrissette, S/Moody – motion carried 6-0

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**CURRENT PLANNING****Consideration of an Ordinance Amending Title 17-Zoning of the Municipal Code Related to Fences**

Howe reminded the Commission of the outcome of the January workshop where the Commission, as directed by City Council, worked on the issue that fence heights limited to 4 feet on the street sides of residential corner or through lots was not flexible enough in some situations. The solution that the Commission worked out is to allow fences up to 6 feet in height in these situations as long as the fence is set back a minimum of 3 feet from the property line and is adequately landscaped on the street side of the fence. Howe noted that additional ordinance changes were included to clarify permit application requirements and to return the section on retaining walls that was inadvertently removed from the fence code in the summer of 2017 when the section was first amended by the City Council.

Morrissette moved to recommend City Council approval of an ordinance amending Title-17 of the Municipal Code related to fences.

M/Woolsey, S/Reese – motion carried 6-0

**UPDATES AND INFORMATION****Wayfinding Project Update**

Howe presented the design for the wayfinding signs that were developed over a 7-month planning process. She noted that the final documents will be delivered by Guide Studio that will include a map that will identify the location of every sign to be placed in the community along with a message schedule, design details, phasing plan, estimated budget, and bid documents for sign fabricators. Wayfinding/directional signs that will direct visitors to and through the community will be the first priority for implementation with building, facility, and park signs likely coming in later phases. Howe also indicated that staff has prepared an inventory of existing non-traffic related signs in the community and staff will work to determine a removal plan for those signs.

**CALENDAR**

The next Plan Commission meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2018.

**AJOURNMENT**

Moody made a motion to adjourn at 6:46 p.m.

M/Moody, S/Stuessel – motion carried 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandy Howe".

Brandy Howe, AICP, Senior Planner

# City of River Falls Business Improvement District

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## MINUTES

January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.  
 Foster Conference Room - City Hall  
 222 Lewis Street River Falls, WI 54022

**CALL TO ORDER**– Joleen Larson called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Members present:** Joleen Larson, Kerri Olson, Mike Miller, Chris Blasius, Mike Pepin, Shari Frisbee, Terry McKay

**Members Absent:** Lori Moran, Amy Halvorson

**Others present:** Tobi LeMahieu, Jordan Pospishil, Amy Peterson

### Agenda/Meeting Minutes

The agenda and the December 12, 2017 meeting minutes were reviewed. M/S Pepin/Miller to approve the minutes; unanimous.

### Financial Report

Olson reviewed the financial receipts and pending obligations.

### Grant requests

None.

### Other Business

- Presentation by Tobi LeMahieu on the Regional Business Fund. Two loans of interest include the Downtown Façade Loan program and the Revolving Loan Fund. The Façade program provides a loan between \$5000 and \$30,000 at 0% interest. It is for downtown businesses and design guidelines apply. The Revolving Loan Fund has a minimum loan amount of \$25,000 and the rate is fixed at 4%. These loans can be combined with BID grants.
- Website – Larson talked with our current provider and the BID is not under contract. Items the group would like included in a website update include: before and after renovation pictures, a fillable application, and functionality for mobile devices. A check box on an update application would be helpful to allow business to provide permission to use their before/after photos. Blasius will begin drafting an RFP for Board review.
- Business or other updates – Peterson updated the group on the Falls Theatre. The City wrote and received a grant from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation that will assist the theatre owner with renovations. Match for the grant will be provided by the City completing surrounding infrastructure upgrades including resurfacing of the Heritage Park parking lot and new lighting, electrical upgrades in the alley, a permeant common alley dumpster enclosure.

### Next Meeting

Next meeting is February 13th at 8:30 a.m. in the Foster Room, City Hall.

### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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BID Board Chair:  
 BID Staff:

Joleen Larson  
 Amy Peterson, AICP

715-426-7776  
 715-426-3425

joleenlarson@hotmail.com  
 apeterson@rfc.org

**River Falls Library Board Minutes**  
**Monday, January 8, 2018**

**Present:** Rebecca Ferguson, Janet Johnson, Robert Wing, Ruth Kuss, Chris Gagne, P.C. Vasavada,, Melissa Wilson, Jean Ritzinger, and Nancy Miller (Director)  
Guests: Karen Bergstrom (City HR Director) and Cole Zroslik (Library Event Coordinator).

**Absent:** Joyce Breen

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by acting president, Rebecca Ferguson.

**Quorum:** A quorum was established.

**Open Meeting Law:** Nancy Miller certified the meeting was properly noticed.

**Acceptance of Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Kuss moved and Wing seconded. Motion carried.

**Approval of Bills:** Wing moved and Vasavada seconded. Motion carried.

**Current Business:**

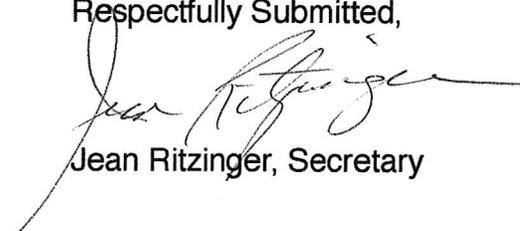
1. Hiring Time Line for New Library Director: it was agreed that Melissa Wilson and Joyce Breen will act as contact persons between the city and the library board.

**New Business:**

1. Mission and Vision Statements: Cole Zrostlik will review the mission and vision statements with the library staff and bring possible options back for the library board to approve.
2. Election of Officers: All current officers , Joyce Breen (president) Rebecca Ferguson (vice-president) and Jean Ritzinger (secretary) agreed to continue in their current positions. A motion was made to accept the current slate of officers by Kuss and seconded by Vasavada. Motion carried.

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jean Ritzinger, Secretary



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Toland and City Council

**FROM:** Brandt Johnson, Management Analyst Fellow

**DATE:** February 27, 2018

**TITLE:** **Resolution in Support of Increasing the State Limit on the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit**

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### INTRODUCTION

Adopt the Resolution to show support for introduced state legislation that increases the per-project cap on the Wisconsin Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (WHTRC) from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million.

### BACKGROUND

In September 2017, as part of the approval of [Wisconsin Act 59](#), the WHTRC was impacted significantly. Before the change, developers were allowed to claim up to \$5 million of historical tax credits on eligible projects undertaken on the same parcel. On July 1, 2018, developers will only be allowed to claim up to \$500,000 of historical tax credits for eligible projects.

### DISCUSSION

Wisconsin [Assembly Bill 793](#) and [Senate Bill 668](#) were recently introduced to increase the per project cap on the WHTRC program from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million dollars, which is supported by The League of Wisconsin Municipalities. By increasing the project cap per eligible project, developers would be more inclined to invest in rehabilitating historical properties that require significantly more resources compared to other projects.

From 2014 to 2016, 15,680 full-time equivalent construction and operations jobs were created by the historic tax credit program, according to a [study by the Historic Preservation Institute & Baker Tilly](#). These same projects yielded more than \$92.4 million in taxes from construction work and more than \$35.2 million annually in taxes from operations (the business' that went in after construction), and created more than \$16 million in new property taxes.

While there have not been any projects that have received historical tax credits within the City of River Falls, there are potential projects within the City. An area where a project could be eligible to utilize these historical tax credits most likely could occur within the [Downtown Overlay District](#). Additional sites could include properties with historical designations such as the

*Memorandum to Mayor and City Council*

*February 27, 2018*

*Page 2*

building that houses the public Montessori school, and various buildings on the University of Wisconsin – River Falls campus.

**CONCLUSION**

Council is being asked to consider the attached Resolution in support of Wisconsin Assembly Bill 793 and Senate Bill 668. By supporting this Resolution, the City Council is supporting increasing the per project cap on the WHRTC program from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million dollars.



**RESOLUTION NO.**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASING THE STATE LIMIT ON THE HISTORIC REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT**

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit (WHRTC) is an important economic development tool that has made a difference in both large and small communities in Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, the WHRTC encourages private investment in the rehabilitation of historic buildings that otherwise may not happen; and

**WHEREAS**, unless the current laws change in Wisconsin, on July 1, 2018, the per-project cap on the state historical tax credit will be lowered to \$500,000 from \$5,000,000; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a Baker Tilly study in 2017, since the program was expanded in 2014, over \$170 million in tax credits have been awarded to nearly 120 projects which are projected to more than \$719 million to Wisconsin's economy in construction project output; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of River Falls hereby supports the adoption of Wisconsin Assembly Bill 793 and Senate Bill 668, increasing the per project cap on the WHRTC program from \$500,000 to \$3.5 million dollars.

Dated this 27th day of February 2018.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dan Toland, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy White, City Clerk



#4

**TO:** Mayor Toland and City Council  
**FROM:** Scot Simpson, City Administrator  
**DATE:** February 27, 2018  
**TITLE:** **Hydro Relicensing Resolution**

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## **BACKGROUND**

In late 2013, the City began the federal relicensing process for two hydroelectric dams on the Kinnickinnic River within the City. In March 2016, the Federal Energy Regulation Commission (FERC) granted an extension of the license term to 2023 and delayed any notice by the City to FERC until 2018 on whether the City will relicense or surrender the license.

After thoughtful community engagement, the City Council determined that a multi-phased process was needed that would lead to a comprehensive long-term plan for the broader Kinnickinnic River Corridor.

In October 2016, the City Council authorized the creation of a committee to help guide the community engagement and planning process for the Kinni Corridor Project. The Kinni Corridor Project Committee has been meeting regularly for the past 15 months to help guide the process and to provide needed input. The Committee is expected to provide a draft recommended plan to the City Council in 2019.

The planning process includes a number of steps leading to the final recommendation of the plan. One step of particular interest to the community has been the initial relicensing or surrender decision for the City's hydroelectric project. Based on the timeline set by the Committee, the City Council would provide a decision in February allowing staff to take steps toward an official notification of FERC by the 2018 deadline set by FERC.

Prior to the February date, the Committee, along with the City staff and the consultant team, have created a website [www.kinnicorridor.org](http://www.kinnicorridor.org) to include video of each of the six tech talks, Committee meeting minutes, Q & A, and technical reports. Additional engagement opportunities have included a booth at River Falls Days, the use of social media, and a four-day planning charrette in October of 2017.

On October 10, 2017, based on a recommendation from the Committee, the City Council approved a resolution focusing the hydro licensing decision on three basic scenarios:

***Scenario 1:** Relicense the current hydro facilities, maintaining both the Junction Falls and Powell Falls hydro facilities and dams*

***Scenario 2:** Surrender the license, which would remove both the Junction Falls and Powell Falls hydro facilities and dams at some point in the future*

***Scenario 3:** Relicense the Junction Falls hydro facility, and remove the Powell Falls hydro facility and dam at some point in the future*

On January 15, 2018, the Utility Advisory Board (UAB) held a public hearing to consider the three scenarios. The UAB's meeting concluded with passing a resolution. In part the UAB recommendation reads:

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Utility Advisory Board (UAB) of the City of River Falls hereby recommends relicense of the Junction Falls hydro facility, and removal the Powell Falls hydro facility and dam at some point in the future. Any hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 will be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval.*

On January 25, the Kinni Corridor Project Committee met to finalize its recommendation to the Council on the relicensing decision. The Committee agreed to forward a recommendation to the City Council to endorse ultimate removal of both of the City's hydro facilities and to recommend that the City Council choose to relicense the City's hydro project for the last time, with a target date for removing the Powell Falls facility by 2026 and retaining the Junction Falls facility for a period up to 2048, within the parameters of a policy framework and settlement agreement. The resolutions of the Kinni Corridor Project Committee and Utility Advisory Board are included within the Feasibility Report as Appendix D & E.

**The Committee is only about half complete with its work.** You can find the timeline on the project website at: <http://www.kinnicorridor.org/about/10-kinni-corridor-project-planning-timeline-2016-2019>

## **DISCUSSION**

Much work on the corridor plan remains but the Committee has settled on a long-term vision to remove both dams from the River.

The resolution relies on the understanding that additional information will be needed to complete the plan, a subsequent implementation strategy, and finally begin steps to implement the strategy with detailed design and implementation.

I should clarify that the license is for the entire hydroelectric project which includes both facilities. When the resolution mentions removal of one or both of the facilities, it is presumed that the Council understands it would be relicensing both under the current resolution language but providing its intention to remove the dams after relicensing along the timelines indicated in the resolution.

It is difficult to adequately summarize the incredible depth and care taken by various groups in forwarding you the final draft resolution. The dates in the draft resolution were carefully considered and considerably debated before adoption.

The final resolution acknowledges that the final vision for the corridor is dam free but offers guides and targets for ultimate removals.

In my observation of the Committee, the intent of the dates is to honor the most aggressive timetable for removal of the lower dam while acknowledging that there is sentiment in the community to retain the upper dam and impoundment (Lake George) regardless of funding sources. With the understanding that the River can maintain its classification with the upper dam operating and repairs will be minimal. Those who wish for the dams to be preserved agreed to an aggressive timetable for removal of the lower dam with the understanding that the upper dam would be preserved for most of its estimated useful life (2040-2065). That was done with the acknowledgement that 2026 may not be achievable and 2048 may not be practical if significant repairs are needed for the upper. The dates represent aspirational goals for the Committee and target planning dates for staff, funders, and regulators.

Essentially, the current resolution sets and aggressive goal for removal of the lower dam of 2026 (the soonest practical according to our consultants), sets a “no later than” date for the upper dam removal of 2048 (approximately 30 years from today), and indicates several variables that could cause the upper to be removed much sooner than 2048. That includes a significant caveat regarding water quality and a \$5,000 expenditure limit without additional approvals.

All dates come with the important backdrop that the work must be able to be done in a fiscally responsible way. The community will have further opportunities to discuss what that means going forward.

Provided the resolution is passed, the relicensing process would be initiated in March. A preliminary application document would need to be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the end of August.

### **COUNCIL OPTIONS & AMENDMENT PROCESS**

Two Council members have submitted potential amendment language in advance of the meeting. The Council can make amendments to the resolution that they collectively feel reflects the direction they want to give to staff. Those amendments need not have been submitted prior to the meeting.

The Mayor submitted a letter to the Council that is attached to this memorandum. He suggests the Council adopt the resolution as presented.

Proposed language from Councilmembers submitted to the City Administrator prior to this item being distributed include the following (a markup version of the original is followed by the proposed section with changes included):

#### Amendment Proposal 1 – Mr. Downing

- ii.* The corridor planning process shall establish a fiscally responsible financing plan to implement the recommendations of the final Corridor Plan including ultimate dam removal and stream restoration. **It is understood that fiscally responsible financing means no use of local general property tax levy.**
  
- ii.* The corridor planning process shall establish a fiscally responsible financing plan to implement the recommendations of the final Corridor Plan including ultimate dam removal and stream restoration. It is understood that fiscally responsible financing means no use of local general property tax levy.

## Amendment Proposal 2 - Mr. Watson

- v. The City will take necessary steps to remove the Junction Falls facilities and complete associated stream restoration ~~targeting a time period from 2035 to 2040. 2048, unless funding is available to complete the removal of facilities and associated stream restoration by a date no earlier than 2040, or unless~~ **targeting a time period from 2035 to 2040. 2048, unless funding is available to complete the removal of facilities and associated stream restoration by a date no earlier than 2040, or unless** **If the trend of ecological conditions on the Kinnickinnic River has have degraded to a point where the need for the project becomes more immediate, an earlier date may be chosen. The City and stakeholder organizations will from a public-private partnership to seek funds for this and other river corridor projects.** Any future hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 shall be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval.
  
- v. The City will take necessary steps to remove the Junction Falls facilities and complete associated stream restoration targeting a time period from 2035 to 2040. If the trend of ecological conditions on the Kinnickinnic River has degraded to a point where the need for this project becomes more immediate, an earlier date may be chosen. The City and stakeholder organizations will form a public-private partnership to seek funds for this and other river corridor projects. Any future hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 shall be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Utility Advisory Board, Kinni Corridor Project Committee and the City Administrator recommend that the City Council approve the attached resolution to relicense the Hydro facilities using a policy framework outlined in the resolution.

### **Attachments:**

Letter from Mayor Dan Toland

Exhibit 1 - Council Resolution Regarding Hydro Relicensing



Council members,

Once again I am very sorry that I will not be able to be present at the next meeting on the relicensing issue.

As I explained at the last meeting I think the Kinni Corridor Committee did a great job in weighing all of the information we were given over the last 15 months and have made a very sound and well thought out recommendation to the council on the relicensing question. This is the first step of many for the committee as it moves along on this path of the Kinni Corridor project plan to be completed in 2019.

I truly hope that the council will look at this resolution in the spirit that it was intended by the committee. I understand you may be hearing from people who wish to take out dates, shorten dates, lengthen dates. They want to go faster or slower. If we don't go faster, they say we are kicking the can down the road. If they want to go slower they say we are wasting money and throwing away good dams. You all know it takes time to do a good job on complicated and costly projects. You also know when we commit to making something happen, we have a good track record as a City of getting done even if it takes time. The dates in the resolution were very important to the Committee as a whole. Remember, they all signed on to the final resolution.

It really is a compromise on both sides of the issue, there are no really 100% happy people, although I think we should all be happy about how we came to this recommendation. It is easy for people to forget that we have agreed on a very big change for the community of taking out both dams within 30 years. Thirty years in the life of a city is a very short time. 2026 will be here in no time at all. The committee had to look at both sides. I believe we have seen there are just as many people in the City of River Falls that want to keep the dams as there are that want to remove them and we had to remember that as we went along in drafting this resolution for you.

I believe that the council should leave this resolution alone and pass it the way it is written. If the council believes that they have to add or change something please think about what I said at the last meeting about the fact that these projects should not be paid for with general fund money or rate hikes. I hope that the meeting goes well for you. We have a lot on our plates and I think this is an important decision to make and then spend some time on some of our other priorities as a City Council.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Toland', written in a cursive style.

Dan Toland



# EXHIBIT 1



## RESOLUTION NO.

### RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING RELICENSING OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT P-10489

**WHEREAS**, the City of River Falls has initiated the development of a corridor plan to help establish the long term-vision for the Kinnickinnic River corridor and to inform the licensing decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has established an 11-person Kinni Corridor Project Committee to guide the planning process and to recommend to the City Council an appropriate action regarding the relicensing decision on or before Feb. 27, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kinni Corridor Project Committee, City staff and consultants undertook a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions, public input and relevant studies; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of River Falls operates two hydroelectric facilities on the Kinnickinnic River known as Hydroelectric Project (P-10489); and

**WHEREAS**, the hydroelectric facilities are operated under license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); and

**WHEREAS**, the current FERC license expires as of Aug. 31, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is required to notify FERC regarding its intentions for future licensing by Aug. 31, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the process for submitting sufficient notice and pre-application documents to FERC should begin by March 1, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has identified three licensing scenarios: (1) relicense both facilities, (2) surrender the license, and (3) relicense the Junction Falls facility; and

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Of Hydroelectric Project

**WHEREAS**, the Utility Advisory Board (UAB) of the City of River Falls has recommended scenario (3) that the City relicense the Junction Falls hydro facility, and remove the Powell Falls hydro facility and dam at some point in the future, and that any hydro- or dam-related expenditures over \$5,000 will be brought to the UAB and City Council for review and approval; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kinni Corridor Project Committee recommends that the City relicense the hydroelectric project for the final time, with a settlement agreement that incorporates the provisions of this resolution, and take steps to pursue the long-term vision for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor within the following policy framework:

- i. The City shall aggressively continue efforts to complete Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Corridor Plan that will define implementation action plans and dates that achieve the long-term vision of the corridor.
- ii. The corridor planning process shall establish a fiscally responsible financing plan to implement the recommendations of the final Corridor Plan including ultimate dam removal and stream restoration.
- iii. The City will proceed immediately to define and complete necessary steps to remove the Powell hydroelectric facilities and complete associated stream restoration by the target date of 2026.
- iv. The City shall document the Powell hydroelectric facility removal process to evaluate ecological restoration successes and failures and use those findings to enhance strategies for the ultimate removal of the Junction Falls hydroelectric facilities and associated river restoration.
- v. The City will take necessary steps to remove the Junction Falls facilities and complete associated stream restoration by the target date of 2048, unless funding is available to complete the removal of facilities and associated stream restoration by a date no earlier than 2040, or unless the trend of ecological conditions on the Kinnickinnic River have degraded to a point where the need for the project becomes more immediate. Any future hydro or dam related expenditures over \$5,000 shall be brought to the Utility Advisory Board and City Council for review and approval.
- vi. The City shall continue to pursue its renewable energy policies to create greater amounts of clean energy from other sources and identify strategies for reducing overall consumption compared to the current situation.

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- vii. The City shall develop and implement a Lake George Rehabilitation Plan including comprehensive stormwater strategies within the contributing subwatersheds, in accordance with the adopted Corridor Plan and dates related to future removal of the Junction Falls facilities.
- viii. The City shall develop additional policies for increasing funding to support stormwater management best practices in order to minimize the thermal and pollutant impact on the river.
- ix. The City shall aggressively pursue policies to address land use development impacts in the upper Kinnickinnic River Watershed that would diminish the quantity and quality of future groundwater sources that contribute to the Kinnickinnic River and its current thermal condition above the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council hereby finds that the future of the Kinnickinnic River Corridor should be based on a long-term vision of a free flowing Kinnickinnic River, including associated ecological restoration to maintain the current classifications as a Class I trout stream, an Outstanding Resource Water above STH 35 and an Exceptional Resource Water below STH 35 as defined by the WDNR.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls approves the relicense the hydroelectric project for the final time, with a settlement agreement that incorporates the provisions and policy framework of this resolution, and take steps to pursue the long-term vision for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor.

Dated this 27th day of February 2018.

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Dan Toland, Mayor

Attest

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Amy White, City Clerk



## *Administrator's Report*

### **February 27, 6:30 p.m. – City Council Meeting**

February 28, 6:30 p.m. – Special Meeting of the Police and Fire Commission

March 5, 6:30 p.m. – Library Board, Library

### **March 13, 6:30 p.m. – City Council Meeting**

March 14, 6:30 p.m. – HPC Meeting, City Hall

March 17, 1-8 p.m. – St. Patrick's Day Celebration sponsored by the River Falls Chamber

March 19, 6:30 p.m. – UAB Meeting, City Hall

## **Tuesday's Council Meeting Preview:**

- Minutes
- Resolution in Support of Increasing the State Limit on the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit
- Resolution Authorizing Hydro Relicensing

## **Election Update**

The local results for the February 20 election are as follows: Todd Bjerstedt 89 votes, Ben Plunkett 48 votes, Nathan Stauner 20 votes, 3 unofficial write ins. Todd Bjerstedt and Ben Plunkett will appear on the ballot in April.

## **Staff News**



Congratulations to Deputy Chief Jon Aubart who marked 25 years with the City of River Falls on January 27.



We know our snowplowing crew is the best. Congratulations to our crew who won an Environmental Leadership Award. They were recognized at the February 8 meeting of the Freshwater Society.

Also, an application was recently submitted for another award to the American Public Works Association for the 2018 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control. The award was established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works snow and ice operations and to promote the best practices in snow and ice removal while minimizing environmental impacts. The award will be presented at the APWA's North American Show Conference in May 2018. Good luck to our crew on their application!

### **City Administrator Comings and Goings**

- Staff 1:1s
- Staff Meetings
- Council 1:1s
- Kinni Corridor Meetings
- Economic Development
- RFEDC Meeting
- All Employee Meeting
- Meetings with Business Leaders