COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA
August 22, 2023

The public may view/listen to the meeting by:
- Calling Toll Free 1-844-992-4726, access code: 263 017 77823
- Visiting the web link: https://tinyurl.com/rfcc82223
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Call Meeting to Order – 6:30 p.m.
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Approval of Minutes – August 8, 2023, regular and workshop minutes; August 3, 2023, Board of Review minutes
Approval of Bills $847,982.79 (Bjerstedt)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
1. Public Comment
   If you are unable to attend the meeting in person but would like to submit a public comment, please e-mail to the City Clerk’s office (awhite@rfcity.org).

CONSENT AGENDA:
2. Acknowledgement of the following minutes:
   a. Police and Fire Commission – 9/1/22; 7/31/23
3. Resolution Requesting Application for Exemption from County Library Tax

REPORTS:
4. Comptroller’s Report

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
5. Mayor’s Appointment

ADJOURNMENT

NOTE: Any person who has a qualifying disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act that requires the meeting or materials to be in an accessible location or format, may contact City Clerk Amy White at (715) 426-3408 or in person at 222 Lewis Street, for accommodations. Requests for accommodations should be made at least three (3) business days in advance of the meeting. Every effort will be made to arrange accommodations.

Posted at City Hall on 8/9/23; Publish: The Pierce County Journal: 8/16/23
Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Members Present: Mayor Dan Toland, Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow, Sean Downing, Alyssa Mueller, Todd Bjerstedt, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jon Smits; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Police Sergeant Logan Dohmeier; Assistant Director of Community Development Emily Shively; Management Analyst Fellow Sara Kasel; City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Management Analyst Ellen Massey; Economic Development Manager Keri Schreiner; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Finance Director Josh Solinger

Others: Dana Linscott, Krista Cleary, Eric Amundsen, Sean Lentz, others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
July 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes
MSC Downing/Morrissette move to approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:
Bills: $2,002,811.79
MSC Mueller/Bjerstedt move to approve bills. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:
Krista Cleary, 880th Avenue, Town of Clifton – came to speak against an ordinance the Council previously passed regarding camping.

Dana Linscott, 11395 County Road M – came to speak against an ordinance the Council previously passed regarding camping.

Presentation by Merchant McIntyre
Tristan Southard and Brent Merchant from Merchant McIntyre came to provide a federal funding update. Southard began by talking about the process they use working with the city. He spoke about grants that have been awarded, are submitted, or are pending. These grants include a Rural Businesses Development Grant, Community Project Funding (CPF) Request, Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, and Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG).

Merchant continued talking about opportunities they are actively working on which include a Rural and Tribal Assistance Program, EDA Public Works Economic Adjustment Assistance, and Kinni Corridor Project Advocacy. Southard spoke about upcoming funding under consideration. They are looking at grants for Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainability and Equity, Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding Request, Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program, and Charging and Fueling (CFI) Infrastructure Program. They thanked City Administrator Simpson and the Mayor and Council. They stood for questions. Alderperson Downing noted the new innovation grants that were discussed in the joint workshop and said they should be looked at.
PUBLIC HEARING:
Ordinance 2023-11 – Creating Title 17 Zoning; Chapter 17.50 – Corporate Park Zoning District – Second Reading and Disposition
At 6:52 p.m., the mayor moved into a public hearing. As there were no comments, the mayor closed the public hearing and moved back into open session at 6:53 p.m. The mayor asked if council had questions. There were none. MSC Morrissette/Bjork move to approve ordinance. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2023-12 – Amending Official Traffic Control Map (No right turn on red - Division Street to Main Street) – Second Reading and Disposition
At 6:53 p.m., the mayor moved into a public hearing.

Eric Amundsen, 500 Marcella Court – had a couple of concerns. He liked the grant and what is being done at the intersection. He wondered why there is a no right on red when attempting to turn south on Main Street from Division. He was wondering if that is part of the grant. Amundsen thought it would be restrictive and cause a traffic back up. He asked Council to consider taking out the no right on red.

As there were no other comments, the mayor closed the public hearing and moved back into open session at 6:57 p.m. The mayor asked for a motion. MS Odeen/Bjerstedt move to approve the ordinance. Mayor Toland asked City Engineer Todd Nickleski for information about the no right on red.

Nickleski said the no right on red was a recommendation from the consultant who prepared the Pedestrian and Bike Study. The intent was to ensure that as cyclists are staged to cross the street when the light turns green, there aren’t cars trying to get around them and take a right turn on southbound Main Street. The corner is an acute angle and when drivers are turning right, they tend to brush the right side of their vehicle close to the curb which pushes cyclists up onto the sidewalk. Nickleski said it was a demonstration project; if it doesn’t work, it’s undoable.

Simpson said the demonstration project doesn’t require a no right no red. The Council can decide if they don’t want to do that. He talked about the Bike and Pedestrian Plan. A corner was selected that would have the highest impact. He said it was a high impact/low-cost trial.

Morrissette asked about a timeframe for the project. Simpson said there isn’t anything on the calendar unless Council chooses to direct staff. He provided more information. He talked about doing trials before doing the downtown plan. Simpson said the treatments are for inconveniencing traffic for the convenience of a cyclist, pedestrian, or other. He talked about the project having either some increased perception of safety or real increase in safety. Nickleski talked further about the intersection.

Bjork had a question on the right turn. If there’s a no right turn, that means traffic/bikes are waiting. When the green light happens, the cars go. Are the cars and bikes going already? If you had a right turn on red, the bikes would wait, and the cars could go getting out of the way for the bikes. Bjork feels it is more hazardous to have a no right turn there. He would like to see an amendment to what is proposed. He thinks it is less safe.

Odeen said speaking as a bicyclist, she disagreed. As a pedestrian or cyclist, it is one of the hardest intersections to cross and feel safe. She is in favor of slowing traffic down. Anything we can do to make it feel safer is something we should try.

Downing asked about the criteria for success. Simpson said Council gets to decide that. He spoke further and provided more details. This is a sample for people to see.
Downing asked when it would come back to Council again. Simpson said this demonstration is likely less than 12 months. He provided a couple of options for Council to consider. Downing wanted to know if there is an uptick in accidents on the no right turn.

Simpson asked about making an amendment to the ordinance. City Attorney Gierhart felt an amendment was not necessary; a report back to Council in six months would suffice.

Morrissette felt the St. Bridget’s side was more of a challenge. He would like to see a report back in May after a full school year.

Alderson Carow shared Morrissette’s concerns because he has kids at St. Bridget’s. He asked Nickleski if he knew the timeframe of the highest density of traffic while school is in session. Nickleski didn’t.

Simpson heard Council wants a December update with more comprehensive information within 12 months – spring/summer. There was continued discussion. Upon completion of discussion, the mayor asked for a vote on the motion. The ordinance passed 6-1 with all voting in favor except for Downing.

CONSENT AGENDA
Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for 879th Avenue with the Town of River Falls →→pulled by Morrissette

Resolution Revoking the License Agreement for Property Located at 235 Highway 35 N. →→pulled by Downing

Resolution No. 6813 - Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement for 879th Avenue with the Town of River Falls
Morrissette thought this was a great solution to the concerns expressed by residents on 879th. He wanted to recognize the good work that happened. He was concerned about how the City was going to pay for it as in the packet it said it was to be determined. Before any work proceeds, he asked staff to return with a completed sources and uses table. He asked Gierhart for confirmation.

City Attorney Gierhart said by adopting the intergovernmental agreement, Council is committed to performing these actions. Where the money is coming from is to be determined. Council can ask staff to prepare a report.

Morrissette asked staff to prepare a report before any dollars are spent. He targeted a 60-day window. Bjork and Odeen agreed. MSC Morrissette/Downing more to approve the resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6814 - Revoking the License Agreement for Property Located at 235 Highway 35 N.
Downing asked Simpson for a brief history for the recommendation. He said it sounds like the person is between a rock and a hard place, but they understood knew what they were getting into.

Simpson was not going to speak for the property owner but can share his perspective. The Council has entered into a developer’s agreement for the sale of the lot. Part of that is to not have other encumbrances on the lot. To satisfy what Council has agreed to, the Council needs to take action to revoke the license. Simpson is not recommending further actions as part of the revocation; the Council can direct if it is concerned about the property owner’s access through other parts of the City’s property. Simpson provided further details. He talked about the history, past actions, and multiple communications.

Downing asked if there was an example of why we might provide access. Simpson said yes, if the property owner could purchase access on a different part of the lot, the property owner could sell the
lot, the property owner could ask for a permanent easement. Simpson suggests that we have certainly about what we need to do with what was agreed to in the developer's agreement. The City has never had the responsibility to provide access to the property – we have done it as a neighborly thing. He suggests making the action to remove this and then deal with what you have after.

Downing asked if Simpson was suggesting they could work with the City afterward. Simpson is open to it on Council’s behalf but hasn’t heard Council say they are not interested in working with the property owner. Downing wants to make sure we are being fair.

Odeen was looking at the license agreement. She understood the City provided the access cost free for the land locked property. Simpson said yes, there’s no money being exchanged.

Morrissette said we are obligated to deliver a lot free and clear of encumbrances. Simpson agreed saying that was his understanding. Morrissette said the only way we can do that is to remove the easement. That doesn’t preclude the landowner from going back to the new owner, or coming to the City, or coming the property owner to the south, to ask for access. They have other options for access they must explore. The City must perform on the developer’s agreement and provide a lot free and clear. Simpson said we are also performing on the license agreement. It was anticipated in the license agreement that in the future the City was going to sell the lot and we are going to rescind the license agreement. Council is essentially performing on two documents. Simpson is not providing a recommendation of ‘now what’. He spoke further about the situation.

**MS Downing/Odeen move to approve the resolution. Bjerstedt would be abstaining from the vote due to a family connection. With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The vote passed unanimously except for Bjerstedt who abstained.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution No. 6815 - Approving 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Plan
Finance Director Josh Solinger gave a presentation on the plan. He talked about the items included and the funding amounts and sources. Solinger talked about the largest projects included in the plan which are Kinni Corridor Implementation, fire station, Mann Valley Corporate Park, biosolids facility, S. Wasson Lane reconstruction, North Substation Transformer, well #7, DeSanctis Park Shelter, electric transformers, and Main Street reconstruction. He talked about the levy support and mill rate. Solinger talked about the general obligation borrowing and the levy requirement. He talked about projects that were not included in the plan. Solinger talked about 2024 projects by department/fund and funding sources.

Morrissette asked Solinger to talked about opportunity for grants for funding of the largest projects. Simpson said there are significant grant opportunities and community fundraising for the library. He talked about retiring debt. Simpson continued talking about the projects and various funding sources. He said the fire station would have the greatest impact on potential tax implications.

Solinger talked about the police station roof, Main Street reconstruction, and vehicles. When you look at levy backed borrowing, the fire station is the bulk of it.

**With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a motion. MSC Morrissette/Mueller moved to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6816 - Providing for the Sale of an Approximately $5,030,000 Water System Revenue Bond Anticipation Note
MSC Bjork/Mueller move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.
REPORTS:
Administrator's Report
Simpson provided updates.

MSC Bjerstedt/Morrissette move to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk
At 5:01 p.m., the workshop was called to order by Mayor Toland. The workshop began with introductions.

City Administrator Scot Simpson began with City updates. He talked about housing trends – 770 housing units are approved or under construction since 2021-July 2023. Housing supply remains critically low. Simpson talked about housing being an ecosystem. Housing types compliment each other. He talked about growth in the city.

Simpson continued talking about the Mann Valley Corporate Park. He showed a map of the area. He spoke about the recently approved construction contracts, acquisition of property from Gary Moelter, development highlights, and infrastructure. He talked about pathways.

Simpson continued talking about the Kinni Corridor Project and working with US Army Corps Engineers and an upcoming Open House.

Simpson spoke about development highlights and a State Budget Update. He talked about supplemental shared revenue, personal property exemption, and innovation grants. He fielded questions.

Superintendent Jamie Benson talked about referendum plan items and the related community survey. This would be for operational referendum support. The district has done a comprehensive facilities study. There is a survey being put together for community which will go out in September. There’s one referendum question related to operational question. Benson said the school district doesn’t have the financial means to keep pace with inflation. He explained the cause of this is the school funding formula which was created in 1993. He provided an example in how it works. He talked about the amount of money school districts receive per pupil and state budget cycles. Benson spoke about the deficit they will face in the upcoming years. There was discussion about how the school and city get their money – the differences between revenue and levy caps.
Benson talked about the referendum question asking for $1 million in year one, $2 million in year two, $3 million in year three, and then plateauing. The district is going to try and take a reasonable and modest approach. Benson talked about enrollment. Modest growth is anticipated. The three largest classes are sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The district is graduating more out and not bringing more in. Benson talked about the demographer providing numbers. He talked about the new housing not bringing in kids. The yield rate is 0.172 per unit for multifamily units. With all the apartments going up, school staff assumes there should be a boom in students but that is not the case. There was a discussion about ‘where are the kids’.

Benson continued talking about the school forest. He talked about a new access road, acreage, and volunteers. The district received a $18,000 grant from Pierce County. The district intends to use it to improve access to all. He talked about city staff being helpful and gave a shout out to Mike Noreen for helping them out with the school forest project. The city has been generous to put students into the old police station. Benson believes that he and Simpson have a good relationship. They communicate often. He talked about collaboration and the good use of tax dollars. Benson is proud of the city. City staff runs a good show. He noted the park and rec programs and the beauty of the city and all it has to offer won’t happen without City leadership. He recognized and appreciated it.

President Myers Johnson thanked the City for the student liaison officer. It is an important collaboration. She talked about how they make life better for kids and families. Clerk Tuchtenhagen talked about how the officers are always at graduation and how they have built relations. He appreciates the collaboration.

Simpson talked about the expectation from Council is collaboration. There will be challenges over time. He talked specifically about youth sports and the use of facilities.

At the end of the scheduled presentations, there was discussion. Alderperson Mueller talked about the expense of raising children and childcare. She said there are no affordable or adequate childcare. She doesn’t believe the school district should be a babysitter. She asked if that was something we can collaborate on? Benson didn’t know but said he and Simpson could discuss it. There was further conversation about it.

Alderperson Morrisette brought up a concern from someone who lives by the high school. He talked about experiencing frustration with high school students parking in neighborhoods and speeding. He asked how the problem could be fixed. He would like to solve it both short and long term. Benson affirmed that this was a real problem and spoke further. Morrisette thought we owe it to the taxpayers to figure this out. Alderperson Bjork asked about students riding the buses. Benson talked in detail about the number of bus routes they run. There was continued discussion about parking.

Tuchtenhagen talked about the joint meeting not being common. He feels it is an indication of good government. It’s unique.

The workshop adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk
CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN
BOARD OF REVIEW
August 3, 2023, 4-6 p.m.

Members Present: Jeff Bjork, Nick Carow, Sean Downing, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Dan Toland (came 4:26 p.m.), Amy White

Members Absent: Todd Bjerstedt, Alyssa Mueller

Others Present: City Attorney Christopher Gierhart; City Assessor Zac Schmidt, City Administrator Scot Simpson, Deputy Clerk Jackie Hanson, Management Analyst Sara Kasel

Clerk Amy White called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. White took a roll call.

Clerk White explained the Board would be in session for two hours. This is a maintenance year meaning updates for all properties were reviewed by the City’s assessor, Accurate Appraisal. White provided information on the publishing and posting of the Board of Review agenda and affidavit.

Clerk White asked for a motion to select the Chairperson for the Board of Review

MS Bjork/Odeen Scott Morrissette to be the Chair. A roll call vote passed unanimously.

Chairperson Morrissette asked for a motion for the Vice-Chairperson for the Board of Review.

MS Odeen/Carow nominated Jeff Bjork as Vice Chair. A roll call vote passed unanimously.

Chairperson Morrissette stated for the record that Board Members Amy White and Sean Downing have met the mandatory training required by State Statute 70.45(4) for Board of Review Members.

Chairperson Morrissette stated for the record the City has a Confidentiality Ordinance. It is Chapter 2.48.040 in the City’s Municipal Code.

Morrissette stated the assessor had provided a summary of the annual assessment report which was included in the packet. He asked if there were questions for the assessor.

Downing asked if there were any notable changes for 2023? Schmidt said at this point, not much. The construction that we have seen here is pretty typical of what we have seen in other communities. Nothing substantial of large significance

Morrissette said the assessor provided Clerk White a preliminary electronic copy of the assessment roll prior to Open Book. A hard copy was provided today. Morrissette asked Schmidt if all open book changes have been made. He said yes.

Clerk White confirmed the assessment roll had been received and she had reviewed it for double assessments and other errors. She noted Open Book was held on July 13. As of today, there are no open tickets with the assessor. She noted there is a parcel that is being reviewed. It is in our TID district. There were some valuation questions on it by staff. It is not reflected in the current roll. White said the board can accept the roll as is with the understanding that we will likely to modify the valuation of the TID or we will have to recess or adjourn to another date to accept the roll once the correct is made. She asked Schmidt if the board would have to go into session after the correction has been made.

Schmidt believe that we do; we would have to wait 15 days. White recommended that the board meet prior to the August 22 City Council meeting. Morrissette clarified the board’s options with Clerk White.
MS Odeen/Downing move to accept the corrected records when the board next meets. Bjork asked what does the mean. Will all the discussion be tonight? White said yes. It would just be a review of the valuation change on this particular parcel as it compares to what is currently in the roll. Then the board would move to approve the roll. With no other discussion, Chair Morrissette asked for a vote. It passed unanimously.

Morrissette said the next agenda item was review of notice to file an objection. He deferred to White. White asked if the board had an opportunity to review the roll in electronic form or wanted to discuss it. The first hearing was scheduled for 4:30 p.m. There was only one parcel in contention otherwise everything should be accurate. She asked if there were questions.

Morrissette asked what the parcel was. Schmidt said it was 1777 Paulson Road. The current assessment is $20 per square foot which is too low. He just found out about it this morning. Morrissette asked if Schmidt was working with staff and the owner to arrive at something that is equitable. Schmidt said yes. Morrissette asked if the owner had the ability to file an objection if they didn’t agree. Schmidt said yes; there is a 15-day window to object.

Morrissette asked if anyone wanted to look at the roll. Bjork said yes. At 4:14 p.m., Morrissette recessed the Board of Review. At 4:29 p.m., Morrissette called the Board back into session.

Clerk White read a statement describing the proceedings procedure. There is one objector – Hoss Investments. The property is located at 1063 E. Cascade Avenue, River Falls. She provided details regarding the property. A waiver for the Board of Review was filed. The Board has the option to grant the waiver and allow the objector to commence to circuit court action or to deny the waiver and proceed with the Board of Review hearing. At the recommendation of the City Attorney, White moved to deny the request and proceed with the hearing. Downing seconded the motion. Morrissette asked for discussion. There was none. Morrissette asked for a vote on the motion. It passed unanimously.

White said a request was made for telephone testimony for Gary Kohlenberg. She has learned it was strictly for his testimony. A representative from Hoss Investments is present. At the recommendation of the City Attorney, White moved to deny the request for telephone testimony and proceed with the hearing. Downing seconded the motion. Morrissette asked for discussion. Bjork asked for the reason to deny it. White said the Board of Review doesn’t have a proper procedure in place for telephone testimony. The Board can have discussion and decide that telephone testimony is acceptable. She doesn’t have another reason for denial.

Downing said in the training it talked about setting a policy for phone or in writing sworn testimony. It discourages using these methodologies unless a person has a medical reason or are disabled. We set a time and place, and they are expected to show up. You can’t cross examine a written policy. There are certain things in the training packet that recommends avoiding and this is one of them. It is in the best interest of everyone to get things right.

Odeen said its hard to swear someone in remotely. Live testimony is helpful to fully communicate with someone and weigh their evidence. Downing said most of it is because we are a quasi-juridical body. Morrissette asked for more discussion. There was none. Morrissette asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

White said after reviewing the objection form, sections 4A and 4B were incomplete. State law indicates by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, that the entire objection form, the board may insist upon completion of it. The Board can decide to proceed with the hearing with an incomplete objection form. The Board is not waiving the right by proceeding to the hearing. White provided more detail. City Attorney Gierhart said the board has two options: to proceed with the hearing while knowing it is not waiving the requirement to
complete the objection form to preserve that option on a potential appeal or based on the incomplete objection form filed, the Board could deny the hearing based on the incomplete form. Bjork asked if it was denied, does it mean it is done? Morrissette understands it to be.

**Morrissette asked for a motion. MS Toland/Downing to deny the request for trial because of incomplete form.** Morrissette asked for discussion. Odeen felt people like to be given an opportunity to state their case. Knowing that the Board could allow the hearing without waiving the right to object at a future time that it is incomplete, she thinks the Board should be proceed. The Board is within its rights to turn this down. Downing said substituting our own ideas on behalf of someone else is a mistake. He would say deny.

With no other comments, the Morrissette asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed 5-2 with all voting in favor except for Odeen and Carow.

Morrissette asked if anything else needed to come before the Board. White said not at this time as that was the only hearing scheduled. **Morrissette recessed the board.**

**At 5:58 p.m., Chair Morrissette brought the Board of Review back into Open Session.** He asked if anyone had anything. White did not. Morrissette asked about the next meeting. White said it would be August 22, 2023, at 6:15 p.m. to accept the assessment roll. Downing asked White when some of the policies that had been discussed would be available. White said it would be next year. White thanked everyone. Morrissette asked the assessor if he had anything. He did not.

**At 6 p.m., the Chair Morrissette recessed the Board of Review until August 22, 2023, at 6:15 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy City Clerk
Meeting called to order at 5:28 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Mark Sams, Gary Donath, Grant Hanson (virtual attendee)
Commission Members Absent: Dick Rinehart, Jon Longsdorf
Staff Present: Gordon Young, Sterling Hackney
Absent: Jon Longsdorf

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from June 27, 2022.
MSC Donath, Hanson. Unanimous.

1) **Removal from Probation for Officer Luke Axley (effective 9/5/2022)**

Chief Young shared Officer Axley was selected as our Neighborhood Resource Officer and works day shift from Monday-Friday. Officer Axley is primarily in charge of special events, mental health coordinator, downtown business liaison, and our primary person responsible for posting via Facebook. He also backs up patrol during the day and serves as an animal control officer during the day. Chief Young shared several instances where positive feedback was received. Including being praised by Allina EMS staff for his quick actions in stabilizing the patient. He was thanked by a resident for finding their lost dog. He has demonstrated a high level of patience and willingness to help individuals with mental health conditions. He also assisted EMS in delivering a baby.

Chief Young also shared some goals that Officer Axley has, as well as areas of improvement as he increases his patrol experience with our department, including implementing a Place of Last Drink program. Chief provided more details about the Place of Last Drink Program.

Chief Young asked that Officer Axley be removed from probationary status on September 5, 2022

MSC Hanson/Donath to remove Officer Luke Axley from Probation, effective September 5, 2022. Unanimous

2) **Removal from Probation for Officer Matthew Miller (effective 10/3/2022)**

Chief Young shared Officer Miller received a thank you over social media for his compassion during a mental health call, as well as his attention to detail. He maintains a positive attitude and completes reports in an efficient and thorough manner. He, along with a few other officers, cleaned our entire garage and washed every vehicle in the winter. He assisted other officers in
taking a stabbing suspect into custody without incident. He provides a fluent and well written police report, which accurately depicts the events in detail.

Chief Young shared some of the upcoming goals Officer Miller has for his career with the department, including expressing interest in working with the school district as a School Resource Officer.

Chief Young asked that Officer Miller be removed from probationary status on October 3, 2022.

MSC Hanson/Donath to remove Officer Matthew Miller from Probation, effective October 3, 2022. Unanimous

3) **Removal from Probation for Officer Alexander Hoffman (effective 10/8/2022)**

Chief Young shared that Officer Hoffman is proactive on patrols, proactively stopped a vehicle on Hwy 35 that may have led to a head on collision. He also recovered a stolen vehicle, apprehended the thief, and returned it to owner. He received an email thanking him for stopping emailer’s daughter, praised him for being professional and nice, and making a positive impact on the daughter.

He assisted Pierce County deputies on a physical assault call at a residence. Officers were able to safely take the suspect into custody and he displayed professionalism and calmness. Chief Young provided an overview of how the mutual aid agreement between the county and our department.

He acted quickly and safely during a high stress overdose incident to help save a life. He accepts feedback well and makes changes that are necessary after receiving feedback.

Chief Young shared some of the improvements Hoffman could make, including becoming more proficient with Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) stops and exploring smaller detail on calls and traffic stops.

Chief explained that patrol officers do a lot of the interviews and interrogations themselves, since we have a small investigations staff. One of the upcoming goals Officer Hoffman has for his career with the department is to attend an interview and interrogation training course.

Chief Young asked that Officer Hoffman be removed from probationary status on October 8, 2022.

MSC Donath/Hanson to remove Officer Alexander Hoffman from Probation, effective October 8, 2022. Unanimous

4) **Removal from Probation for Officer Alex Sather (effective 10/9/2022)**

Chief Young shared his history, including the difficult position of coming into the agency where his father had a successful career. Chief received feedback from a resident who called to express Thanks for him checking on his wellbeing and how kind Officer Sather was to him, and he greatly appreciated his actions. He was also part of the team that helped deliver a baby. He, along with a few other officers, cleaned our entire garage and washed every vehicle in winter. He stays busy, is quick to answer the radio, and enforces traffic laws and properly completes his case.
reports and calls for service entries promptly. He responds very well to feedback and takes steps to improve.

Chief Young shared some of the improvements Sather could make and upcoming goals Officer Sather has for his career with the department once he gains some experience with the department, including situational awareness on traffic stops. Chief Young also shared some goals that Officer Sather has expressed, including a better understanding of the OWI procedure, attending a report writing course and has expressed interest in being a trainer for our department once he gains experience.

Chief Young asked that Officer Sather be removed from probationary status on October 9, 2022
MSC Hanson/Donath to remove Officer Alex Sather from Probation, effective October 9, 2022. Unanimous

Other Business:

Commissioner Donath commented that he has met a few of the officers and they are a great group.

Commissioner Sams asked how helpful CVTC training is for new officers. Chief stated we have an excellent police academy and explained the academy is taught by officers with experience on the job and provides good, practical training for the officers.

Commissioner Sams also asked about knowledge of OWI procedures mentioned as a goal of understanding them better by these officers and inquired if OWIs are a problem in River Falls. Chief mentioned we get calls weekly about vehicles weaving. He stated overserving is an issue in the community. He stated sometimes distracted driving is the of the driving complaint, but typically the drivers in these calls are intoxicated by alcohol or drugs. Chief also again discussed the Place of Last Drink initiative for the safety of our community. Chief stated we are pro-business but want to make sure that it is not at the point where it affects the safety of our community and campus students.

Commissioner Sams stated he is glad to see the officers have a good relationship with EMS. Chief Young stated building relationships between Police, Fire and Emergency Services (EMS) is important.

Adjournment: MSC Donath/Hanson Unanimous by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ailene Splittgerber
Recording Secretary
Commissioner Donath called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Gary Donath, Dick Rinehart, Jon Longsdorf

Commission Members Absent: Mark Sams

Staff Present: Gordon Young, Matthew Kennett

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2022. 
MSC Rinehart/Longsdorf. Unanimous.

1) Election of President of Police & Fire Commission
Commissioner Donath requested nominations. Consensus was Mark Sams is doing a good job as president and would once again like him to continue in that role, even though he is not present. 
MSC Rinehart/Longsdorf to nominate Mark Sams to another term as president of the Police and Fire Commission. Unanimous

2) Election of Vice President of Police & Fire Commission
Commissioner Donath requested nominations. Commissioner Rinehart stated he would volunteer. 
MSC Longsdorf/Donath to nominate Dick Rinehart as vice-president of the Police and Fire Commission. Unanimous

3) Removal from Probation for Officer Allison Libor (effective 8/21/2023)
Chief Young shared Officer Libor’s background and shared some information on cases for which she had received notes of appreciation. Chief stated mental health issues are prevalent in our community and she does a wonderful job helping individuals in crisis. Chief also shared an incident where Officer Libor went out of her way to assist a new resident to the community while moving in. She displays a positive attitude, willing to learn, and is receptive to constructive feedback.

Chief Young asked that Officer Libor be removed from probationary status on August 21, 2023

MSC Longsdorf/Rinehart to remove Officer Allison Libor from Probation, effective August 21, 2023. Unanimous

4) Removal from Probation for Officer Adam Amaro (effective 8/25/2023)
Chief Young shared Officer Amaro’s background and shared some information on cases for which he had received notes of appreciation, including attention to detail and research in a case
which led to a suspect admitting the crime. He also received a compliment that he was very professional, respectful and treated everyone with dignity when investigating an incident. He shows initiative in organizing the squad medical bags and providing staff with real-life examples of how to use them. This is a joint effort with Officers Libor and Fluno. Chief Young shared that Officer Amaro volunteered to lead our department’s involvement with Shop with a Cop events with both counties. Chief stated Officer Amaro is a leader, compassionate and driven to success.

Chief Young asked that Officer Amaro be removed from probationary status on August 25, 2023.

**MSC Rinehart/Longsdorf to remove Officer Adam Amaro from Probation, effective August 25, 2023. Unanimous**

5) Authorization to end current Police Officer Eligibility List

Chief Young explained the current list, dated April 7, 2022 contained six candidates. We hired four candidates from the list. Paige Harlow was the final person on the list and she resigned her position with our agency. Chief advised our agency is currently authorized 26 sworn officers and we currently have 25 sworn. With permission by the City Administrator, we are looking to hire one more officer soon, to be trained in time for the next anticipated retirement, to provide a smooth transition for our department.

**MSC Rinehart/Longsdorf to end current Police Officer Eligibility List. 2023. Unanimous**

6) Authorization to create a new Police Officer Eligibility List

Donath expressed appreciation for the forward-planning done by the Chief. Discussion regarding area staffing needs and how the determination to add staff is made. Chief Young assured the Commission that we want only the best to serve our community and we won’t lower our standards.

**MSC Rinehart/Donath to authorize the creation of a new Police Officer Eligibility List. UNANIMOUS**

Adjournment: **MSC Longsdorf/Donath. Unanimous.**
Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ailene Splittgerber
Recording Secretary
MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Toland and City Council
FROM: Amy White, Community Services Director/City Clerk
DATE: August 22, 2023
TITLE: Resolution Applying for Exemption from County Library Tax

RECOMMENDED ACTION
Approve resolution applying for exemption from the county library tax for properties in the City of River Falls. The exemption is allowed if the local tax contribution is higher than the amount that would be calculated by the county.

BACKGROUND
Counties in the State of Wisconsin levy a tax in support of public libraries. Municipalities that support a public library with local tax dollars are allowed to exempt themselves from the county library levy, as per Section 43.64(2)(b) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, providing they meet the fiscal requirements as set out by the formula in the statute. The City meets this requirement.

DISCUSSION
In order to process the exemption request, the counties are requesting that the governing body approve a resolution. The 2023 City library levy is anticipated at $867,000 and exceeds the minimum amount to meet the exemption test.

CONCLUSION
Approve resolution applying for exemption from the county library tax for properties in the City of River Falls. The resolution is forwarded to Pierce and St. Croix counties by the City Clerk in compliance with statute.
RESOLUTION NO.
REQUESTING APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM
COUNTY LIBRARY TAX

WHEREAS, the County Boards for both Pierce and St. Croix Counties levy a county library tax; and

WHEREAS, Section 43.64(2)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that any city, town, or village which levies a tax for public library service and appropriates and expends for a library fund as defined by section 43.52(1) of the Wisconsin Statutes during the year for which the county tax levy is made a sum at least equal to the county tax rate in the prior year multiplied by the equalized valuation of the property in the city, town or village for the current year is exempt from the county library tax; and

WHEREAS, the City of River Falls will, in 2023, appropriate and expend an amount in excess of that calculated above.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of River Falls hereby requests of the Pierce and St. Croix County Board of Supervisors that City of River Falls be exempted from the payment of any county tax for the support of the public library service as provided in Section 43.64(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded by the City Clerk to the following parties:

Pierce County – County Clerk
414 W. Main Street, PO Box 119
Ellsworth, WI 54011

St. Croix County – County Clerk
1101 Carmichael Road
Hudson, WI 54016

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2023.

________________________________________
Dan Toland, Mayor

ATTEST:

________________________________________
Amy White, City Clerk
Hello Dan,

I am e-mailing you to let you know that I am interested in serving on the River Falls Police and Fire Commission.

I have been a police officer for 34 years and have served in a variety of positions, to include the last six years as Police Chief for the City of Columbia Heights, MN.

I also have a BA from Concordia University St. Paul in Organizational Management and Communication and a Master's Degree from the University of St. Thomas in Police Leadership. In 2019, I also completed the graduated from the FBI National Academy, class 277.

I believe my experience and background would be very useful to the Police and Fire Commission, and I am very interested in serving in this capacity.

I have also lived in River Falls for almost 18 years. My address is 1718 Rodao Drive, River Falls. I am married and have two sons, both of which attended the River Falls School District.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

I can be reached at 612-987-3119.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Lenny Austin