



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

January 28, 2020

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: Todd Bjerstedt, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; Operations Director Mike Stifter; City Engineer Crystal Raleigh; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis

Others Present: others present

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

January 14, 2020, Regular Session Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills \$5,433,077.12

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no public comments.

Strategic Plan Report

Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson provided a report on the third and fourth quarters of 2019. Johnson reviewed the City's strategic plan goals of connected community, economic vitality, financial sustainability, and quality municipal services. Johnson provided a chart showing the targets along with the outcome. He talked about each of the targets and status/outcome of each. Johnson welcomed feedback from the Council and stood for questions but there was none. The Mayor appreciated the report. His next report will be in July.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 2020-01 - Amending the Official Zoning Map and Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of River Falls for Land Generally Located Between W. Division Street, Clark Street and the Kinnickinnic River – Second Reading and Disposition

At 6:39 p.m., Mayor Toland recessed into a Public Hearing for comments. There were none. At 6:39 p.m., the Mayor moved into Open Session. MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the ordinance. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2020-02 – Amending Section 10.12.030, Official Parking Control Maps – East Walnut Street - No Parking 2:30-6 a.m. – Second Reading and Disposition

At 6:40 p.m., Mayor Toland recessed into a Public Hearing for comments. There were none. At 6:40 p.m., the Mayor moved into Open Session. MSC Downing/Odeen move to approve the ordinance. Unanimous.

Ordinance 2020-03 – Amending Section 10.12.030, Official Parking Control Maps – 1415 Bartosh Lane - No Parking 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, Except Holidays and School Vacations – Second Reading and Disposition

At 6:41 p.m., Mayor Toland recessed into a Public Hearing for comments. There were none. At 6:41 p.m., the Mayor moved into Open Session. MSC Gagne/Page move to approve the ordinance. Unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: River Falls Housing Authority – 12/12/19→→***pulled by Gagne***; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 9/19/19; 10/17/19; 11/7/19; POWERful Choices – 10/3/19; 11/14/19; 12/12/19; EMS Advisory Board – 10/28/19; Historic Preservation Commission – 12/11/19; Plan Commission – 12/3/19; River Falls Library Board – 12/2/19

Resolution Approving 2020-2022 Contract with Zeilie’s Tree Service→→***pulled by Downing***

MSC Morrissette/Page move to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

River Falls Housing Authority Minutes from 12/12/19

Alderson Gagne thanked the Housing Authority and Police Department for proactive work on some of the housing areas with which there have been issues. Gagne began to talk about living on Kennedy Street near one of the buildings. The Mayor asked if the comments had to do with the minutes. Gagne said no, it is not reflected in the December minutes. The Mayor asked Gagne to delay his comments so Council could move ahead and approve the minutes. **MSC Gagne/Downing move to approve the Housing Authority minutes from December 2019. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6439 Approving 2020-2022 Contract with Zeilie’s Tree Service

Alderson Downing noted this company was from Bruce, Wisconsin, and asked if there was a lack of technical workers able to do this job near River Falls. Utility Director Westhuis said there was discussion at the Utility Board meeting and said it was a specialized service due to the electrical component. Westhuis provided more details. Downing asked if there was a lack of competitive bids in this area. Westhuis said yes. **MS Downing/Page move to approve resolution.** Alderson Morrissette said there was a lot of discussion about this item at the Utility Advisory Board meeting. He reinforced that there was no one else who can provide the service.

The Mayor invited Alderson Gagne to finish his remarks. Gagne talked about an incident that occurred on December 28 involving gunshots. He talked about the Housing Authority needing to provide a safe environment for tenants and the surrounding community. He provided further commentary. Upon conclusion, the Mayor noted he didn’t ask for a vote on the resolution regarding the contract with Zeilie’s Tree Service.

The Mayor asked for a vote on the resolution. All voted in favor of the resolution.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance 2020-04 – Annexing and Rezoning of 1110 W. Maple Street – First Reading

There were no questions.

Ordinance 2020-05 – Amending the Official Traffic Control Map (No Left Turn from Union Street onto N. Main Street) – First Reading

Alderson Page asked if a divider would be installed or if it would just be signage. Operations Director Stifter said it would just be signage.

Aldersperson Gagne asked for clarification on the location and if traffic would be able to turn left by the library. Stifter said the divider on North Main stays. Traffic would be able to make a left from North Main Street onto Union Street. There is a conflict on taking a left from Union onto North Main. He talked about the island sticking out too far and causing traffic to potentially hit there. It puts the traffic light in peril. Staff is trying to avoid the traffic light being damaged again.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked where people would turn around. Stifter said probably at the Main and Division intersection.

Resolution No. 6440 Approving Specific Implementation Plan for 1300 S. Main Street

MS Gagne/Morrisette move to approve resolution. Gagne noted that this was in his district. He feels this is a great project and much needed improvement to the community. He talked about needing a sidewalk from South Main up to Sycamore. Gagne also asked that the Police Department look into a speed reduction implementation plan that controls changes to 1300 Main prior to groundbreaking. He feels there is a lot of traffic in the area and also a lot of distractions. Gagne asked for the change in speed to be made from Cemetery to Foster.

The Mayor asked for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously with all voting in favor of the resolution.

Resolution No. 6441 Approving Specific Implementation Plan for Peregrine Terrace

MS Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution. Morrisette had a conflict of interest due to his employer so he would be abstaining from the vote. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. All voted in favor of the motion except for Morrisette who abstained.**

Resolution No. 6442 Accepting the Campus Corridor Concept

MS Downing/Page move to approve resolution. Aldersperson Watson noted this was a plan and not an official City planning document. He believes that there are a lot of good ideas in the plan but not everyone on the Plan Commission agreed on it. Plan Commission members had an opportunity to comment on the plan, but members were not part of the committee that drafted the plan. Watson felt it provided a set of concepts we could provide to developers. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. All voted unanimously in favor of the motion.**

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson provided information and updates. Gagne asked Simpson to talk about tobacco law changes restricting it to age 21 and up and how it effects the City. Simpson explained it minimally effects the City. He provided more information.

Gagne asked about adopting an ordinance to do age checks. Simpson said we want to avoid a web of confusing laws; and hopefully, the state will determine what they want to do, and we will enforce it. City Attorney Gustafson would need to check if the City could pass an ordinance that enforces stricter laws than the state.

Morrisette noted that the memo in the packet said, "Until state law changes, Wisconsin law enforcement (which includes the River Falls Police Department) can only continue to issue citations to retailers who sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18 and cannot issue citations to tobacco retailers, vape/ENDS shops, etc. to anyone 18-20 years of age. This is because local municipalities are preempted from enacting stronger laws than Wisconsin State Statute (WI Statute §134.66(5)). Only the FDA has the authority to issue citations to those retailers who sell to anyone 18-20 years of age." Morrisette said it doesn't sound like the City can enforce it. He asked the Police Chief for his opinion.

Chief Young said yes. He said if there are any complaints about stores not complying, complaints go to the FDA. They will send out an investigator, and they are the only body that can enforce it. Gagne feels the state needs to act so the City can enforce the law.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Comptroller's Report for December 2019

Comptroller Odeen read the following: Preliminary year end General Fund revenues were \$11,134,618 with expenditures of \$10,200,035 for a net surplus of \$934,582. Of this amount, \$203,054 is expected to be advanced to the Sterling Ponds and River Falls Industrial Park tax increment funds. Some additional revenues and expenses will likely be allocated to 2019 as final invoices and expenses are received and recorded.

Morrisette asked about the snow plowing budget. Stifter thought things looked favorable to finish out the year. He talked briefly about last winter's historic snow and the new hauling contract which we used only once. There was discussion about the salt supply. Morrisette thanked Stifter and his staff for their quick response snow plowing.

Big Brothers Big Sisters "Thank Your Mentor" Day Proclamation

The Mayor read the proclamation.

MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk