



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

**March 26, 2019**

Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom 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, Diane Odeen, Michael Page

**Members Absent:** Mayor Dan Toland, Scott Morrissette, Hal Watson

**Staff Present:** Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Police Chief Gordon Young; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; EMS Director Jason Stroud; Civil Engineer Zach Regnier; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Communications Manager Mary Zimmermann; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Community Development Director Buddy Lucero; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; Senior Planner Brandy Howe

**Others Present:** William Draves, Elizabeth Bowden, others

**ELECTION OF PRESIDING OFFICER:**

Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom announced that due to the absence of the Mayor and Council President, a presiding officer would need to be elected. She opened the floor for nominations.

MS Bjerstedt/Downing to nominate Alderperson Odeen as presiding officer. Bergstrom called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

March 12, 2019, Meeting Minutes

MSC Gagne/Bjerstedt approve minutes. Unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

\$709,753.07

MSC Downing/Bjerstedt to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.

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

Elizabeth Bowden, 317 Clark Street – talked about the land development project (which is on the agenda). She wants the development to be for the benefit of the community. She felt that any apartments built should be near the university to serve students. Bowden talked about the loss of green space.

Bill Draves, 1015 Maple Street – came to update the Council on the progress of a passenger train that would travel from Eau Claire to St. Paul with a stop in Hudson. Union Pacific Railroad has signed an

agreement for its tracks to be used by a private railroad company to provide the service. Corridor Capital of Chicago will be providing the train sets. The business model for passenger trains has changed in the last two years. Models from Texas and Florida will be employed here. He talked about the ridership from college students making costs feasible. There is a public program at the library on April 24.

Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom introduced new Finance Director Sarah Karlsson. Karlsson introduced herself and provided a brief background of her work and education experience.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

EMS Advisory Board – 10/1/18 and 12/3/18; Police and Fire Commission – 12/20/18;  
River Falls Housing Authority – 2/13/19; Plan Commission – 1/15/19; Historic Preservation  
Commission – 2/13/19; Powerful Choices – 1/10/29 and 2/14/19; West Central Wisconsin  
Biosolids Facility – 2/1/19; Utility Advisory Board – 1/21/19

Resolution No. 6357-Approving Appointment of City Treasurer

Resolution No. 6358 - Awarding Bid for 2019 Sidewalk, Curb, Gutter, and Structure Repair Program

Resolution No. 6359 - Approving Temporary No Parking Zone for Rocky Branch Elementary and  
Temporary School Zone for Montessori Academy

**MSC Page/Gagne move to approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Ordinance 2019-06 - to Amend the Official Zoning Map and Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive  
Plan of the City of River Falls (The Depot and City Station Development Areas) - First Reading

There were no comments or questions.

Resolution No. 6360 - Approving the General Development Plan for the Depot and City Station

**MSC Bjerstedt/Page move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

**REPORTS:**

Administrator's Report

Bergstrom encouraged people to vote in the upcoming election on April 2. There is voting in the Clerk's Office through this Friday.

Comptroller's Report for February 2019

Alderson Bjerstedt reading the following: General Fund revenues through the end of February were \$3,085,235 and includes the February property tax settlement and the annual payment for state facilities. Building permits are up over last year due to some large school remodeling projects. Expenditures for the same period were \$1,266,985 or 12 percent of the annual budget, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$1,818,250.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mayor's Appointment

**MSC Gagne/Downing for reappointment of Mark Sams to the Police and Fire Commission through  
April 2024. Unanimous.**

**MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 6:44 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk