



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

**April 13, 2021**

Mayor Dan Toland called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. in a virtual format due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The City Council Chambers was open for public to attend.

**City Council Members Present:** Todd Bjerstedt, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Ben Plunkett, Hal Watson

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jon Smits; others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

March 23, 2021, Regular and Closed Session Minutes

**MS Morrissette/Watson move to approve minutes. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$2,128,528.21

**MS Plunkett/Bjerstedt move to approve bills subject to the Comptroller. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

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

There were no public comments.

The Mayor recognized and thanked outgoing Alderpersons Gagne and Watson for their years of service to the City.

Alderperson Gagne thanked City staff saying they take great care of the community. He thanked the Councilors saying it has been a pleasure to serve with them.

Alderperson Watson thanked Council for being good colleagues saying it has been a pleasure.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Resolution Awarding Powell Bridge Design Contract→→*pulled by Downing*

Resolution No. 6562 - Approving 2021 Fee Schedule

Resolution No. 6563 - Supporting a Strong State and Local Partnership

**MS Odeen/Morrissette move to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote on the resolution. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

Resolution No. 6564 - Awarding Powell Bridge Design Contract

Alderperson Downing said he had the privilege of serving on the committee and wanted to recognize the other committee members: Crystal, Mike, Zach. Downing is typically is not a fan of having only one bidder. He and

the other committee members called and spoke with other persons knowledgeable about Ayres and the project. He said Ayres is highly recommended to do this project - they are in a league of their own. Downing shared some of the expert advice he received from the county. He recommended that Ayres do this project. It is a safe and good project which needs to be done.

Downing asked City Administrator Simpson asked about future federal funds being retroactively applied to large City projects. Simpson said we are unclear about the retroactivity of federal funds. It is likely that the time period is prior to the receipt of those funds. Some of the funds will come in May. He thinks projects done now through 2024 will be eligible. We haven't seen any final guidance from the treasury. Simpson cannot reassure Downing 100 percent. **MS Downing/Bjerstedt move to approve the resolution.**

Aldersperson Morrissette encouraged continued conversations with St. Croix County. The bridge was probably in disrepair when the transfer to the City occurred. He feels there's probably a middle ground the City could reach with the county about the remaining useful life of the bridge as we received it. It's not unsimilar to how we treated Cascade Avenue, South Main, and Cemetery, when we dealt with the DOT on the Cascade Avenue project. He urged staff to have discussions and push with the county. **With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote on the resolution. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

#### **REPORTS:**

##### Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson provided updates on the statewide tornado drill and the electronic recycling event. Simpson also thanked Alderspersons Gagne and Watson for their service and spoke about each of them – what he appreciated and learned from each. He also talked about opportunities for citizens to serve on City committees.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt thanked Watson and Gagne for their service saying it has been a pleasure getting to know them. He is proud to have worked with them. Bjerstedt said he would let Watson adjourn the meeting.

**At 6:50 p.m., MS Watson/Morrissette move to adjourn. The roll call vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk