



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

April 23, 2019

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; Police Chief Gordon Young; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; EMS Director Jason Stroud; Civil Engineer Zach Regnier; Communications Manager Mary Zimmermann; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Clerk of Court Melinda Johnson; City Clerk Amy White; Judge Daniel Gorman, others

Others Present: Melanie Meyers, Nathan Mudlung, Elijah Anderson, Ali Slaughter, John Carpenter, Teigen Terbilcox, and Cloris Ioanna Junges, others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April 9, 2019, Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

\$647,846.63

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no public comments.

The Mayor had a statement addressing a St. Paul Pioneer Press article about the Kinnickinnic River. There are concerns with the article including statements contrary to those included in final reports prepared by consultants. The article also misstates the Council's resolution which was passed in January. The Mayor directed people to visit the project website (kinnicorridor.org) for accurate information.

The Mayor shared his disappointment that much of the information for the article came from a Councilor. The reporter was under the impression that the Councilor was acting as a spokesperson for the City which was not the case. The Mayor said Councilors are free to speak their minds but do not speak for the City unless directed by the Mayor or the City Council.

The Mayor will be responding to the newspaper article with his concerns. He thanked people who have been part of the process for their respectful cooperation. He is proud of the community and plan.

Aldersperson Downing had a public comment. He thanked City staff and citizens for unclogging storm drains.

Municipal Court Presentation

Judge Daniel Gorman introduced himself and provided information on his background. He talked about replacing Judge June Cicero who served over 30 years and forged the City's municipal court into one that is used as an example across Wisconsin. Judge Gorman felt the transition has gone smoothly saying the City staff has been excellent help. He praised the City's Court Clerks saying they are phenomenal.

Gorman talked about minor changes he has made including adding retail theft tickets in the mandatory appearance category as he believes it is better to deal with this in person. Initial appearances are now held in the evening. The collections process has switched over to SDC as it has shown to be more effective in the collection of unpaid tickets. Gorman stood for questions.

Aldersperson Downing asked if there were any other major procedural changes that have been made. Gorman said changing from day to evening court and adding a second juvenile court day for initial appearances.

Aldersperson Gagne appreciated the efficiencies that have been created. Gagne asked about drug court and restorative justice. Gorman talked about the St. Croix Valley Restorative Service Center and working with them. He provided further details.

Aldersperson Watson thanked the Judge. He felt the court is a crucial, social institution which helps those veering off the right path get back on track.

Gagne asked about vaping and what cases come before court. Gorman said most tobacco offenses are vaping offenses and not smoking. He said it is not a chronic issue.

Group Project Presentation by UWRF Students

Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson introduced a group of students from Neil Kraus's Politics of Major Cities class. The first group will address managing conflict between anglers and kayakers on the Kinnickinnic River and the second a board recruitment strategy.

Johnson introduced Ali Slaughter, John Carpenter, Teigen Terbilcox, and Cloris Ioanna Junges, who produced a presentation. Background was provided. A set of recommendations were provided including creating new launch points on the lower Kinni with on-site parking, distribution of educational materials on river etiquette, adding more information on the City's website. The group stood for questions.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about the increase in river usage and statistics. Aldersperson Watson asked about the possibility of alternating days for angling versus kayaking. Slaughter thought it would be hard to regulate. Junges talked about fishing licenses. The Council thanked them for their presentation.

Johnson introduced the second group of students: Melanie Meyers, Nathan Mudlung, Elijah Anderson. Meyers talked about diversifying boards including recruitment of UWRF students especially for the Library Board. Mudlung talked about recruiting younger people through social media. Anderson talked about board recruitment needs to be tailored to the community.

Aldersperson Odeen asked if the students wanted to serve on a board. The Mayor thanked the student groups.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

EMS Advisory Board – 3/4/19; River Falls Housing Authority – 3/13/19; Historic Preservation Commission – 3/13/19; Plan Commission – 3/5/19; BID Board – 3/12/19; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 2/20/19 and 3/20/19; Utility Advisory Board – 3/18/19; Powerful Choices – 3/14/19; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids – 2/28/19

Resolution No. 6368 - Designating the Official City Newspaper

Resolution Approving Bid for the 2019 Sanitary Lining Project→→*pulled by Downing*

Resolution No. 6369 - Awarding Bid for 2019 Rout and Seal Program

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

Resolution No. 6370 - Approving Bid for the 2019 Sanitary Lining Project

Downing asked how many change orders occur during a cycle. Utility Director Westhuis did not know but said there was money in the budget to cover any undiscovered problems. **MSC Downing/Odeen move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson provided information on upcoming events. Gagne asked if there were statistics on the recent electronics recycling event. Westhuis said just under 300 participated.

Comptroller's Report for March 2019

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of March were \$3,471,120 and includes \$38,780 in recreation program revenues as well as building permits of \$67,716 (RFSD construction). Expenditures for the same period were \$2,236,451 or 21 percent of the annual budget, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$1,234,670.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Proclamation Designating Clerks' Week

Aldersperson Odeen read the proclamation.

Police Week Proclamation

Aldersperson Gagne read the proclamation.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Aldersperson Page read the proclamation.

Rotary Day Proclamation

Aldersperson Morrissette read the proclamation.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 7:10 p.m., MS Watson/Morrissette 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.”

The roll call vote to move into Closed Session was unanimous.

MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to return to Open Session at 7:35 p.m. Unanimous. MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk