



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

**April 27, 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, Nick Carow, Sean Downing, Scott Morrissette, Alyssa Mueller, Diane Odeen, Ben Plunkett

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Ben Fuchs, Anne McAlpine

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jon Smits; IT Manager Mike Reardon; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Finance Director Sarah Karlsson; others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

April 13, 2021, Minutes

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

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$880,331.34

**MS Bjerstedt/Morrissette 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:**

Ben Fuchs, 2529 Powell Avenue – asked if there would be action on Item 13.

Alderson Morrissette recognized Mike Stifter for his efforts in assisting the Rotary Club with the clean-up of Veterans Park. Stifter went above and beyond by volunteering on a Saturday. He brought out a truck and mulch. Both Morrissette and the Rotary Club appreciated the efforts.

The Mayor introduced the two Councilors: Nick Carow, District 2, and Alyssa Mueller, District 3. The Mayor asked if they had comments. Carow did not; Mueller thanked staff and Council for making the first few weeks less scary. Alderson Downing welcomed them and recommended using the Municipal League membership.

The Mayor read a tribute recognizing Anne McAlpine upon her retirement after serving 27 years as the Executive Director for the River Falls Housing Authority. Upon the conclusion of his remarks, the Mayor asked McAlpine if she wanted to say a few words.

McAlpine thanked the Mayor and City Council. She thanked the City for supporting affordable housing in River Falls. Making sure there are good places for lower income citizens to live has been her mission in River Falls for 27 years. She talked about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Housing Authority and called upon the Council to continue support the Housing Authority as the buildings age. McAlpine expressed her appreciation in working with Council and staff and talked about her future move.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt wanted to personally thank McAlpine and invited the public to her retirement celebration on Thursday.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: Police and Fire Commission – 1/27/21; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 3/17/21; Library Board – 3/1/21; Plan Commission – 3/2/21; BID Board – 3/9/21; Utility Advisory Board – 3/15/21; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility – 2/18/21

Resolution Awarding Bid for 2021 Rout and Seal Program→→*pulled by Downing*

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

Resolution No. 6566 - Awarding Bid for 2021 Rout and Seal Program

Aldersperson Downing asked Simpson to describe the process if there were problems with the program. City Administrator Simpson said engineering staff monitors road surface, curb, and gutter. Sidewalks are done on a complaint basis and are not staff inspected. The rout and seal project is reviewed on a periodic basis. We monitor how it stands up over time. Simpson provided further details saying that the primary warranty is the reputation and the ability to get future work.

Downing has had a positive experience when working with city staff when he's had problem areas in the community. **MS Downing/Bjerstedt move to approve the resolution. 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.**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution No. 6567 - Approving Specific Implementation Plan and Development Agreement between the City of River Falls and T Buck Properties, LLC. for Dawes Place Phase I

**MS Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the resolution.** Downing asked Simpson if there were any public concerns about the project. Simpson did not receive any direct comments. He said the staff memo indicated there was one contact to staff, but the person did not choose to pursue it. **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.**

Ordinance 2021-03 – Amending Titles 16 and 17 of the Municipal Code, Pursuant to the Terms of the Cooperative Boundary Plan between the City of River Falls and the Town of Kinnickinnic – First Reading

The Mayor noted this was a first reading and asked if there were questions/comments. Bjerstedt asked if this plan was substantially the same as the one Council previously agreed to. Simpson said yes but there was one thing we needed county assistance with, and the county has since agreed.

**REPORTS:**

Allina EMS Update – 2021 Quarter 1

The Mayor asked if there were any questions noting they were doing a great job and he was happy. Assistant City Administrator Stroud said he would pass that comment along.

Comptroller's Report for March 2021

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of March were \$4,002,377 or 35% of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in March include \$62,130 from recreational program revenue, \$28,077 in building permit fees and \$13,700 in subdivision fees. Year-to-date expenditures through the end of March were \$2,197,744 or 19 percent of total budget expenditures for the year. As of March 31, 2021, revenues in excess of expenditures were \$1,804,633.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Aldersperson Morrissette read the Proclamation for Police Appreciation Week May 9-15, 2021.

Aldersperson Odeen read the Professional Municipal Clerks Appreciation Week May 2-8, 2021, Proclamation.

Mayor Toland read the 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

*At 6:59 p.m., MS Odeen/Morrisette move to recess into Closed Session per Wisconsin State Statutes §19.85(1)(e) for the following purposes:*

“deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, to wit: land for storm, sanitary, and water utility extension-Mann Valley”.

Alderson Plunkett asked about returning to Open Session for action. Simpson didn't anticipate that Council would act after returning to Open Session. Simpson explained the Council Chambers would remain open for the public. Downing asked if the Council was required to go back into Open Session. Odeen said the Council needs to go back into Open Session in order to adjourn. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a roll call vote to move into Closed Session. The roll call vote passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

**At 7:49 p.m., MS Morrisette/Bjerstedt move to go back into Open Session. The roll call vote passed 7-0 with all voting in favor.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk