



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

January 8, 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, Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Operations Director Mike Stifter; Electric Superintendent Wayne Siverling; SCADA Engineer Greg Dietsche; EMS Director Jason Stroud

Others Present: Jeff Bjork, Lisa Moody, Eric Amundsen, Patricia La Rue, Brian Sweeney, others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

December 11, 2018, Regular and Workshop Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Page approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills: December 25 \$769,085.03 and January 8 \$1,162,830.84

Alderperson Gagne thanked Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom for getting the December bills for him to review. **MSC Gagne/Watson move to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

UWRF Director of Athletics Crystal Lanning and Assistant Athletic Director Kellen Wells-Mangold came to share information about the NCAA Minority Opportunities Athletic Association's 2019 Award for Diversity and Inclusion which UWRF Athletic Department received. Lanning said the award was established in 2013 to recognize NCAA institutions which make it a priority to contribute to diversity inclusion. She noted programs and policies that were implemented in the last two years in Falcon Athletics having equity and inclusion as a top priority. Lanning thanked Chantel Flegler and Wells-Mangold for their efforts.

Wells-Mangold talked about the programs that were developed over the last two years. They received the NCAA Division III Ethic, Minority, and Women's Internship Grant which was used to hire a full-time Coordinator for Diversity, Inclusion, and Student-Athletic Success; formed the Falcon United Athletics Diversity Council; conducted LGBTQ training for coaches and for student athletics; a policy of inclusion was developed for transgender student athletics; inclusivity training for athletic teams and staff; and much more. He noted the significance of the award was that there are over 1100 members in Divisions I, II, and III, and the award is only given to one institution in all the divisions. He is proud of that and is proud to be a part of the River Falls community.

The Mayor said he hadn't heard anything about the University receiving the award. He was happy they decided to come and share the news.

Wells-Mangold noted UWRF is still playing sports and noted their athletes graduate at a higher rate than the general campus and average over a 3.0 GPA.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution Approving Financing for 2815 Prairie Drive Property→→***Pulled by Morrissette***

Resolution No. 6329 Designating May 11, 2019, as International Migratory Bird Day

Resolution No. 6330 Approving Purchase of Toro Mower

Resolution No. 6331 Approving Purchase of Bobcat Toolcat

MS Morrissette/Odeen approve remainder of Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6332 Approving Financing for 2815 Prairie Drive Property

Aldersperson Morrissette said a roll call vote was needed because it was financial action that was not budgeted.

MS Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the resolution.

Aldersperson Gagne asked about the total cost of the short-term financing. Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom said \$63,900 was the interest cost and doesn't include anything with the remodel. She said lease revenue would be received in the meantime to offset expenses. Gagne asked about paying it off early. Bergstrom said that could be done.

The Mayor asked for a roll call vote. It passed unanimously 7-0 with all voting in favor of the resolution.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 6333 Authorizing RFMU to Proceed with AMI (Advanced Meter Infrastructure) Metering for Electric and Water

A presentation by provided by Utility Director Kevin Westhuis and SCADA Engineer Greg Dietsche. Dietsche talked about a pilot project that was done; observed benefits for customers including real time and historical data, low cost and faster service; compared AMR vs. AMI and how it works; the advantage of wireless; the improvement of customer service including catching leaky toilets sooner, power outages and final bill reads; and utility benefits. Noted areas of concern were security, privacy, safety and health and safety. Dietsche addressed these concerns. Dietsche talked about the budget for the meters. It would be a three-year project. He provided amounts and stood for questions.

Gagne asked about potential savings in staff time and reduction of maintenance. Westhuis said there is less labor involved. Dietsche talked about the life of the meters and expense per customer.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about the financing. The numbers provided to him by staff were different than what Dietsche stated. There was further discussion and clarification. Bergstrom provided information. Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked if the Utility could automatically shut off a broken water line. They cannot but Westhuis said they could manually go and shut the curb stop off.

MS Odeen/Downing move to approve the resolution. Aldersperson Morrissette felt this service will be an advantage for customers. He has no concerns about maintaining customers' data and privacy. Morrissette has concerns about the potential use of data in the future. He is philosophically opposed to it and is not in favor of it.

Upon conclusion of the comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The vote was 6-1 in favor of the motion with all voting in favor except Morrissette.

Resolution No. 6334 - Recommending Approval of Contract with ImageTrend for EMS Billing

City Administrator Simpson provided clarifications resulting from the City Attorney's review of the contract. Items would be reviewed with ImageTrend including contract language which is a carryover of Minnesota versus Wisconsin. If the Council approves it, those changes will be made with the company.

MS Morrissette/Page move to approve resolution approving contract subject to legal changes as reviewed by the City Attorney. Aldersperson Watson said this was a smart move forward and was a good way to integrate the current billing system and save money at the same time. Watson applauded EMS Director Stroud for pushing

this and getting this to the Council. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

City Administrator Simpson provided dates of upcoming events including firefighter recruitment, CPR and heartsaver classes. He gave other updates including upcoming meetings.

Comptroller's Report for December 2018

Comptroller Odeen read the following: Preliminary year end General Fund revenues were \$10,428,583, with expenditures of \$9,958,224, for a net surplus of \$470,359. Of this amount, \$466,529 is expected to be advanced to the Sterling Ponds and Mann Valley tax increment funds.

The 2018 budget had included the use of \$345,054 of fund balance for succession planning purposes. No fund balance has been used as of this report, which leaves the fund balance in a stronger position at the end of 2018 than was anticipated.

Additional revenues and costs will likely be allocated to 2018 as final invoices and expenses are received and recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointments

Board of Appeals

Reappointment of Eric Amundsen through October 2021

EMS Advisory Board

Reappointment of Jean Wespetal through May 2021

Historic Preservation Commission

Reappointment of Mark Anderson through January 2022

Police and Fire Commission

Reappointment of Grant Hanson through January 2023

MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve appointments. Unanimous.

MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk