



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

March 27, 2018

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, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Hal Watson

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Management Analyst Keri Schreiner; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; Operations Director Mike Stifter; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Recreation Coordinator Cindi Danke; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; IT Coordinator Mike Reardon; IT Assistant Jon Smits; Operations Superintendent Terry Kusilek; Officer Greg Lotze; Community Development Director Buddy Lucero; Accounting Manager Susan Langer; Police Services Specialist Supervisor Ailene Splittgerber; Clerk of Court Melinda Johnson

Others Present: Susan Reese, Grant Hanson, Dick Rinehart, others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 13, 2018, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills \$1,178,657.25

MSC Gagne/Downing move to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

There were no comments from the public.

Officer of the Year – Greg Lotze

Police Chief Young presented the 2017 Officer of the Year Award to Officer Lotze. Lotze was voted unanimously for the honor. Young said Lotze embodied the department's mission statement stating he protects with courage and serves with compassion. Young spoke about the contributions Lotze has made to the department. Young presented the award to Lotze. The Mayor thanked Lotze and shook his hand.

Recognition of Terry Kusilek

The Mayor read a statement honoring Operations Superintendent Terry Kusilek who has served the City for 33 years. He thanked Kusilek for his service and shook his hand.

Volunteer of the Year – Susan Reese

Development Services Director Amy Peterson read a statement honoring Susan Reese who has served as the Park and Recreation Board chair and has sat on several City boards. Peterson listed other contributions that Reese has made to the City and read tributes to Reese by colleagues. The Mayor thanked her for service and shook her hand.

Winter Snowplowing Presentation

Operations Director Mike Stifter provided a presentation on snowplowing. He thanked City Engineer Reid Wronski for his work with Public Works and the Council for its support. He talked about how each storm is unique, winter maintenance goals, different techniques used, the crews and equipment, and the levels of service/priority routes. Stifter talked about other events that Public Works are involved in, the APWA and Fresh Water Society Awards, and more. Stifter stood for questions.

Aldersperson Bjork asked how many miles City staff plow? Stifter said 120 lane miles, 10-15 alley miles, trails are increasing. There was discussion. Bjork felt the crew does a high-level job, and he thanked them. Operations Superintendent Kusilek talked about getting a jump start when beginning at midnight and the good equipment being a factor in the operations.

Aldersperson Watson asked what are the benefits of not having a bare pavement policy. Stifter said savings of staff, equipment, and chemical use. We try to strike a balance between using the right amount of resources, environmental impacts and citizen expectations. He provided further explanation. Watson thanked them.

Aldersperson Gagne gave kudos to Kusilek. He shared a story about a resident concern which provided an educational opportunity for him and the resident. Stifter invited Council for ride-along if interested.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Report/Summer Recreation Report

Recreation Coordinator Cindi Danke provided a presentation on upcoming recreation programs. During the first week of registration, there were 1200 individual sign-up for classes and \$33,000 in revenue. Danke talked about camping at Hoffman Park including adding three tent sites and other programs/camps offered. She talked about swimming lessons, the Glen Park pool, grants received and City parks.

Park Board Chair Susan Reese provided a presentation on the Park Board and its projects. She talked about trail completions, the Glen Park renovation project including the pavilion and pool and kayaking launch problems at the park. Reese talked about making better use of DeSanctis Park by getting electricity and water there. She talked about an upcoming dog park at County Road FF and about two special nature areas – the White Pathway and the Foster Conservancy area. She stood for questions.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked about 2019 planning. Danke shared concerns about swimming lessons.

Aldersperson Bjork talked about how great camping is at Hoffman Park.

Aldersperson Downing asked about River Falls being a monarch butterfly City and the Park Board's role. Danke talked getting the designation, holding a butterfly camp, and about milkweed distribution for planting. Bjork shared a story about a location for repopulating milkweed plants.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of following minutes: Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 02/21/2018; BID Board – 2/13/2018; Historic Preservation Commission – 02/14/2018; Plan Commission – 02/06/2018; Library Board – 02/05/2018

MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 6241 - Approving Purchase Agreement for 265 Moundview Road

MS Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution. Aldersperson Gagne asked staff to explain the reasoning for the purchase of the property for the viewing public. Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom said it is for a future public safety facility. She said there is still interest from other companies. Gagne would be voting in favor. He talked about it being a future site for public safety facilities. Downing was in agreement. **The Mayor asked for a vote. All voted unanimously in favor of approving the resolution.**

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Bergstrom provided a reminder of the upcoming election on April 3. Alderperson Morrissette asked for an update on RF-TV. Bergstrom said we have lost the primary cable staffer who worked with the channel so not a lot has been done. Programming has been moved from Channel 18 to 16. A survey will be done to learn more about how residents utilize the City's cable channel. She is hoping to know more by May. Morrissette encouraged interested residents to get involved. Alderperson Gagne asked to do due diligence with residents – especially with seniors and in senior centers. Alderperson Watson reminded residents the polling location had changed for District 3.

Comptroller Report for February 2018

Comptroller Odeen read the following report: General Fund revenues through the end of February were \$3,041,803 and includes the February property tax settlement and the annual payment for state facilities. Expenditures for the same period were \$1,259,275 or 13 percent of budgeted, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$1,782,528.

CLOSED SESSION:

MS Morrissette/Bjork move to recess into Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. per Wisconsin State Statutes for the following purposes: § 19.85(1)(e) “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: purchase/sale of property in Sterling Ponds Corporate Park and DeSanctis.” The Mayor asked for a roll call vote to move into Closed Session. It passed unanimously.

MSC Morrissette/Bjork at 7:55 p.m. to move back into Open Session. Unanimous.

MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk