



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

April 10, 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: City Administrator Scot Simpson, Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Police Chief Gordon Young; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; Operations Director Mike Stifter; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Community Development Director Buddy Lucero; Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth; City Clerk Amy White; Senior Civil Engineer Crystal Raleigh; Civil Engineer Zach Regnier; Accounting Manager Susan Langer; Senior Planner Brandy Howe; Facility Maintenance Supervisor Tom Schwalen

Others Present: Chris Blasius, Michael Page, others

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 27, 2018, Regular and Closed Session Minutes

MSC Watson/Morrissette approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills \$991,042.47

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

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Recognition of Alderperson Jeff Bjork

Mayor Toland recognized Alderperson Bjork for his service on the Council and presented him with a plaque.

Chris Blasius, River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau - came to express her appreciation toward the progress that has been made for the Wayfinding project. She spoke of community pride and noted the BID Board was in favor of the project. Blasius extended an invitation to the Council to "Walk with Walker" on May 8. She talked about the event.

Communication from Councilor Downing re: Critical Parking Zone Feasibility Work Request

Alderperson Downing talked about his idea of a critical parking zone. This is a parking zone near the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Downing provided his ideas and gave background. He suggested putting the economic marketing plan on hold for a couple of months so staff could work on the critical parking zone idea. Downing asked City Administrator Simpson to elaborate on that possibility. Simpson provided information. Downing said he would like to delay the marketing plan for two months to work on this project. He asked for feedback.

Alderperson Odeen, who lives in that area, said the zone would also affect faculty and staff - not just students. She noted that River Falls would not be River Falls without the university, and is not in favor. She feels if this was instituted, students would park further away. Odeen provided additional feedback adding she wants the City to be welcoming to students. She talked about the current parking situation on her street.

Aldersperson Morrissette asked for feedback from Alderspersons Gagne and Watson who also live near that area. Aldersperson Gagne talked about parking in the Grotenhuis development. He is not in favor of the plan and feels the City has an adequate system. Gagne went into further detail about student parking and provided history of some of the parking issues. He feels pausing economic development now would be a step back.

Aldersperson Watson noted that the areas included in the zone already have one side of the street parking. He hasn't heard of any complaints and feels the system isn't broken. Watson talked about the plan making money – if that was the goal – but he wasn't going to push forward with this for his district.

Aldersperson Downing thanked feedback from the Council. He appreciated the input.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 6242 - Rejecting Bid for 2018 Sidewalk, Curb, Gutter, and Structure Repair Program

Resolution Regarding Agreement with HKGi-Consulting Services→→*pulled by Downing*

Resolution No. 6243 - Approving Contract with Craig Rapp LLC for Strategic Plan Update

Resolution No. 6244 - Appointing City Treasurer - Susan Langer

Resolution No. 6245 - Approving Agreement with City Prosecutor-Bakke Norman

Resolution No. 6246 - Regarding Governmental Responsibility for Runoff Management Grants

Resolution Approving Purchase Agreement for Desanctis Property→→*pulled by Downing*

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

Resolution No. 6247 - Regarding Agreement with HKGi-Consulting Services

Aldersperson Downing asked if this was an estimate or a figure not to exceed. Community Development Director Lucero said this is an agreement for the second phase and is the actual amount. There were no other questions.

MSC Downing/Morrissette move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6248 - Approving Purchase Agreement for Desanctis Property

Aldersperson Downing asked clarification on the types of houses that are to be built there. Lucero said the request is only for acquisition of the property. He explained that if and when development occurs, it will have to go through the planning process and the Plan Commission. The final approval would come from City Council.

MS Downing/Odeen move to approve resolution.

Aldersperson Gagne thanked the Desanctis residents who came forward with concerns about the property and spoke at the Council meeting last year. **With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.**

ORDINANCE AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 6249 - Awarding Bid for Glen Park Pavilion

MS Odeen/Watson move to approve resolution. Aldersperson Bjork asked for clarification on the costs included. City Engineer Wronski said the resolution would award the contract to Ross and Associates for the base bid amount minus alternate A5 which is \$2,000 for the historical panels. The base bid included the metal roof and the plaza area in front. Bjork had concerns. City Administrator Simpson said that objections should be discussed as the Council would be authorizing the project to move forward. Wronski said the resolution reflects the Park Board's direction.

Bjork didn't feel there should be air conditioning in the event center. He thought it was an unwise investment and wanted it to be eliminated. Aldersperson Watson explained the majority of the Park Board felt with the event center being available for the public to rent, it should be air conditioned. The Board felt it would be a detriment for rental if there was no air conditioning – especially for a summer wedding. Watson said there was discussion but the Board felt it should go ahead now rather than adding it later. Wronski explained that if the garage doors

were open, the air conditioning shuts off. Alderperson Bjerstedt asked if air conditioning could be added later. Wronski said yes, and provided further information. He said it was a good discussion at the meeting.

Alderperson Gagne asked about monitoring air conditioning. Tom Schwalen explained that the air conditioning is regulated and controlled by staff. The building would be programmed for events. He provided further details. There were no other questions about A5.

Bjork asked about A4 and the colored concrete. Wronski showed a drawing of the building and explained the location and clarified what was included. The costs included many other items and not just the colored concrete. Bjork had no other questions about A4. Bjork asked about sound deafening acoustics. Wronski said they are being added to the storm shelter area in the concrete roof area.

With no other questions, the Mayor asked for a vote. All voted in favor except for Bjork.

Resolution No. 6250 - Approving Glen Park Preliminary Plan and Authorizing Professional Services for Final Design of Glen Park Renovation Project

MS Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution. Alderperson Downing felt there was an opportunity to establish a partnership with the School District and University to build a new pool. He provided his thoughts on building a new pool. He wanted to table the resolution in order to pursue a partnership in building a pool.

Motion by Downing to table the resolution for a month to turn to conversations about partnerships with the local schools and the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. There was no second for the motion.

Bjork felt the core of the park is the swimming pool. He felt it was a mistake to move ahead without addressing the future of the pool. Gagne would love to do the pool now but the splashpad can be done now and the pool can be done in the future. He will be voting in favor of the resolution but feels the next step would be to address the pool. Downing talked about bonding for the pool now rather than when interest rates go up. He won't vote in favor unless it includes a partnership.

Alderperson Odeen said a partnership is a wonderful idea but it won't happen in two weeks. It would be more like two years. She said what Downing is talking about is more like an aquatic center and Glen Park may not be the right site for it. Odeen said by voting in favor, the Council is not precluding the idea of a partnership in the future but it may take a while to develop.

Alderperson Watson is also open to a partnership. He said the Park Board had to make many hard decisions to get this project down to \$4 million. One decision was acknowledging that the City cannot afford a pool right now. Watson said improvements can be made around the pool such as the splashpad. The enhancements are being made so pool work can be made in the future. The project lays the framework for the future park with some enhancements including a partnership with the community for play equipment. There was further discussion including how changes were made in the plan. Wronski talked about the parking layout. Watson talked about the kayak launch area.

Alderperson Morrisette talked about community organizations interested in participating in the park project. He explained why he didn't believe the school district or UW-River Falls could be partners now. Bjork talked further about community partnerships. He isn't in favor of the resolution because he doesn't agree with the priorities. Gagne talked further about partnerships and capital campaigns. Downing thanked the Park Board for its work. **With no further comments, the Mayor asked for a vote. All voted in favor except for Bjork.**

Initial Resolution No. 6251 - Authorizing General Obligation Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$3,695,000 for Parks and Public Grounds Projects

MS Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution. Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom explained the three resolutions to set the sale of bonds. She thought the final cost would be \$3.5 million. Gagne asked clarifying questions about the costs. Bergstrom talked about the project being in the Fiscal Plan for some time.

Morrisette asked about tightening up the not to exceed amount. Bergstrom said the number expected is \$3,505,000.

MSC Morrisette/Gagne move to change the not to exceed amount to \$3,505,000. Unanimous. The roll call vote on the original motion passed 6-0 with all in favor except for Bjork who abstained.

Resolution No. 6252 - Directing Publication of Notice to Electors Relating to Bond Issue

MSC Odeen/Downing move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6253 - Providing for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$3,695,000 General Obligation Park Project Bonds, Series 2018A

MS Morrisette/Watson move to approve resolution.

MSC Morrisette/Gagne move to change the not to exceed amount to \$3,505,000. Unanimous.

The roll call vote on the original motion passed 6-0 with all in favor except for Bjork who abstained.

Resolution No. 6254 - Approving Community Signage and Wayfinding Master Plan

MS Morrisette/Bjork move to approve resolution. Downing asked if there was a website that could be viewed to see their products. Senior City Planner Brandy Howe said the company is Guide Studios, and they do have a website. Watson asked if a project page could be added to the website. Howe said yes. **The Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

REPORTS

Emergency Government Report

Sergeant Scott Bangert gave a presentation. He talked about severe weather awareness, the City's siren system, emergency preparedness, and weather resources. He stood for questions. Questions were asked by Gagne and Watson. Chief Young responded.

Well #5 Update

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis provided an introduction. Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth provided an update on the well. Upon completion of the report, Groth stood for questions. Questions were asked by Morrisette and Downing. Answers were provided by Groth and Westhuis.

Administrator's Report

Simpson provided some upcoming event dates.

Gagne provided an update regarding the Library Director recruitment and a policy change in checkout of materials.

Bjork asked for an update on the dog park and milkweed park. Simpson said planning progress is going forward for the dog park. The City has submitted applications for grants and is also waiting for partners. Simpson thought it may be open in the fall. There was discussion about replanting milkweed and natural grasses. Bjork also asked about the housing study. Simpson said the City has been waiting on final population data from the consultant. He thought it should be available on Friday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointments:

Historic Preservation Commission

Reappointment of Pam Friede through January 2021

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Reappointment of Patricia La Rue through May 2021

Reappointment of Jim Nordgren through May 2021

Plan Commission

Reappointment of Lisa Moody through May 2021

Utility Advisory Board

Appointment of Mark Spafford through May 2020

Reappointment of Tim Thum through May 2021

MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the Mayor's Appointments. Unanimous.

CLOSED SESSION:

MS Morrissette/Odeen move to recess into Closed Session at 8:01 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: sale of property in Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park."

The Mayor asked for a roll call vote to move into Closed Session. It passed unanimously.

MSC Morrissette/Downing at 8:37 p.m. to move back into Open Session. Unanimous.

MSC Bjerstedt/Watson move to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk