



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN
COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

April 17, 2018

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers in City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members Present: Alderpersons Todd Bjerstedt, Sean Downing, Christopher Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

Staff Present: Scot Simpson, City Administrator; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; Human Resources Director Karen Bergstrom; City Clerk Amy White; Police Chief Gordon Young

Mayor Toland announced that Oaths of Office for the newly elected Council officials have been taken within the 10 days as required by *Wisconsin Statutes* for himself, Alderpersons at Large Scott Morrissette and Michael Page; and Todd Bjerstedt, District 4.

ELECTION OF COMMON COUNCIL OFFICERS:

Council President

MSC Watson/Odeen to nominate Scott Morrissette as Council President. Unanimous.

Comptroller

MSC Morrissette/Gagne to nominate Diane Odeen as Comptroller. Unanimous.

Deputy Comptroller

Comptroller Odeen appointed Hal Watson as Deputy Comptroller.

Parliamentarian

The Mayor appointed Diane Odeen as Parliamentarian.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER TO PLAN COMMISSION:

MSC Gagne/Odeen nominated Scott Morrissette to Plan Commission. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS BY MAYOR/CONFIRMATION BY COUNCIL:

Mayor Toland recommended the following appointments:

Emergency Medical Service Advisory Board	Hal Watson
Historic Preservation Commission	Michael Page
Library Board	Chris Gagne
Parks and Recreation Board	Sean Downing
Design Review Committee	Chris Gagne
Utility Advisory Board	Diane Odeen
Housing Authority	Todd Bjerstedt

MSC Morrissette/Gagne move to approve the Mayor's appointments. Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS OF OTHER CITY OFFICIALS

Resolution No. 6255 -Appointing Weld Riley S.C. as City Attorney

MS Morrissette/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution. Alderperson Odeen abstained. The

resolution passed unanimously.

The Mayor appointed Nate Croes as City Forester. MSC Page/Gagne move to approve appointment. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6256 - Appointing Pierce and St. Croix County Health Departments as Health Officer
MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6257 - Designating Public Depositories for Public Monies Held by the City of River Falls
MS Odeen/Watson move to approve resolution. Morrissette abstained from the vote. The resolution passed unanimously.

Review and Approve 2018 City Council Workshop and Special Meetings Schedule
MSC Watson/Bjerstedt move to approve the schedule. Unanimous.

REVIEW OF OPEN MEETINGS LAWS/ETHICS

City Attorney Dan Gustafson thanked the Council for reappointment as City Attorney. He provided Council with an outline of meeting law and ethics. The quorum for Council is four members, and it is different from the statute. He talked about Open Meetings law in Chapter 19. Gustafson talked about the open meeting law and conflict of interest. He spoke about the need to notice meetings and the timeliness of the notice. He also talked about closed session and its justification. Gustafson strongly recommended using City accounts for doing City business. He provided examples.

Gustafson spoke on ethics. If a Councilor or family member of a Councilor has a personal stake in a Council action, that should be disclosed. He also noted City code which requires a Councilor to disclose having a personal or financial interest in any proposed legislation. There were questions which Gustafson answered and more discussion.

REPORT ON ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

City Administrator Simpson provided Council with an organizational chart. He talked about personnel duties assigned to him and to other staff. The City has a memorandum of understanding with the municipal court and the library. Simpson talked further about other personnel matters. He also answered questions from Council. He provided clarification on the roles of the Police and Fire Commission, Library Board and City Attorney. Alderperson Downing shared his thoughts about consultants. Alderperson Odeen felt it was Council's role to approve policy and to let staff make the personnel decisions. She supports and trusts staff. Alderperson Morrissette echoed Odeen's thoughts with Council as the policymaker. He felt communication was good and that one on ones provided needed information. There was further discussion.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review meeting date was set for May 31. The Mayor confirmed the necessary number of Councilors would be present for the Board of Review.

MSC Bjerstedt/Morrissette moved to adjourn at 6:34 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy City Clerk