



**RIVER FALLS CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP REGARDING
PROPOSED COOPERATIVE BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE TOWN OF KINNICKINNIC AND THE CITY OF RIVER FALLS**

September 25, 2018, 4:30 p.m.

Training Room, City Hall, 222 Lewis Street, River Falls, WI 54022

City Council Members Present: Sean Downing, Chris Gagne, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen, Michael Page, Hal Watson

City Council Members Absent: Mayor Dan Toland

City Staff Present: Assistant City Administrator Julie Bergstrom; Operations Director Mike Stifter; Development Services Director Amy Peterson; Electric Operations Superintendent Wayne Siverling; Community Development Director Buddy Lucero; City Attorney Dan Gustafson; City Engineer Reid Wronski; Wastewater/Water Superintendent Ron Groth; Senior City Planner Brandy Howe

Others: Ben Fochs; Alex Williams

Council President Scott Morrissette called the workshop to order at 4:32 p.m.

Community Development Director Buddy Lucero provided a background. The City is surrounded by four townships. It was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1885. The City has grown annually 2-2.5 percent.

Lucero talked about when other boundaries were established including 1974 extraterritorial zone; 2001 sewer service area boundary; 2005 urban area boundary, 2007 extraterritorial subdivision boundary. He talked about the City's comprehensive plan goals.

Lucero talked about the process for a boundary agreement as required by Wisconsin State Statutes 66.0307 and the benefits to cooperative boundary plans including cooperative, proactive, flexibility, certainty, broad participation, saving money, enforceable and more.

Lucero talked about an ordinance passed in 2007 regarding the extraterritorial subdivision boundary resulting in one dwelling unit per 35 acres.

He talked about the cooperative boundary plan negotiating committee members and how calculations were done to determine existing building and populations. Lucero talked about how natural resources including steep slopes, flood zone/wetland and conservation areas were considered when deciding on boundaries. He talked about a proposed urban reserve area. In this area, 2.5 square miles (1600 acres) there are approximately 21 houses and 52 individuals within boundary area.

City Attorney Dan Gustafson talked about the plan and urban reserve area. He talked about voluntary attachment and non-voluntary attachment, annexation outside the URA, with no term limit, certainty of future, enforceable with written contract and state approved.

Gustafson explained the three types of volunteer attachment. He talked about tax revenue sharing. The next step of the process would be a joint public hearing between the City and the Town of Kinnickinnic.

Lucero talked about the language for the City and cooperative boundary process. We have a draft agreement agreed upon by the Township. Lucero has a date scheduled for a public hearing and a third-class notice will be put in the newspaper. The state has 60-180 days to finalize.

Council President Scott Morrisette said the land use in the township can remain the same. Residents still can farm. He talked about a density issue. Need infrastructure to make sense. He spoke about urban density pockets along Liberty Road.

Lucero talked about a public meeting at the library and getting public comments. Morrisette asked if a motion and resolution was needed. Lucero was looking for consensus to move forward with the hearing. He asked if there were any questions.

Aldersperson Watson asked from the City's prospective why this is better than the urban area boundary. He talked about subdivision control.

Lucero said 2.5 sq. miles will be under control. Watson asked a clarifying question. There was discussion about jurisdiction. Watson wanted to know about the town's planning.

Aldersperson Bjerstedt asked about neighbors wanting to attach who is outside of area. Lucero talked about exceptions. Bjerstedt asked how big the City wants to get. Morrisette talked about how big we can get.

Aldersperson Page asked if there are concerned about giving up area by County Road U and Chapman. There was discussion about growth and location.

Gustafson talked about annexation. Watson asked about what is to stop five-acre subdivisions from going up? Bjerstedt said growth. He didn't feel it was something to worry about. There was further discussion about boundaries.

It was decided that a straw poll would be taken to determine the Council's opinion about moving forward with a joint public hearing.

Alderspersons Page, Gagne, Bjerstedt, Morrisette, Odeen, and Watson were all in favor of moving forward. Downing had concerns about the boundary and wanted to know if there could be more discussion. Aldersperson Odeen who sat on the committee explained that it has taken some time to come up with an agreement. She was surprised that an agreement was reached. There was further discussion about the process and how much time was taken come to the agreement.

It was decided to move ahead with the joint public hearing. Upon the conclusion of discussion, the workshop concluded at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk