



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

**October 23, 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, 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 Young; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; City Clerk Amy White; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Senior City Planner Brandy Howe; Communications Manager Mary Zimmermann; Management Analyst Jason Rohloff; Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator Mike Noreen; Human Resources Director Karen Bergstrom; Development Director Amy Peterson; Operations Superintendent Mike Stifter; Economic Specialist Keri Schreiner

**Others Present:** Barry Hammarback, Kerry Feuerhelm, Michael Norman, Boy Scout Troop 1954

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 9, 2018, Regular Meeting and Closed Session Minutes

**MSC Morrissette/Odeen approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$793,237.71

**MSC Page/Watson move to approve bills subject to the comptroller. Unanimous.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

The Mayor welcomed Boy Scout Troop 1954. They were working on their citizenship and community badges.

Barry Hammarback, candidate for Assembly 30<sup>th</sup> District, came to speak. He provided his background information. He feels Western Wisconsin is overlooked. He talked about changing funding for EMS and Chapter 51 commitments. He talked about spending taxes more responsibly and wants to see the region get its fair share.

Kerry Feuerhelm, candidate for Pierce County Clerk of Court, came to speak. She talked about her background and experiences. She had flyers to distribute.

Michael Norman, retired Journalism Professor from UW-River Falls, came to thank Council for recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the university's radio station, WRFW. He talked about the station's beginning and history.

Alderperson Morrissette thanked the Rotary Club, Mike Stifter, and members from Second Street Gardens for cleaning up Veterans Park last Saturday.

**Report from the Plan Commission**

Senior Planner Brandy Howe provided a presentation. She talked about the membership, the role of the commission, reviewed 2018, and upcoming items. Alderperson Gagne asked how many hours were spent on the fence ordinance. Howe said too many to count. Gagne appreciated the time and effort that was spent.

POWERful Choices! 10 Year Comprehensive Review

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis thanked Jason Rohloff for his help with the presentation. Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator Mike Noreen provided a presentation on 10 years of Powerful Choices. He talked about how the program fits within the City, its mission and how it's accomplished, historical highlights, funding sources, impacts, and its future. Noreen stood for questions.

Aldersperson Morrissette was glad to see that grants were more spread out between public and private entities in the last five years. He commended Noreen for the return of the funds for Focus on Energy. He asked about the large return in 2017. Noreen said it was due to the Falcon Center and businesses out in Sterling Ponds. Morrissette encouraged businesses to contact Noreen to take advantage of the program. Aldersperson Gagne asked if we were doing free and discounted energy devices through the utility. Noreen said yes and provided further explanation. Westhuis encouraged the public to contact Noreen if they were interested in getting a thermostat, light bulbs, or other items. The Mayor thanked Noreen.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: EMS Advisory Board – 8/6/18; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 9/19/18; Plan Commission – 9/4/18; Historic Preservation Commission – 9/12/18; Utility Advisory Board -9/15/18; Library Board – 9/10/18

Resolution Approving Weights and Measures Assessment Schedule→→***Pulled by Downing***

Resolution Regarding Sale of Surplus Equipment→→***Pulled by Downing***

Resolution Regarding Naming Rights Policy Amendment→→***Pulled by Morrissette***

Resolution No. 6310 - Regarding the Renewal of Health and Dental Insurance

**MSC Morrissette/Page move to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6311 - Approving Weights and Measures Assessment Schedule

Aldersperson Downing asked about Kwik Trip's (at 453 N. North) assessment on the schedule. They were visited four times and had 25 percent of the fees. Assistant City Administrator Bergstrom said the City contracts with the State of Wisconsin for this service, and they decide who will be tested each year. We don't know why; it varies year-to-year. Aldersperson Gagne asked what keeps the State accountable. Do they have a standard? Bergstrom said it is through the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. She hopes they are being fair - every year it varies. City Administrator Simpson said that department is charged with enforcing weights and measures on several things. He provided examples. Simpson said the City is holding them accountable by the fact that they are a State department/employee, and they are meeting with the store manager. Managers can call and complain. Simpson provided further information. Gagne thanked him for clarification.

**With no other comments, the Mayor asked for a motion. MSC Watson/Odeen move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6312 - Regarding Sale of Surplus Equipment

Aldersperson Downing asked how the Public Surplus online auction service became the City's selling site. Bergstrom explained staff met with them several times, and they provided a good service that several cities use. It has worked out well for us. Downing asked if there was a competitive way to determine what site should be the seller for the City. Bergstrom said there has been no research done in recent years. **MSC**

**Downing/Morrissette move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6313 - Regarding Naming Rights Policy Amendment

Aldersperson Morrissette wanted to discuss two items regarding the policy. The first is under 'naming'. Morrissette said it currently reads: "Naming: The permanent name agreed upon by the City of River Falls and the donor via a resolution to a given landmark." He wanted to take more control and change to read it as follows: "Naming: The permanent name agreed upon by the City of River Falls at its sole discretion with input from the donor." We want to hear from the donor but retain the authority.

Morrisette also talked about Veterans Park. He wanted to add another bullet under “Memorials and Tributes,” which would read: “We exclude bricks or memorialized donations in Veterans Park.” He thought it was good to recognize that in the policy. He was interested in hearing others’ point of view.

Alderman Page said to the second point, he thought ‘memorial’ suggests the person is already deceased. He felt that distinction was already built in. Morrisette said maybe it should go under “Minor Donations.” Page agreed. Morrisette again and said the recognition was the important thing.

**MS Morrisette/Downing motion to amend to read: “Naming: The permanent name agreed upon by the City of River Falls at its sole discretion with input from the donor via a resolution to a given landmark.”**

The Mayor asked City Attorney Gustafson if making the change would be a problem. Gustafson said no; he thought it was a minor change and that it wouldn’t have to be re-noticed. **The Mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MSC Morrisette/Odeen move to amend under “Minor Donations” the following: “This excludes bricks or memorialized donations in Veterans Park.” Unanimous.**

**MSC Morrisette/Page move to approve resolution as amended. Unanimous.**

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION:**

##### **Ordinance 2018-14 – Appropriating the Necessary Funds for the Operation of the Government and Administration of the City of River Falls for the Year 2019-First Reading**

Bergstrom provided a presentation for Council. She talked about the action the Council would be taking which is the approval of a two-year budget plan of \$91 million for 2019-20. Bergstrom talked about the budget themes of staffing, continued maintenance of infrastructure and major projects/efforts. She talked about the funding of the budget, major capital investments, the success of the TIDs, the City’s equalized value, where the property tax dollars get spent, and what an average property tax bill is. Since there is time, Bergstrom thought staff should review expenses and revenues and bring back a slightly different scenario to Council. Information about the budget can be found on the City’s website, at the library, and City Hall. Bergstrom invited feedback from the public, Council, and staff. She thanked staff including Keri, Jason, Brandt, Tracy and Finance staff.

##### **Resolution No. 6314 - Approving Purchase Agreement – Marcil Family Limited Partnership**

City Administrator Simpson provided a presentation on a purchase agreement for property for a new Police Station. He talked about the current Police Station which is 15,326 sq. ft., built in 1958, remodeled in 2009, and its deficiencies. Simpson talked about the proposed site at 2815 Prairie Drive which was built in 2003 and is approximately 22,000 sq. ft. He talked about the benefits of the building. Future cost scenarios were reviewed. This scenario could cost \$4.5 million but would save the City over \$5 million over the life of a loan. Simpson said site visits have been done. He talked about the next steps in the process and recommended the Council strongly consider the resolution as is. Simpson has worked with the Police Chief, and he agrees. Simpson noted three tradeoffs with the existing building model: 1) it would better match the needs analysis for the Police Station; 2) we can open sooner; 3) has significant positive financial impacts for the City.

Alderman Downing is in favor and noted the software would be more favorable to working with St. Croix County dispatch. Alderman Gagne talked about efficiencies with the dispatch and asked about developer interest in current Police Station. Simpson said yes there was interest but said not a lot are aware of the potential site. He provided further detail. Gagne asked about the cost of building new versus purchasing an existing building and the resulting cost savings. Gagne asked Chief Young his opinion and if he toured the site. Chief Young said yes. He felt the building would adequately meet needs for several years.

Simpson offered a point of information – he cautioned Council not to decide based on the county dispatch.

**MSC Morrisette/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution. Unanimous.**

**REPORTS:**

**Administrator's Report**

City Administrator Simpson provided information about voting and the election.

**Comptroller's Report for September 2018**

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of September were \$7,750,035 or 77 percent of budgeted. Revenues in September include \$73,447 for the final payment from the Rural Fire Association for 2018 services, and \$16,616 in building permits. Expenditures for the same period were \$7,271,309 or 72 percent of budgeted, for a net of revenues over expenditures of \$478,726.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Proclamation Celebrating the 50th Year Anniversary of WRFW-FM Radio Station**

Aldersperson Odeen read the proclamation.

**MSC Bjerstedt/Downing move to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk