



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

July 11, 2023

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

City Council Members Present: Mayor Dan Toland, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Alyssa Mueller, Todd Bjerstedt, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen

Members Absent: Nick Carow

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson; Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Jon Smits; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Assistant to the City Administrator Jennifer Smith; Police Chief Gordon Young; Assistant Director of Community Development Emily Shively; City Clerk Amy White; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Management Analyst Fellow Sara Kasel; City Engineer Todd Nickleski

Others: David Curtin, Dana Linscott, others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 27, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

MSC Bjork/Bjerstedt move to approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills: \$2,419,256.60

MSC Morrissette/Mueller move to approve bills. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

David Curtin, Lamar Advertising – he came to speak about Ordinance 2023-10. He asked Council to consider two amendments in Sections 9-12 to allow for six second on displays and in Section 16 to remove the requirement for static sign removal.

Dana Linscott, 11395 County Road M - came to speak against an ordinance the Council previously passed regarding camping.

Aldersperson Morrissette invited the public to come and celebrate the 125th anniversary of Glen Park on July 19.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance 2023-10 - Amending Title 17 Zoning: Chapters 17.44, 17.68, 17.84 and 17.116 related to Electronic Reader Board Signs – Second Reading and Disposition

At 6:36 p.m., the mayor moved into a public hearing and asked for comments. As there were no comments, the mayor closed the public hearing and moved back into open session. MS Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the ordinance.

Aldersperson Bjork asked Curtin about the six seconds. Curtin believed it was the industry standard. He thought the ordinance was more restrictive. Aldersperson Odeen asked if electronic boards were able to go slower. Curtin said any timeframe can be set. Aldersperson Downing said he didn't see a recommendation to make this quicker. He suspected it may be because of potential distractions for drivers.

City Administrator Simpson said there's a recommendation from the Plan Commission to the Council with a favorable recommendation (for the ordinance). There isn't an additional comment from staff. He asked Downing on which part of the ordinance he had a question. Downing asked if the reason why there are no other amendments being suggested is because it would be a distraction (for drivers). Simpson said that was a policy decision for the Council. He thinks the ordinance is 15 seconds. He can't speak to the motivation for Plan Commissioners.

Odeen sits on Plan Commission. Distraction and time limit of individual signs was discussed. Plan Commission felt this was a fairly big step from the old ordinance. The thought was it be easier to tread lightly when going into a big change and then it can be adjusted as necessary.

With no other comments, the mayor asked for a vote. The ordinance passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution Approving Award of 2023 Mill & Overlay Program Contract→→***pulled by Downing***

Resolution No. 6802 - Approving Award of 2023 Mill & Overlay Program Contract

Aldersperson Downing asked how long the policy lasts if there's something amiss with the work that is done. Simpson referred the question to the City Engineer Nickleski. Nickleski believed the contract stated workmanship was a 12-month warranty period. **MSC Downing/Bjork moved to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution No. 6803 - Authorizing Membership in the Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company
MSC Mueller/Bjerkstedt move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6804 -Authorizing Insurance(s) through the Cities and Villages Mutual Insurance Company

MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 6805 -Authorizing Property Insurance Coverage Through Municipal Property Insurance Company

MS Downing/Bjork move to approve the resolution. Odeen said she found the staff memo on this issue very helpful. **With no other comments, the mayor asked for a vote. The resolution passed unanimously.**

REPORTS:

Administrator's Report

Simpson provided updates on upcoming events. He noted that tonight's meeting was the last one for Assistant City Administrator Jason Stroud. Simpson gave special thanks to Stroud. Stroud thanked <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBYb1ir86mE> Simpson and the council the opportunity to serve at the city.

CLOSED SESSION:

At 6:47 p.m., MS Morrissette/Downing move to recess into Closed Session per Wisconsin State Statutes §19.85(1)(e) for the following purposes: "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: University of Wisconsin-River Falls Science Technology Partnership". **The roll call vote to move into the closed session passed unanimously.**

At 7:07 p.m., MS Morrissette/Odeen to reconvene into open session. The vote to move into open session passed unanimously.

MS Bjerstedt/Mueller move to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. The roll call vote to adjourn passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk