



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

**September 26, 2023**

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

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Scot Simpson; City Attorney Chris Gierhart; IT Specialist Sterling Hackney; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Sergeant Logan Dohmeier; Finance Director Josh Solinger; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Assistant Director of Community Development Emily Shively; Economic Development Manager Keri Schreiner; Deputy Clerk Jackie Hanson; Management Analyst Fellow Sara Kassel

**Others:** Dana Linscott, Ayanna Raven, Matt Hieb, others

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 12, 2023, minutes

**MSC Morrissette/Bjork move to approve minutes. Unanimous.**

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Bills: \$2,600,599.41

**MSC Carow/Downing move to approve bills. Unanimous.**

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

Dana Linscott, 11395 County Road M – came to speak about homelessness.

Ayanna Raven Benitez - came to speak about homelessness.

Mayor Toland expressed sympathy to the family of former Alderperson Tom Cafilisch upon his passing. Toland recognized Cafilisch's many years of service to the community.

Alderperson Odeen recognized the kindnesses shown by the River Falls Police Department that largely go unrecognized. Odeen provided examples and thanked the officers for the service to the community.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: Historic Preservation Commission – 9/13/23; 7/12/23; Utility Advisory Board – 7/17/23; West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 7/20/23; 8/17/23; 8/30/23; Plan Commission – 7/6/23; Library Board – 8/7/23

Preliminary Resolution No. 6825 - Declaring Intent to Exercise Special Assessment Police Powers Under Section 66.0703 Wisconsin Statutes for the Benefit of the River Falls Business Improvement District

Resolution Approving the Sterling Ponds Village Final Plat→→***pulled by Downing***

Resolution No. 6826 - Approving Option Agreement and First Right of Refusal with Gary Moelter

Resolution No. 6827 - Recommending Approval of Winter Street Pulling Cable Project

Resolution No. 6828 - Recommending Approval to Purchase Generator for Wastewater Treatment Facility

Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Development Agreement with RF Holdings, LLC→→***pulled by Bjork***

Resolution No. 6829 - Authorizing Urban Forestry Grant Application

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

Resolution No. 6830 - Approving the Sterling Ponds Village Final Plat

Alderson Downing asked about covenants with the build out. City Administrator Simpson said covenants would not be required or regulated by city staff. The Council isn't being asked to approve covenants; nor is Council extending their authority to deny covenants. That's typically done privately.

Downing asked about road planning if it was the final as far as in and out. Simpson hesitated to say final as the Council and Plan Commission have authority to change things over time. He understood that there are limited available lots so he didn't think there would be significant changes that staff would propose.

Alderson Bjork also wanted to pull the item and had a question. **The mayor asked for a vote before discussion. MS Downing/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution.**

Bjork asked about the sidewalks. He expressed concern about kids riding bike or walking down the alleyway. He wondered if there would be a sidewalk put in between units 6 and 7. Simpson noted a there is a multipurpose path that runs with the sidewalk. He asked if Bjork was looking for a mid-block cut through. Bjork said yes. He asked if there was a representative that could answer the question.

Matt Hieb from Auth Consulting & Associates – there isn't a cut through planned. We worked with staff on adding a sidewalk and trail. Most units on the north side have sidewalks out front. Hieb can bring the concern up. Bjork was thinking between units 6 and 7 would be a great place to add it.

Simpson said it isn't a requirement; it is just a request. If Bjork wants it as a requirement, there will need to be an amendment. Bjork wanted to leave it as a request.

**With no other discussion, the mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.**

Resolution No. 6831 - Approving an Amendment to the Development Agreement with RF Holdings, LLC

Bjork indicated he pulled the item in error. **The mayor asked for a motion on the resolution. MSC Bjork/Morrisette move to approve the resolution. Unanimous.**

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Resolution No. 6832 - Accepting 2023-2025 Strategic Initiatives

City Administrator Simpson provided a brief report on the initiatives. This is a work plan of what the Council considers priorities for work the next two years. There are 11 initiatives that Council wanted specific attention paid to, and they would be prioritized for financial and staffing resources. They include preliminary analysis and preparation for the Main Street Corridor Plan, Fire Station initial design and engineering, conduct 2025 National Community Survey, obtain hydroelectric re-license

from the Federal Electric Regulatory Commission, Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan including USACE Feasibility study, assist UWRF with Science & Technology Center, complete Phase 1 Mann Valley Corporate Park, Cooperative Boundary Agreement with Town of Clifton, construct and begin operation of bio solids processing facility, 2024-2028 Fiscal Plan, complete Powell Avenue Bridge construction, and complete Wasson Lane Urbanization. Simpson said staff would be seeking an acknowledgement of these priorities.

**MS Morrissette/Bjerstedt move to approve resolution.** Alderperson Carow complimented staff. He appreciated the metrics. This is a good strategic planning scorecard, and he appreciates the work that goes into it. With no other comments, the mayor asked for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

2023 Strategic Initiatives Report – First and Second Quarters

There were no questions.

Comptroller's Report for August 2023

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of August were \$9,847,409 or 77 percent of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in August include \$2,629,334 for property tax revenue, \$89,756 for interest on deposits, \$60,958 for payments in lieu of tax for the Housing Authority portion, and \$60,910 for building permits. Expenditures through the end of August were \$8,078,535 or 63 percent of total budget expenditures for the year. As of August 30, 2023, net revenue over expenditures were \$1,768,874.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

**At 6:52 p.m., MS Morrissette/Mueller 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 Closed Session passed unanimously 7-0.**

**At 7:16 p.m., MSC Morrissette/Odeen move to reconvene into Open Session. Unanimous.**

**MS Mueller/Morrissette move to approve Resolution No. 6833 – Approving Naming Agreement with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.**

**MSC Odeen/Mueller move to amend resolution to add a fourth WHEREAS phase: “WHEREAS, the University is the municipal utility’s largest customer and provides strength and economic vitality to the community; and”. Unanimous.**

**The mayor asked for a vote on the original motion. It passed unanimously.**

**MSC Bjerstedt/Morrissette move to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk