



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

October 24, 2023

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:32 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; Human Resources Director Karen Bergstrom; City Engineer Todd Nickleski; Economic Development Manager Keri Schreiner; Community Services Director/City Clerk Amy White

Others present: Dana Linscott; Joleen Larson; others

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

October 10, 2023, Regular and Workshop Minutes; September 26, 2023, Workshop Minutes

MSC Morrissette/Mueller move to approve minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Bills: \$1,049,911.08

MSC Bjork/Downing move to approve bills. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Dana Linscott, 11395 County Road M – came to speak about homeless persons in the community.

Aldersperson Morrissette thanked Public Works Manager Erica Ellefson who assisted the Rotary in cleaning Veterans Park on her own time.

Aldersperson Downing recognized October as domestic violence awareness month.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Resolution No. 6835 - Authorizing Special Assessment Police Powers under Section 66.0703

Wisconsin Statutes for the Benefit of the River Falls Business Improvement District

At 6:34 p.m., the mayor moved into a public hearing. Joleen Larson from the BID Board provided a presentation. The BID Board was formed in 1989 to augment and support business retention and beautification of the core historical district. Larson talked about the BID boundary. For the last 20 years, a little more than \$1.1 million has been invested. Almost 95 percent of Board's money goes to their constituents. She talked about the assistance the of the City. Larson said Covid and now inflation has mixed up the small business world. The Board is guardedly optimistic for 2024. She gave details about 2023.

The Board continues to support Music in the Park, invest in community art in the downtown district, maintain Second Street gardens and the Main Street planters. Larson talked about the City and Board collaborating on a joint internship. She talked about the hanging baskets, working with the Chamber, and supporting the River Falls Business Leaders. Larson talked about other ways the BID supports

the downtown including façade grants. She spoke about the future and thanked the City for its support.

Upon completion of the presentation, the mayor asked if the public had any questions. As there were none, the mayor moved back into Open Session at 6:40 p.m. and asked for questions. Downing thanked Larson for the BID's work.

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

Ordinance 2023-13 - An Ordinance Appropriating the Necessary Funds for the Operation of the Government and Administration of the City of River Falls, Wisconsin, for the Year 2024 – First Reading

At 6:41 p.m., the mayor moved into a public hearing. Finance Director Josh Solinger provided a presentation. Solinger said staff received good news about the City's health insurance renewal. Costs did not rise providing an unexpected savings, so a one-time transfer will be made to the library for their elevator power unit repair project. He talked about other transfers that will be made because of the savings.

Solinger gave comparisons between the adopted 2023 budget and the proposed 2024 budget. He talked about the figures in the different fund types. Solinger spoke about the proposed net levy and the 2024 capital improvement plan. He concluded by talking about the ordinance approval process.

City Administrator Simpson clarified items 4-10 are on the Consent Agenda, so no reports are scheduled from staff. **With no questions, the mayor moved into Open Session at 6:54 p.m.**

Aldersperson Bjork noted County Road MM was mentioned in the electric looping in the budget, but it should be Powell Avenue. Solinger said staff will update the information.

CONSENT AGENDA

Acknowledgement of the following minutes: Library Board – 6/5/23; 8/7/23; Utility Advisory Board – 9/18/23; Historic Preservation Commission – 10/11/23; Park and Recreation Advisory Board – 9/20/23; River Falls Housing Authority – 6/14/23; 7/12/23; 9/13/23

Resolution No. 6836 - Approving the 2024 Health and Dental Insurance Renewal

Resolution No. 6837 - Amending Fee Schedule for 2024

Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Development Agreement with FAO River Falls, LLC → → **pulled by Morrissette**

Resolution No. 6838 - Authorizing a State-Local BRIC Agreement for a Flood Control Study

Resolution No. 6839 - for the Acceptance of Public Improvements Associated with Highview Meadows 6th and 7th Addition

Resolution No. 6840 - Approving 2022 Audited Financial Statements and Management Report

Morrissette asked about the agenda regarding minutes that weren't included in the packet. Simpson said item 4C could be excluded. **MSC Odeen/Bjerstedt move to approve the remainder of the Consent Agenda. Unanimous.**

Resolution No. 6841 - Approving an Amendment to the Development Agreement with FAO River Falls, LLC

Morrisette had a conflict of interest on the item and would be abstaining from the vote. **MSC Carow/Downing move to approve the resolution. The motion passed with all voting in favor except for Morrisette who abstained.**

REPORTS:

Comptroller's Report for September 2023

Comptroller Odeen read the following: General Fund revenues through the end of September were \$10,115,949 or 79 percent of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in September include \$32,221 for building permits, \$20,527 for vehicle registration fees, and \$7,199 for camp-dumping fees. Expenditures through the end of September were \$9,050,903 or 71 percent of total budget expenditures for the year. As of September 30, 2023, net revenue over expenditures were \$1,065,046.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor's Appointment to the River Falls Housing Authority

Appointment of Grace Birdseye through remainder of term - December 2026

MSC Morrisette/Bjerstedt move to approve the mayor's appointment. Unanimous.

Bjork asked about fire grants. Simpson said we were not successful in getting grants this time. Bjork asked Simpson to provide an update on what was happening at Sterling Ponds. Simpson talked about a 100 sq. ft. industrial building that was going up.

MSC Bjerstedt/Morrisette move to adjourn at 6:59 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristi McKahan, Deputy Clerk