

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2016 5:30 P.M.

The meeting was opened by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Ard, Jackson, Kittel, Montello, Volkert, and Zajkowski

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Kittel moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Montello and carried.

VFW Property – Freedom Park Discussion

Ken House, from the VFW, explained that Noah Wiedenfeld helped them write a grant to receive gravel for their project and they received the grant. They changed their name to the New Richmond/St. Croix County VFW to allow them to apply for more grants. The next step is to stake out the land. They have legal representation from Jim Remington. They will be looking at building the pavilion for the City next year. A fundraiser was held recently and they did really well. The complete project includes space for the VFW and the Senior Center with public bathrooms, a pavilion, meeting space and concessions area.

Assessor – Revaluation Proposal

Kelly Owen, from Owen Assessing, passed out preliminary reports from the State of Wisconsin showing that the City will most likely be at 88% of the equalized value. Kelly has been the assessor for the past year and has noticed many land and house inequities. New sales are way beyond the current assessed values. This is why she put together a proposal for a possible revaluation. The proposal states that the revaluation would take 9-10 months and the cost could be spread over three years. Staff will look into preparing a Request for Proposals for the revaluation and review the statutory requirements and come back to the work session on October 24, 2016 with more information.

Senior Center Lease Overview

Mike Darrow explained that the Senior Center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. They will use the Council Chambers or Room 1 in the Basement on DMV days. The City received a check reimbursing us for September through December for rent that we paid to the Community Commons. The City's financial commitment in the future years will be \$0 annually. If given proper notice, we can use the room downstairs for such things as elections. Their lease will be renewed on an annual basis. A full lease will be on the October agenda for action.

2017 Budget Process and Fee Discussion

Mike Darrow stated that he is extremely excited about the budget this year and has been impressed with staff in their role in the budget process. City Staff explained the key takeaways from the budget tour and asked Council for their input. Council members would like to see the budget first and then make a request to the supervisors as to what they would like to take a look at. Staff also explained 2017 budget innovation ideas. Staff found the budget process this year a more collaborative effort with all departments working together. There were lots of great ideas and good conversations as a group. Alderman Kittel thanked Mike Darrow for starting this process. Some ideas that came from this process include centralized purchasing, the sale of City owned land, City contribution to the fire truck can come from a short term advance from the utility, 2017 capital improvements to be wrapped into 2018 bonding, increasing the sidewalk repair budget, increasing the library budget and increasing the amount for parks to put recycling containers in the parks. From here we will go through the strategic planning process which includes updating our strategic plan, recreation plan, safe routes to school plan, comprehensive plan, bicycle & pedestrian master plan and the financial plan. There will be community presentations given explaining the budget to groups such as the Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Chamber of Commerce, Senior

Center, New Richmond Area Centre and the NRACF. On Facebook, residents were asked what their thoughts on the top five priorities in the next five years for New Richmond. Some of those priorities include taxes, business growth, schools, downtown, streets and trails. Alderman Zajkowski discussed possibly creating a wheel tax. Considerable discussion followed. Another idea discussed was to consider changing the resolution regarding property tax equivalent. The City could also look at creating an aviation tax incremental district including an aviation technical park. For every \$5 the City invests in the airport, the State invests \$95. We will be getting health care costs in October, so that can be figured into the budget as well. Staff will continue with the innovation ideas and gather estimated costs.

There was also discussion regarding the court fee schedule which has not been changed for three years. Craig Yehlik and Jackie Butler explained that we are lacking in our fee structure. Other fees to look at include the fingerprint fee and parking citations which have not been changed in years either. This will come back to the Council for action in October.

There was discussion regarding the historical financial trends for the City. Staff presented changes in millrates over the past several years, sources of funds, operating expenses and current debt position.

K-9 Program Proposal & Next Steps

Craig Yehlik stated that there is a lot of excitement around this program. Staff looked at the feasibility of starting in 2017, but found that 2018 would be a better goal. They will be looking at outside funds such as grant programs. Craig will come up with a time line on moving forward with this program. Nick Vivian created an association agreement for the K-9 program for those donating money to the project.

2017 Special Services Police Vehicle

Bids were received for a Police Special Services Vehicle. We received a bid for an SUV with a V6 engine. Staff recommended expanding the quote to include V6, V8 motors and sedan type vehicles. These new bids would be due October 4, 2016 and come to the Council on October 10, 2016. Alderman Ard moved to expand the scope of the bid with the return date of October 4, 2016, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried. Alderman Montello abstained.

Police Drug Investigator Vehicle

The following bids were received for drug investigator vehicle:

2014	Chev	Impala	Used	\$15,215	28,183 miles
2016	Dodge	Caravan	Used	\$20,823	2,300 miles
2016	Dodge	Caravan	New	\$23,323	No miles
2016	Dodge	Journey	New	\$25,339	No miles

Staff recommended purchasing the 2014 Chevrolet Impala for \$15,214 which includes a platinum GM Protection Plan warranty and maintenance plan. Alderman Ard moved to purchase the Chevrolet Impala for \$15,215, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried. Alderman Montello abstained.

Commons Property Master Plan

The school and City will meet in the next two weeks to outline concepts. There will be public meetings in October to gain input from the community regarding the concepts. The goal is to approve the master plan in November or December.

Mayor's Appointments

Mayor Horne appointed Mandi Erickson to the Park Board and Nate Warner to the Economic Development Commission. Alderman Montello moved to confirm these appointments, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Communications & Miscellaneous

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is sponsoring a Turnout for Transportation event at the Baldwin Ag Center at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 29, 2016 to discuss transportation funding.

Closed Session per Statute 19.85 (1)(c) – Police Chief Contract

Alderman Ard moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) to discuss Police Chief Contract, seconded by Alderman Montello and carried.

Open Session

Alderman Montello moved to approve the proposal for Police Chief Contract as discussed in Closed Session, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Alderman Montello moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Tanya Batchelor
City Clerk