

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 12, 2015 7:00 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 Kittel, Ard, Jackson, Hansen, Volkert
Zajkowski, Student Representatives Victoria Johnson and Jesse Stenske

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Ard moved to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Alderman Hansen and carried.

Public Comment

Danielle Campeau, Director of the Center of Innovation and Business Development at the University of River Falls, introduced students Bryan Heth and Brendan Weise. These students will be working on business and housing market analysis and the affects the bridge will have on the community in the next five to fifteen years. The comprehensive study will be done in December.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes from the Previous Regular Council Meeting, September 14, 2015, Special Council Meetings, September 17, 2015 and September 28, 2015
2. Run/Walk Permit from New Richmond Area Centre at 9:00 a.m. on the following dates: November 14, 2015; December 12, 2015; January 23, 2016; February 27, 2016; March 26, 2016; and April 16, 2016
3. Payment of VO#58558 through VO#58632 totaling \$200,698.42 plus electronic fund transfers of \$4,907,967.46 for a grand total of \$5,108,665.88

General Fund	\$ 674,994.53
Impact Fees Fund	51,233.64
Debt Service Fund	4,336,001.98
Capital Projects	18,989.86
Landfill Cleanup Fund	6,331.34
TIF District #6	2,869.83
Storm Water Utility	16,266.34
Park Land Trust Fund	1,940.65
Library Trust Fund	37.71

Alderman Hansen moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Department Reports

Administration- Mike Darrow stated that today was the Solar Garden groundbreaking. Thanks to the New Richmond Band for playing "Here Comes the Sun". Mike also thanked WPPI, New Richmond City Council and the Utility Commission. Anyone interested in learning about the benefits of solar energy or in signing up should call the utility office. Noah Wiedenfeldt introduced

our new Student Representatives for City Council, Jesse Stenske and Victoria Johnson. There were seven other students that interviewed for the Student Representative position and they will be contacted about serving on other boards and commissions.

Public Works – Jeremiah Wendt stated that Richmond Township has received a grant for the trail on 140th Street from the DNR. A committee will be reviewing the Bike and Pedestrian Comprehensive Plan. The City received a grant from the Natural Resources Foundation for a project with the New Richmond High School to make bluebird houses, bat houses and a rain garden in Freedom Park and Hatfield Park. Jeremiah also showed pictures of the street construction projects in progress. There will be a groundbreaking for the Skate Park in Hatfield Park at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday. There will also be an open house on October 22, 2015 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. for Paperjack Drive reconstruction.

Community Development – Beth Thompson reported that north of the Dollar Tree they are working on the Goodwill project. Also, there was an open house and official ribbon cutting for Shoots and Stems today.

Library – Kim Hennings explained that tomorrow night Chad Lewis is speaking at the High School Auditorium about the bizarre history in Wisconsin. Also, an antique appraiser will be at the library.

Police Department – Mark Samelstad stated that a new police officer started today named Jared McClain.

WPPI Presentation

Mike Peters, from WPPI, gave a presentation on the history of WPPI and the need to have member communities sign new agreements extending out to 2055. Agreements will be reviewed by Nick Vivian prior to Council approval in 2016.

Resolution #101501 – Celebrating 35 Years

Alderman Hansen offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #101501

A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF MUNICIPAL JOINT ACTION FOR PUBLIC POWER UTILITIES

WHEREAS, for more than 125 years, municipally owned, not-for profit New Richmond Utilities has provided the City of New Richmond with reliable, affordable electric power; customer-focused hometown service; significant local tax contributions; local jobs; local ownership; and local control of our community's energy future; and

WHEREAS, not-for-profit, member-owned, joint-action wholesale power supplier WPPI Energy was formed in 1980 to preserve and enhance the value of public power utilities such as New Richmond Utilities; and

WHEREAS, together, WPPI Energy member communities have built a diverse, flexible, cost-effective long-term power supply portfolio; an array of more than 75 best-in-class utility and customer programs and services; and a proven track record of energy policy advocacy for the benefit of WPPI Energy member communities and their electric utility customers;

WHEREAS, the City of New Richmond has been a member-owner of WPPI Energy since 1980; and

WHEREAS, together, the 51 member utilities of WPPI Energy serve more than 200,000 local homes and businesses in Wisconsin, Michigan and Iowa; and

WHEREAS, WPPI Energy members enjoy shared strength by pooling their needs and expertise for a reliable, affordable power supply, access to technology, and cost-effective programs and services that would be difficult and expensive for any one community to accomplish alone;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of New Richmond, St. Croix County, Wisconsin recognizes and celebrates the thirty-fifth anniversary of the creation of WPPI Energy, our community's member-owned, joint-action municipal power supplier; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of New Richmond will continue working to bring the benefits of joint action to local homes and businesses, just as it has since 1980, the year our community became a member-owner of WPPI Energy. Motion was seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Water & Sanitary GIS Update and Demonstration

Andrew Lammers, IT/GIS Analyst, gave a presentation on interactive maps for the utilities. He presented a map and showed how you can click on a manhole or fire hydrant and get all of the technical details on that specific item. Also, they linked the video from televising underground pipes so that employees can click on a specific area and view the video of the pipes in that location. There are many applications for this software, Andrew is just getting started. Alderman Ard thanked Andrew for bringing us into the 21st century.

Ordinance #479 Shoreland Wetland

This ordinance was tabled at the last Council meeting and staff made the changes requested. Alderman Hansen moved to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance #479, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Agreement for Special Assessments

New Richmond Utilities provides services for some citizens in Richmond and Star Prairie townships. Previously, if bills were not paid, there were few actions that could be taken to collect the money due. This agreement will allow the City to place the delinquent amounts on tax roll. Alderman Ard moved to approve these agreements, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Assessor Contract

Beth Thompson explained that the City received five proposals for Assessor services and the three lowest were given phone interviews. Following staff review, the recommendation is to proceed with Owen Assessing for 2016 – 2018 for \$24,800 each year. The amount budgeted previously was \$25,000 and this proposal is under that amount. Alderman Hansen moved to accept the proposal from Owen Assessing for 2016-2018, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Resolution #101502 – Administrative Permit Fee & Escrow

The Finance Committee recommended approving the following resolution:

RESOLUTION #101502

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES

WHEREAS, the City of New Richmond hereby adopts the following Amendment to the Schedule of Fees:

Miscellaneous Clerk's Fees	Amount
Administrative Permit Fee	\$100.00
Administrative Permit Escrow	\$1,000.00

Alderman Zajkowski moved to approve this resolution and the administrative permit application, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Agreements with Paychex

The Finance Committee recommended approving the agreements with Paychex, our new payroll vendor. Alderman Hansen moved to approve the agreements with Paychex, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Police Vehicle Bids

The following bids were received for Police Department vehicles:

Bernard's

2016 Dodge Caravan Minivan	\$22,295.00
Minus Trade-in	<u>1,600.00</u>

Total	20,695.00	
2 – 2015 Dodge Durango AWD SUV	34,875.00 (Each)	69,750.00 Total (2)
Minus trade- in of 2012 Durango	10,500.00	
Minus trade-in of 2014 Durango	12,500.00	
Total		46,750.00 Total (2)
2-2016 Dodge Durango AWD SUV	35,185.00(each)	70,370.00 Total (2)
Minus trade-in of 2012 Durango	10,000.00	
Minus Trade-in of 2014 Durango	12,000.00	
Total		48,370.00 Total (2)

Cox Motors

2 – 2016 Ford Explorers	36,959.00 (Each)	73,918.00 Total (2)
Minus Trade-in 2012 Durango	10,000.00	
Minus Trade-in 2014 Durango	11,000.00	
Total		52,910.00 Total (2)

Alderman Volkert moved to accept the bid from Bernard’s for a 2016 Dodge Caravan at \$20,695 and two 2016 Dodge Durangos for a total cost of \$48,370.00, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

Resolution #101503 – Transportation Aids Campaign

Alderman Hansen offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION #101503

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT COALITION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, local government in Wisconsin is responsible for about 90% of the road miles in the state; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s diverse economy is dependent upon county and town roads as well as city and village streets and transit systems across the state; and

WHEREAS, according to “Filling Potholes: A New Look at Funding Local Transportation in Wisconsin,” commissioned by the Local Government Institute of Wisconsin (LGI) the condition of Wisconsin’s highways is now in the bottom third of the country; and

WHEREAS, state funding for local roads in Wisconsin has failed to keep up with costs over the past several decades which has adversely affected local transportation finances. According to “Filling Potholes,” municipal transportation spending has declined from \$275 per capita in 2000 to \$227 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, levy limits do not allow local government to make up for the deterioration of state funding; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s over-reliance on borrowing eats away at the state’s segregated funding sources – the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees – which increasingly pay debt service rather than fund transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, safety is a primary concern and responsibility of local governments across Wisconsin. Unfortunately, according to TRIP, a national non-profit transportation research group, Wisconsin had 347 non-interstate, rural road fatalities in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the New Richmond City Council recognizes that our state highway and interstate system is the backbone of our surface transportation system and plays a vital role in the economy of Wisconsin. Both local *and* state roads need to be properly maintained in order for our economy to grow; and

WHEREAS, from a competitive standpoint Wisconsin motorists pay significantly less than any of our neighbors when you combine the annual cost of the state gas tax and vehicle registration fees; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, appointed by the Governor and Legislature clearly found that if Wisconsin does not adjust its user fees, the condition of both our state and local roads will deteriorate significantly over the next decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the New Richmond City Council, to urge the Governor and Legislature to #JustFixItWI and agree upon a sustainable solution: one that includes a responsible level of bonding and adjusts our user fees to adequately and sustainably fund Wisconsin's transportation system. Furthermore, the New Richmond City Council directs the City Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to our State Legislators and to Governor Scott Walker. Motion was seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Employee Benefits

Mike Darrow explained that the Council began reviewing the employee handbook in January of 2015. They have been reviewing the benefits as it relates to sick and vacation time. The Council put together a proposal in August and last week the Council invited employees to discuss the proposal. Beth Thompson and Jeremiah Wendt gave an overview of comparing the proposal to other municipalities in the area, those of similar size and the counties nearby. Mayor Horne stated that his concern was with the unfunded liability. The first proposal was to cap those hours at 500. Mike Darrow presented an alternate proposal with a cap of 600 hours. The proposal also converts the current sick and vacation time to paid time off and reduces the number of days for employees based on a schedule. Below is a comparison of the existing to the original proposed and the alternative proposal:

EXISTING			PROPOSED		ALTERNATIVE	
SERVICE	VACATION	SICK	SERVICE	PTO ACCRUAL	SERVICE	PTO ACCRUAL
1 YR	5 DAYS	12 DAYS	1 YR	10 DAYS	1 YR	15 DAYS
2-4 YRS	10 DAYS	12 DAYS	2-4 YRS	15 DAYS	2-4 YRS	20 DAYS
5-9 YRS	15 DAYS	12 DAYS	5-9 YRS	20 DAYS	5-9 YRS	24 DAYS
10-21 YRS	20 DAYS	12 DAYS	10-21 YRS	25 DAYS	10-24 YRS	27 DAYS
22-23 YRS	21 DAYS	12 DAYS	22-23 YRS	26 DAYS	25-29 YRS	29 DAYS
24-25 YRS	22 DAYS	12 DAYS	24-25 YRS	27 DAYS	30+ YRS	30 DAYS
26-27 YRS	23 DAYS	12 DAYS	26-27 YRS	28 DAYS		
28-29 YRS	24 DAYS	12 DAYS	28-29 YRS	29 DAYS		
30+ YRS	25 DAYS	12 DAYS	30+ YRS	30 DAYS		

Alderman Hansen moved to accept the alternative plan and to raise sick bank hours to a maximum of 660 hours with current sick bank hours to be frozen January 1, 2016 with 100 % of the sick hours to be paid out at the time of retirement and any new accumulation after January 1, 2106 up to the 660 limit would be paid out at retirement at 50%, seconded by Alderman Volkert and carried. Alderman Kittel, Ard and Jackson voted no. Alderman Hansen, Volkert and Zajkowski voted yes. Mayor Horne voted yes to break the tie vote. Motion carried.

2016 Employee Health Insurance Plan

Kari Kraft, Human Resource Manager, explained the changes proposed to the employee health insurance plan for 2016. The percentage employees will pay towards the premium will increase from 10% of the premium to 13%, the deductible will increase from \$350 for single to \$750 and from \$700 for family to \$1,500. Office visit copays will increase from \$15 to \$25. The changes outlined will save the City \$66,148 in insurance premiums. Another health insurance plan will also be offered with a higher deductible and will change from an HRA to a HSA. The premium will be significantly less for this plan, but the employee will pay from the first dollar up to the

deductible. Alderman Ard moved to approve the changes outlined, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Council Work Session – October 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda items should be submitted to staff.

Communications and Miscellaneous

None

Closed Session

Alderman Ard moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(g) Airport Litigation, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Open Session

No action was taken.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Tanya Reigel
City Clerk