

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 30, 2018 4:00 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: Alderman Zajkowski, Ard, Kittel, Jackson, Volkert, and Montello.

Members Absent: Mayor Horne

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Recycling RFP

Joel Enders explained this RFP is requesting a single-source provider for recycling. The Public Works Committee also discussed the RFP. Bidders can attach modifications to the requirements. No action is requested tonight. The trend is for every house to have a 64 gallon container for recycling. The new contract for recycling would not start until January 2019. Council action will be requested at the June 11, 2018, meeting.

VFW Project Update

The Park Board has recommended giving the VFW five acres of land at Freedom Park to construct a building. The community will show their level of support for this project by making donations. The Utility Commission is moving forward with a feasibility study for bringing water and sewer that direction. Alderman Ard moved to visit this again at the June work session and have it on the July 9, 2018, meeting for action, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Annexation

Beth Thompson and Nick Vivian discussed future annexation. When the CAP group looked at the City map, they say some areas look to be in the City, but are not. They felt these areas should be annexed as soon as possible. There are three ways to annex: 1) Unanimous approval – where the property owner signs a petition to annex; 2) Direct annexation – a petition is signed by at least 50% of the electors in that area; 3) Referendum – the Council could initiate the annexation by applying to the circuit court to allow us to annex. If the court approves it, then a referendum is scheduled. Discussion followed. Staff will make a flyer explaining the services provided by the City including leaf pickup, brush pickup, water, sewer and electric services, etc. Staff will create a booklet of property that we would like to see annexed into the City including the properties that are served by City water and sewer. Staff will come back to the Council in two months with a strategy. Alderman Montello moved to proceed with the annexation process as discussed, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried.

Potential Rezone for Fusion Metal Property

Alderman Ard moved to table this issue until the June Meeting, seconded by Alderman Kittel and carried.

Student Resource Officer

Veronica Koehler stated a law enforcement presence is needed in school buildings because of drugs, underage drinking, safety and security of school staff. Having a Student Resource Officer is a deterrent for crimes. If we have this officer, we could have a proactive approach rather than reactive. The officer could help with fights, truancy and be a resource to parents. They will not handle discipline issues. The officer would give safety presentations and develop programs to educate kids. River Falls and Somerset have one officer in this position and Hudson has two officers plus two armed security people. Rice Lake is just starting the program. The school district is willing to pay half the cost of this officer and asked the City to pay the other half. Staff is seeking approval to create a MOU with the schools. If the City adds this position, the school could fund the first six months, so it would not have an effect on the 2018 City budget. Staff will apply for grants again for this project. Discussion followed. Alderman Montello directed staff to create the MOU with the school district, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Capital Improvement Plan 2018-2022

Jeremiah Wendt explained the trails that are mapped out for the next three years. Considerable discussion followed. In August and September staff and Council will determine the projects to be included in the 2019 budget. The Council discussed the definition of the very important projects on the CIP. These projects are in need of repair soon, but could be done in the next few years. The Mary Park boat landing will be moved to critical due to the 50/50 grant received for this project. Discussion followed.

Compensation Study

Sarah Reese explained the process for the compensation study. An RFP was issued and six proposals were received. Four of the groups had phone interviews and three of those groups presented to a large group of Council members and employees today. Sarah will be checking references for the top two groups. This item will be on the June 11, 2108, Council agenda for action.

Civic Center Remodeling Design Contract

Mike Darrow explained it was discussed by Council at budget time last year to redesign the civic center to allow one-stop customer service for utilities and the main office. We would like to have an architect look at the building and make recommendations. A proposal from Cedar Corp was included in the packet. Alderman Montello moved to proceed with hiring Cedar Corp for the redesign of the civic center, seconded by Alderman Ard and carried. The cost will be split with the City and Utility.

Amendment to Building Inspector Contract

Beth Thompson stated that Sarah Skinner has resigned effective June 6, 2018. We can have Josh Melstrom assist us until we hire a full-time building inspector, but he is only able to help 3 ½ days each week through September 2018. The plan for now is to have our planner here eight hours per week to deal with zoning and code enforcement issues. Alderman Ard moved to approve the contract amendment for Josh Melstrom not to exceed an additional \$8,949, seconded by Alderman Montello and carried.

Community Development Update

Beth Thompson explained that as our population increases, so does the number of building permits issued. At this time we really need a full-time planner/zoning administrator. This position would take over planning, zoning and code enforcement issues. Staff will put together a job description along with sources and uses of funds for this position and a salary range. Alderman Ard moved to approve the creation of this position, seconded by Alderman Montello and carried.

LTI Inclusive Playground

Noah Wiedenfeld discussed the proposal from this group to create a playground that would be accessible to kids of all ages and abilities and would have permanent bathrooms. They requested space in Freedom Park, and the Park Board has discussed this location. A big issue is permanent bathrooms because water

and sewer are not in Freedom Park at this time. Discussion followed regarding alternate locations for this playground. Veronica is a member of the group requesting to create this playground. She will go back to the group and discuss alternate locations including MaRita Park. This group is committed to doing all of the fundraising for the project.

Forward New Richmond Consultant

Mike Darrow explained that staff would like to contract with Seth Hudson, from Cedar Corporation, as part of the Forward New Richmond group to assist with economic development projects at the direction of City staff or FNR. This item will be on the June 11, 2018, agenda for action.

Vaping on School Property

Veronica Koehler explained that Council discussed this proposed ordinance at the May 14, 2018, meeting. Chief Yehlik and Alderman Montello met with the New Richmond School District Superintendent Olson to discuss this ordinance. Vaping is a huge problem in the schools and this ordinance is needed to help deal with this issue. Alderman Montello moved to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance #519, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried. Alderman Volkert abstained.

125th Street Annexation Reimbursement Agreement

Jeremiah Wendt explained that project costs have been split based on current jurisdictional boundaries. City staff and the City Attorney have developed an agreement by which the City would reimburse the Town of Richmond for a prorated portion of the street reconstruction costs if properties along 125th Street were annexed into the City within a certain time frame. The precedent for this arrangement is in the boundary agreement with Star Prairie Township. No action is requested. This item will be on the June 11, 2018 meeting for final approval.

Street Lighting

Weston Arndt, Electric Superintendent, explained that the Electric Department is working on plans to complete the installation of 36 streetlights and poles along the east side of 140th Street, between County Road K and County Road GG. WPPI has funds available to loan to members for lighting projects such as this and we will be using those funds for this project. Work is expected to begin mid-June. The Utility Commission has approved this project.

Communications & Miscellaneous

Weston Arndt reported that a utility pole broke off north of Super America yesterday started on fire. The pole rotted off at the bottom and blew over in the wind. This caused an outage for six hours. The Electric Department will be doing more pole testing to make sure something like this does not happen in the future.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Tanya Batchelor
City Clerk