

Mayor Hafften called the **February 25, 2014** Regular Meeting of the Rockford City Council to order at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. The following council members were present: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz. Absent: Martinson. Also in attendance were: Engineers Ward and Daniels, Administrator/Special Counsel Madsen, Deputy Clerk Etzel, Lead Streets Quirk, Fire Chief Sanderson and Assistant Fire Chief Buoy.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

***Approve Consent Agenda/Set Agenda**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the consent agenda and set the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz.

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/February 11, 2014**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2014 regular council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz.

***Approve Payment of Claims**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the payment of claims #22913 to #22952 in the amount of \$79,234.20.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz.

Fire Department 2013 Year End Review

Fire Chief Ben Sanderson presented the Council with a review the 2013. There was a total of 322 calls for service, 5,089 total hours of service by members and 4,090 total hours of trainings and meetings by members - not including volunteer hours: Rockford River Days, etc. The most frequent calls were medical calls totaling 217. The Chief also showed the day of the week most calls happened, the hours calls were received, calls by district, and type of call within the districts. It was noted the medical calls were higher along with more fires. The fire department roster is full with 33 members. The Chief noted they have seven applicants pending openings on the department.

Fire Department Reserve Firefighters

Fire Chief Ben Sanderson introduced a sample reserve firefighter program from Albertville to the council. The Chief explained how other cities use reserve firefighters. The reserve firefighters would receive the basic training (firefighter 1&2 and first responder), no pay or pension. The reserve firefighters would go on call like the current members and should the

roster have an opening a reserve firefighter would have the opportunity to move up based on merit.

Council discussed a ranking system to track the reserve firefighter's progress.

Council had questions regarding liability and costs:

- Would the City be limited to cost covered by the State of Minnesota for grant training funds?
- Cost to add reserve firefighters to workers compensation?
- Equipment cost?

The Council likes the concept and would like the answers to their questions be brought back to a future meeting.

The Council and staff would like to thank the Rockford Firefighter Department Explorer Post 3053 for clearing fire hydrants that were buried under ice and snow.

2013 Volunteer of the Year

The City is accepting nominations for the 2013 Volunteer of the Year. The award can be presented to a deserving individual or a group. Nomination forms are available at City Hall, on the website, the library and the upcoming community expo and should be submitted to City Hall no later than Wednesday, March 19, 2014.

Approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Plans & Specs and Advertise for Bids

Wenck Engineer's Ward and Daniels presented the City Council with the wastewater treatment facility plans and specs for approval and to request advertising for bids.

The current project estimate is approximately \$140,000 over the original Engineering Report. The PFA Grant of \$136,900 is pending.

An aerial map of the current lay out and site plan showing all the updates were reviewed.

Public Works is doing their best to keep the old and outdated equipment from failing until the project is completed.

MOTION was made by Wenz, seconded by Kesanen to approve the Wastewater Treatment Facility Plans & Specs and advertise for bids.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz.

Bids will be opened on March 28, 2014.

Resolution #14-17/Ordinance #14-02 Approve Xcel Energy Contract

Administrator Madsen stated the City currently has a Franchise Agreement with Northern States Power, doing business as Xcel Energy. The agreement was last established by Ordinance #94-05 in March of 1994 and was effective for a term of 20 years.

Council discussed the option of establishing a franchised fee but choose not to establish at this time.

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve Resolution #14-17 adopting Ordinance #14-02 Franchise Agreement with Northern States Power and authorized staff to publish the Ordinance and bill NSP for the cost to publish.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz.

Administrator's Report

The Administrator's report included status of the following: the purchase of the Rockford Mall, water and sewer rates are being reviewed, the auditors are in the office and the audit appears to be going well and Public Works is doing a fantastic job on the roads.

Public Work's Report

Staff has been busy hauling snow at night to avoid traffic.

Engineer's Report

The information regarding the televising is being completed and will be presented to the property owners in the near future.

Council Reports

Graner – nothing to report

Kesanen – The Masonic matching

Wenz – nothing to report

Hafften - nothing to report

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hafften called for open forum. No one from the public spoke.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Kesanen to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen and Wenz.

Mayor Hafften adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Renee Hafften, Mayor

Audra Etzel, Deputy Clerk