

Mayor Beyer called the **February 28, 2012** Regular Meeting of the Rockford City Council to order at 7:00 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: Beyer, Graner, Hafften, Martinson and Wenz. Absent: none. Also in attendance were: Attorney Couri, Administrator Carswell, and Public Works Supervisor D. Peterson.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Approve Consent Agenda/Set Agenda

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve all items on the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/February 14, 2012**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2012, Regular Council Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

***Approve Payment of Claims**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the payment of claims #20187 to #20223 in the amount of \$43,576.99.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

***Resolution #12-18/Approve Transfer of Funds 2011**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to adopt Resolution #12-18 approving transfer of funds 2011 of \$155,231 from general fund 101 to be paid back to fund 313 for other projects.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

OPEN FORUM:

Sydney Christensen from Rockford Girl Scout Troop believes we need to lower the speed limit on Highway 55 especially at Casey's because many of the Middle School children are crossing at this intersection and it is dangerous.

Ava Duffy of the Rockford Girl Scout Troop suggested that the city council should lower the speed limit along Highway 55 because she feels there could be an accident where a person could get hit waiting to cross.

Macey Pryde of the Rockford Girl Scout Troop expressed her concern about middle school students who cross Highway 55 everyday that are not using a crosswalk. Macy suggested that the city council put a sign up to let drivers know that the Middle School is close by so they may slow down.

Julie has noticed that the speed limit along Hwy 55 is too fast and that the speed limit should be lowered. Julie feels that with slower speed limits there will be less traffic accidents.

Mayor Beyer thanked the girl scouts for attending and for their concern about the safety of others. Rick noted that the city does not set the speed limit on Highway 55 and agrees that the speed limit is too high. Mayor Beyer asked for the

letters from the girls so he could send them on to MNDOT with the city resolution requesting the speed limit to be lowered. It was also suggested by council that the information about Middle School students crossing Highway 55 on Ash Street is not safe and students should be informed that they should only use the crosswalk on Main Street. The city council stated that they will contact MNDOT about a school sign be posted on Highway 55 by Ash Street.

Amy Pederson

Mayor Beyer presentation a plaque to Amy Pederson and thanked her for her service for serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission from 2008 to 2011. Amy thanked the city for the opportunity to serve in this capacity and said it was a great learning experience and as a new resident she felt this role allowed her to become involved. Amy stated the she would have continued to serve in role however; she is now serving as Vice President of the RiverWorks Community Development Organization.

Jeff Johnson, Hennepin County Commissioner

Mr. Jeff Johnson, Hennepin County Commissioner was present to update the city council on what was happening at the county level. Mr. Johnson report the overall 2012 Hennepin County tax levy remained the same and the train and housing levy's were held flat this year also. The budget increased 1.5%; however the county received a federal grant for the Hennepin County Medical Center which will bring in revenue to offset the increase. Jeff stated that the county is focused on what is happening at the state legislative session now and stated that it does not look like there will be a state deficit that will affect the county operation this year. Mr. Johnson stated that he is working on the water management committee. Johnson noted that the Hennepin County water shed districts budget is \$26 million and \$260 million was spent over the past two years. With all of the money spent the water quality has remained the same and has not improved. Mr. Johnson is working towards streamlining the 11 watershed districts to 3 or 4 districts.

2012 Clean-Up Day

The 2012 annual clean up day is scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 5th from 8am to noon at the public works site. All the vendors except Waste Management have confirmed their costs for providing the service. The household appliance disposal cost is down \$2.00. A/C & water softeners in the past were an additional charge, this year they will cost the same as a household appliance.

This year the RiverWorks Thrift Store will collect items instead of the Epilepsy Foundations. RiverWorks will provide volunteers and a vehicle to collect gently used clothing and miscellaneous household items.

In the past the staff has collected food shelf donations from those participating in Clean-Up Day. In order to encourage more donations, staff is recommending the city provide a \$5 coupon for a discount off their clean-up total if they donate 10 non-perishable items or \$10 or more to the RiverWorks Food Shelf. Last year the clean up day netted \$800 after all the expenses, not including the funds budgeted for clean up day and the refund from Wright County. If every participant made a donation last year the cost would be $105 \times \$5 = \525 . In the past 5-8 participants made a food shelf donation. If there was a concern about too many \$5 coupons, Council could limit the number of coupons, for example to the first 20 participants with a maximum cost of \$100.

After discussion the city council concluded that the \$5 coupon for food shelf donations as listed by staff was a good idea. The council requested that staff ask the food shelf volunteer be at the clean day to accept the donations to keep those donations separate.

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Hafften to approve \$5 coupons to be distributed to people who donate 10 non-perishable items or \$10 or more to the River Works Food Shelf on city clean up day as a discount for the costs of disposing of their stuff at the 2012 Cleanup Day.

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

Wright County Sheriff's Deputy Ben Schaap was present and said it has been slow except a few medicals and traffic signals. We have another deputy working during the day that is a laser operator and has been working on Highway 55. The deputies will be issuing tickets tonight after 2 a.m. during this snowfall. Martinson asked the deputy if they would talk with children crossing Highway 55 by Ash Street as this does not include a crosswalk.

2011 Volunteer of the Year

On a yearly basis the Rockford residents are asked to nominate a person(s) that they feel should be selected as Rockford's Volunteer of the Year. Nomination forms will be available on the City's website, City Hall, the Community Expo and the library.

Time line for the 2011 Volunteer of the year: 02/28/2012 to 04/02/2012 nomination forms will be accepted at City Hall for the 2011 Volunteer of the Year, on April 10, 2012 City Council will select the 2011 Volunteer of the Year, and on April 24, 2012 the City Council will present the winner(s) with the 2011 Volunteer of the Year award.

Resolution #12-19/Adopt Bond Issuance Policy (Briggs & Morgan)

Administrator Carswell stated that the attached bond issuance policy is recommended by our bond counsel, Briggs and Morgan. The most recent bond reissued required that the city adhere to this type of policy. Therefore, the policy is attached for council review and approval.

MOTION was made by Hafften, seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #12-19 to adopt the bond issuance policy (Briggs & Morgan)

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

Administrator's Report

Council reviewed the administrator's report including the following items: Crow River Food Co-op update, staff is researching the pay per call for the fire department, staff met to discuss wetland erosion in Hurst Woods, AED grant for the schools, spring newsletter to go to print on March 1st, auditors are in the office, and team and building workshop.

Council Graner requested that the mail box regulations be included in next newsletter.

Public Works

Dennis Peterson public works supervisor reported that the city staff recently met with the City of Buffalo to discuss a new option for the removal of our bio-solids. The city staff stated that hauling to the farm land is becoming more difficult and costs to haul to Hutchinson or the Metro are expensive. The option of hauling our bio-solids to the City of Buffalo could be a win-win for both cities. Buffalo has built their new wastewater treatment system which includes drying their bio-solids for future growth and has capacity. The City of Buffalo staff will present this proposed collaboration to their council and draft an agreement including costs. Mayor Beyer requested the public works to present this including a comparison of what is being spent now, by land applying bio-solids, hauling to Metro or Hutchinson. Mayor suggested this be a long term agreement with an adequate time frame for termination which will allow us to find other options for our bio-solids. Shared costs were discussed and Dennis said this is preliminary and the Buffalo council will be reviewing this. Beyer asked if we would have this in 6 months, no probably not until next year. Last year the city hauled 60,000 gallons to the City of Buffalo's wastewater treatment facility.

Peterson also noted that a few fire hydrants were opened by vandals at 1:30 a.m. last weekend. Hafften asked why the Wright County Sheriff's Department didn't search the vehicle. Deputy Ben stated that the officer on duty did not have anything concrete to cause a search and they were not given permission by the person in the vehicle. They are investigating this as it happened in the City of Delano also a week before.

Financial Summary Report

Staff provided a year end financial report which is completed pre-audit.

The general fund budget received more revenues than budgeted and spent less than budgeted.

Special fund budgets fund balances were reviewed, as well as the Capital Improvement funds, Fire Department, Water and sewer funds. The auditors are working this week on the 2011 financial statements and will be presenting a full report of all funds at the end of April 2012.

Fire Department

Ben Sanderson stated that there have been 39 calls so far this year. The new Kubota and Trailer will be delivered this Friday by E & J Metals. Attendance at meetings and new applicants were discussed. Ben reported that the Fire Department has 8 new members that are six months or less. The department recently held training for all staff to get to know the trucks, equipment and medical training.

Council Reports

Martinson – Rockford Lions held the first blue ball tourney at Riverside Park last weekend raised \$5,000 for a child that is in need of a kidney transplant.

Hafften – Questioned the placement of the sign on the hill on County Road 33, was hit again. Hafften asked the public works staff to request Wright County move the CR 33 sign to the top of the hill so it won't be hit constantly.

Wenz – no report

Graner – no report

Beyer – asked crafters to donate items to the fire department silent auction pancake breakfast which will be held on May 6th.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION CARRIED-VOTING IN FAVOR: BEYER, GRANER, HAFFTEN, MARTINSON AND WENZ.

Mayor Beyer adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Michael Beyer, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator