

Mayor Hafften called the **April 9, 2013** 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: Hafften, Graner, Martinson and Wenz. Kesanen arrived at 7:30 p.m. Also in attendance were: Administrator Carswell, Engineer Statz, and Public Works Supervisor Peterson.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Public Hearing/Board of Appeals and Equalization

Staff published the notice in the official newspaper and posted notices of the hearing at City Hall as required.

Mayor Hafften opened the hearing for the Board of Appeals and Equalization for Hennepin and Wright County in Rockford at 7:05 p.m.

Wright County Assistant Assessor Conrad Anderson of Wright County presented the 2013 Assessments for the Wright County Portion of Rockford. The values are based on the sales from October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012 and there were 21 qualified sales during the time frame. The median sales ratio was 92.74% and the median sale price of \$187,500. There were 26 unqualified sales which are foreclosures/banks sales. The median sales ratio of the unqualified sales were 116.03%, and median sales price of \$127,500.

After reviewing the sales the final sales ratio was brought to 95.40%. The State of Minnesota requires this ratio (estimated market value) to be between 90-105%.

There are 12 qualified sales that have taken place since September 30, 2012 and those values were too low at 89.88% and a median sale prices of \$177,800. Therefore, the 2014 market values will have to be increased to better reflect the sales prices.

Connor Rausch, Appraiser from the Hennepin County Assessor's office was present to review the market values in the Hennepin County portion of the city which includes 91 taxable parcels. The area reviewed for 2013 include properties located along County Road 10 and were shown on a map. There were two townhome sales during the past year. Connor Rausch explained each year market values are analyzed along with sales data from the market. Adjustments are made accordingly from that information. The results of the adjustments for the 2013 include a decrease of \$72,500 from last year. The overall value decrease for all property in the Hennepin County portion of the city is -0.4%.

Mayor Hafften asked for any comments from the public of where there was none, the hearing was closed at 7:25 p.m.

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Martinson to accept the Hennepin County and Wright County Assessor's 2013 Assessments as presented.

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

Approve Consent Agenda/Set Agenda

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve all items on the consent agenda.

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

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/March 26, 2013**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013, Regular Council Meeting.

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

***Approve Special Council Workshop Minutes/March 26, 2013**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013, Special Council Workshop Meeting.

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

***Approve Payment of Claims**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the payment of claims #21744 to #21798 in the amount of \$54,222.05.

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

***Approve Building Permits**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the March Building Permits #13-08 to #13-14.

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

***Rockford 2012 Senior All-Night Graduation Party**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to donate \$250.00 to the 2013 Rockford All-Night Graduation Party to be used towards the health, safety and welfare of the students and not for the purchasing of prizes, etc.

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

***Approve Employee Wage Increase**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to give Chris King a 3% increase in wages for receiving her Class D Wastewater License. Her new wage will be \$18.36 per hour effective pay period 8.

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

***RES #13-15/Transfer of Funds to HRA**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to adopt resolution #13-15 to transfer from Fund 313 to HRA Fund 207 in the amount of \$50,000 as was approved at the time the budget was adopted for 2014.

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

Email Address

Staff recently attended training regarding E-Data. One suggestion is to designate city email addresses be used and set-up for email accounts for “city business”. Should the city receive a data request and a “staff/council/commission member” is using a personal email address, that personal account is subjected to being searched.

Going forward staff is recommending the city council use the designated city email address to conduct city business.

Mayor Hafften questioned this and wondered if the staff would check further that if the council used their city email address which was then routed to their employment or personal email account would that account be subject to search? Carswell stated she would request Etzel check on this and submit a clear explanation to council at the next meeting. No action was made as this could be a policy change and not require a motion.

Administrator’s Report

Administrator Carswell provided an update on the following: business leads, increase in building permits, Crow River Food Co-op membership up to 122, Jimmy’s Pizza re-opened under new ownership, special workshop April 17th, park commission, personnel compensation plan, engineers proposals, volunteer of the year, Stork House report on HVAC system upgrades, SW Initiative Foundation and out of the office from April 11 returning on the 16th.

Engineers Report

The engineer’s report included the following items: event center tax impact waiting on tax impact information and 2030 CIP. We just had 2 water main breaks and Hafften asked where are these located in our CIP plan they are not in the 2014 plan, however, Wright County is resurfacing the road in 2014 so we can take a closer look at that time. It is more than Maplewood Manor under county road 33 which will be a reconstruct. Who is responsible for traffic control because it was a mess per Mayor Hafften there was no warning that one lane was closed. Public Works Supervisor D. Peterson agreed that the road should have been closed entirely while the work was being done. Mayor Hafften demanded that in the future that the road be closed.

Fire Report

No one was present.

Council Reports

Martinson – Lions Dinner this Saturday – April 13th

Hafften – nothing to report

Wenz – RAHA is continuing their Civil War lectures and the next one is this Saturday at 10 am. Lions Building

Graner – is working with Deb Milow regarding painting fire hydrants for 1,000 Hearts to Serve – Fire Dept. pancake breakfast May 5th tickets are on sale.

Kesanen – reported on 1,000 Hearts to Serve May 5th– more projects, free oil changes for single moms, need to close Bridge Street for blood mobiles and health checks will be parked in the street. Denise will discuss this with the public works supervisor.

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hafften called for open forum, Mike Beyer from the Fire Department was present to request local artists and crafters to donate their handmade crafts for the upcoming Fire Department fund raiser on May 5th. The crafts and prizes will be part of a raffle and the tickets will be drawn at the end of the event. Beyer noted that the local crafts bring in more money to the Fire Relief Association and showed some of his wood carvings and a comforter his wife made. Graner wondered if they need more volunteers to help serve, clean up tables, etc. as she would ask some of the students to volunteer to assist with the event.

Mike Potter Wright County Commissioner was present and stated that he is working to update the transportation policy for the county. Potter has been to the state capital requesting more funding for I-94 in St. Michael. Potter noted that the next Highway 55 Coalition meeting is April 19th. Potter is trying to learn all he can about being a Wright County Commissioner and invited staff to attend the commission meeting next Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. as they will be discussing transportation issues with the county engineer. Carswell requested to be notified when the next transportation committee meeting is held, Potter will let us know when that committee meets.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Hafften adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Renee Hafften, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator

