

Mayor Hafften called the **July 8, 2014** 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, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz. Absent: none. Also in attendance were: Financial Consultant Sweeney, Administrator Madsen, Public Works Supervisor Peterson and Deputy Clerk Etzel.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Public Hearing/Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing District #2-5

Mayor Hafften opened the Public Hearing for the Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing District #2-5 at 7:02pm.

Financial Consultant Shannon Sweeney noted the City Council scheduled the public hearing to create Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District 2-5. After discussions with staff it was determined it may be appropriate to proceed with the creation of a new Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing District on the Rockford Mall site for the purpose of capturing new property taxes that may result from the redevelopment of the site.

On July 13, 2004 the City of Rockford created Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District 2-4 on the Rockford Mall site to assist Welsh Companies with the redevelopment of the mall site. Welsh made some improvements to the facility which generated additional property taxes that were reimbursed to them. TIF District 2-4 is subject to the 5-year rule which means new obligations cannot be incurred within that district 5-years after its certification date. As a result, the City Council initiated the process on the mall site through the capture of additional property taxes that are generated as a result of the new activity.

If the Council proceeds with the creation of a new tax increment financing district in advance of improvements that will be made this year, it would be appropriate to act on a resolution adopting the TIF District 2-5, and decertifying TIF District 2-4. A resolution has been provided for this action and is on the consent agenda for Council approval.

A redevelopment tax increment financing district will enable the City to capture a portion of the City, County, and School District property taxes that are generated as a result of the increase in market value that may occur after the district is created for a period of up to 26 years.

Mayor Hafften closed the Public Hearing for the Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing District #2-5 at 7:16pm.

Approve Consent Agenda/Set Agenda

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve all items on the consent agenda 3.A to 3.F. and set agenda Items 4.A to 4.B.

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

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/June 24, 2014**

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2014, Regular Council Meeting.

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

***Approve Payment of Claims**

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve the payment of claims #23417 to #23474 in the amount of \$204,712.02.

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

***Approve June 2014 Building Permits**

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve the June Building Permits #14-42 to #14-63.

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

***Resolution #14-33/Approve Rockford Area Historical Society Quilt Raffle**

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #14-33 approving the Rockford Area Historical Society quilt raffle drawing on August 10, 2014.

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

***Approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements/Pay Request #1**

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve Pay Request #1 for \$79,250.00 to KHC Construction, Inc. for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements as recommended by Wenck.

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

***Resolution #14-34/Establish Redevelopment Tax Increment Financing District #2-5 and Decertification of TIF Financing District 2-4**

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #14-34 approving the decertification of TIF District #2-4 and establishment of Tax Increment Financing District #2-5 and adoption of the tax increment financing plan relating thereto.

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

Eagle Scout Project

Joe VanBuskirk presented the City Council his proposal to earn his Eagle Scout merit badge. Joe is proposing to build and install four Little Free Libraries in the following parks: Kettenacker, Riverside,

Winfield Ponds and Parkwood. The Little Free Library is a free-standing box filled with books and installed on a post. The goal is to promote literacy and a love of reading by building free book exchanges. The Little Free Library's would be registered with littlefreelibrary.org.

Joe plans to maintain the libraries with the help of his troop and family, but would like to also recruit the Girls Scouts, Lion's, Rockford Library, Rockford Area Schools, etc...

Council approved the four Little Free Libraries and asked Joe to work with Public Works on the site location within the parks proposed and installation.

Resolution #14-35/Wright County Joint Powers Transportation Agreement

Administrator Madsen reminded the Council that Wright County is no longer contracting with River Riders for transportation. There have been many several workshops and meetings with Wright County and the cities within to establish a joint powers. As of today, seven cities have signed the agreement. The cost is \$1,000 for the first year and prorated expenses will be based on ride count and calculated for future costs. The cost to join late could result in a higher cost and service not provided to the residents. There is an exit clause if the City feels the cost is too expensive. The city would have a vote and additional votes would be based on every 3,000 rides. Starting July 1st there are three buses in Wright County and they are making stops in Rockford.

The Mayor has spoken with Jack Russett from Delano and he feels the service is better and cheaper for the residents.

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve Resolution #14-35 authorizing the execution of a Joint Powers Authority Agreement between the City of Rockford and other cities in Wright County for procurement of public transportation services in Wright County and directs the Mayor and Administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

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

Administrator's Report

The Administrator's report included the following: recently attended a Fire Department meeting – working to get on the same page, starting to prepare the 2015 budget and will be scheduling meetings with department heads and a workshop will be scheduled in August, demolition of the Old Post Office is going to cost about \$5,000 more due to the asbestos abatement costs and may be gone at the end of the week or early next week – staff will post photos, volunteers are needed to set-up for movie in the park scheduled for July 25th, and the Rosewood Eatery has a grand opening this Saturday.

Engineer's Report

Council Member Martinson has a question regarding the fuel tank that was removed for the site of the new wastewater treatment facility. Staff noted the tank was removed and the soil was found to be contaminated. Any future tanks would be installed above ground.

KHC has had some delays in the wastewater treatment facility in regards to the building permit. Staff is working to move the permitting process along.

Council Reports

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 2014

Martinson – Rockford River Days is the 2nd weekend in August and they need more volunteers – the next committee meeting is July 15th at 6:30pm at the Lion’s Building in Riverside Park.

Graner – had questions regarding the industrial park regarding tenants & expansion and the 4Community Theatre that was started 17 years ago is featuring The Wizard of Oz to be shown in Orono on July 18th-20th, and 25th-27th – for more information visit their website at: www.4communitytheatre.org.

Wenz – nothing to report

Hafften – nothing to report

Kesanen – Music in the Park will be Tuesday, July 22nd and any funds raised will benefit the food shelf, the 3rd Annual DeDe Stevens Butterfly Release will be Saturday, July 26th at the Stork House – a butterfly cost \$20 and July is Open Hands & Heart fundraiser for the food shelf.

OPEN FORUM

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Hafften adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Renee Hafften, Mayor

Audra Etzel, Deputy Clerk