

Mayor Beyer called the July 12, 2011 regular council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Beyer, Graner, Hafften, Martinson and Wenz. Also in attendance were: Administrator Carswell, Public Works Supervisor D. Peterson.

The pledge of allegiance to the flag was given.

Set Agenda/Consent Agenda

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Beyer to approve all items on the consent agenda and to add items: 2-g approve one day license for the River Days, 4-d ordinance 11-05 Contract for Electrical Inspections, 4-e Approve Contract for Electrical Inspection, and remove employee recognition.

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

***Approve Regular City Council Minutes/June 28, 2011**

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Beyer to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2011 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 Beyer to approve the payment of claims #019315-#019364 in the amount of \$186,044.05.

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

***Building Permits**

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Beyer to approve the building permits #11-45 to #11-60.

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

***Riverside Park Gazebo Roof Repair**

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Beyer to accept the quote from Karl Kiputh Construction for the replacement of the gazebo roof at a cost of \$4,800.

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

***Resolution 11-29 Approve Wright County Police Contract for 2012/2013**

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Beyer to approve Resolution #11-29 approving Wright county Police Contract for services in 2012 and 2013 and authorize the mayor and administrator to sign the contract.

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

***Approve Temporary Liquor License/Rockford Lions**

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Beyer to approve a temporary intoxicating liquor license and waive the \$40 fee for the Rockford Lions for August 12, 2011 to allow them to sell wine with the spaghetti dinner as part of the River Days Festival.

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

ATV Ordinance information

Council reviewed information staff submitted which included information from surrounding cities on the regulations of All Terrain Vehicles (ATV). The City of Albertville does not allow them on their city streets. The City of Buffalo does allow ATV's with a permit only to handicapped persons. The City of Delano does allow ATV's for transportation purposes only and not for recreation provided they are property licensed.

Hafften is suggesting Rockford adopt an ordinance to allow the Type 2 ATV's on city streets with a permit for handicap and she noted that the city public works uses a Gator for street maintenance which is a Type 2 ATV. The mayor asked Hafften what she had in mind for allowing these types of ATV's. Hafften noted the ATV's could be used to transport children to softball games and during River Days because last year they got stopped by the Wright County Sheriff's Department for driving an ATV on city streets. Graner noted that her family uses an ATV as a form of transportation in the winter to go to her parent's house to plow snow for them. Beyer feels that allowing these for any purpose could be opening a new can of worms. The city council agreed that if we change our city code that these types of ATV's will not be allowed for recreational uses only for transportation purposes. Staff will submit a draft of an ordinance for review at the next council meeting on July 26, 2011.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Campaign

Staff provided some information to council about the Yellow Ribbon Campaign which provides service to families that have a member serving in the Armed Forces. Volunteers may provide support to families and try to fill the gap and help meet their needs. The group may coordinate a welcome home parade for soldiers returning from service. The mayor expressed concern that this program may take a lot of staff time preparing a data base of service people and volunteers, but administrator Carswell noted that the city would only be a resource and provide information on our website and government access channel.

The City of Delano has a group of volunteers that has started this venture and would like the City of Rockford to join them. The Delano group has a planning meeting scheduled for July 26, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Resolution 11-30 Ordinance 11-04 Vacant Building Registration

The city has more vacant buildings due to foreclosures and business closings, which has caused more staff time to deal with nuisance complaints. Therefore, staff is recommending the city council adopt a city code which will require vacant properties to register with the city within ten (10) days and pay a \$100 fee annually which will cover staff time. The bank or mortgage company that registers the properties agrees to allow staff to inspect the property as needed. This ordinance also allows the city to mow, plow sidewalks/driveways, secure buildings, etc. after notice has been given.

The property registration will expire after one year from the date it was issued. Mayor Beyer noted that this will include the vacant home where an owner has it for sale and he did not feel it was right to make them pay the fee. After discussion the city council agreed that these types of vacant buildings that are for sale by the property owner would be allowed to come to council to ask that the registration fee be waived for the property owner.

The intent of the city code is to prevent nuisances on these properties that may become safety and health hazards to the public. The code requires that the owner of the property maintain a secure, safe building and maintain the grounds.

MOTION was made by Hafften, seconded by Martinson to adopt Resolution 11-30 Adopt Ordinance 11-04 Vacant Building Registration, approve the summary, authorize staff publish the summary and that the city council may review those registrations for vacant properties that are for sale by owner in regards to the fee.

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

Resolution 11-31 Ordinance 11-05 Electrical inspection

Administrator Carswell noted that the City of Rockford does not have our own electrical inspector but instead relies on the state electrical inspector for our area. Since the state government has shut down the city is without an electrical inspector. The ordinance submitted to council will allow the city to contract for an electrical inspector until the state shut down ends. Staff has spoke with Arland Nelson who was a State Inspector and responsible for the City of Rockford. Mr. Nelson is willing to continue the inspections.

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve Resolution #11-31 to adopt ordinance 11-05 allowing the City to contract for electrical inspections during the state shut down.

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

Contract for Electrical Inspector

Staff presented a contract for an electrical inspector during the state shut down. The inspector will receive 75% of the fees that the city collects. The fee schedule will remain the same as the state fees. Staff will issue electrical permits and collect the fees during this contract period which will expire when the state government opens once again for business.

MOTION was made by Hafften, seconded by Graner to approve the contract for an electrical inspector Arland Nelson during the state shut down.

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

Event Center

Graner asked if we could invite the building inspector to the meeting to answer questions on about what we need before proceeding with getting costs of the project. Mayor Beyer stated that he already spoke with Loren Kohnen who is willing to attend the meeting and give them some advice but will not take on the liability of the project. Administrator Carswell noted that the project will require an architect or someone that can design the project so that it meets building code requirements.

Graner feels that the whole city council needs to be part of this discussion. Martinson said he has talked with caterers and found that the kitchen equipment was estimated at a cost of \$48,000. This project is being discussed due to the fact that the existing park building is dilapidated. How soon can we get a meeting scheduled? It was agreed that the meeting would be held on August 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Lions Building or at the public works building if someone is using the Lions building. Mayor Beyer will call the building manufacturer and building inspector and invite them to attend the meeting. Administrator Carswell will see that the council gets an email notice reminder of the meeting.

Administrator's Report

Council reviewed the Administrator's report including an update on the following: medical insurance options for 2012, no interest loan application, 8740 Highway 55 no interest loan for demo of the motel,

6127 Mechanic Street letter, grocery store prospect, Mid Country Bank/Boulder Ridge, slogans, web site, new computer at city hall.

Administrator Carswell discussed a potential food coop to meet the needs of the community. Carswell has been gathering some information about food coops and the first step would be to schedule a town meeting with the public to see if there is interest. It has been recommended that the city would need at least 500 members before they could open to raise enough capital.

Dennis discussed lining water and sewer mains the mayor wondered if the staff is getting some information for this year and is looking at different options.

Martinson noted that the AED has been installed at the Lions Building.

Heart Safe Community sign should be coming soon will have staff check with Allina for when the sign is coming. The mayor suggested that we invite those involved, and the newspaper when the sign is installed.

Adjournment

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

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

Mayor Beyer adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Michael Beyer, Mayor

ATTEST:

Nancy Carswell, Administrator