

Mayor Beyer called the **September 25, 2012** Regular Meeting of the Rockford City Council to order at 7:05 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 the items listed on the consent agenda.

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

***Approve Special Council Minutes/September 11, 2012**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the minutes of the September 11, 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 #20945 to #20996 in the amount of \$154,299.58.

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

***Approve SCADA System Upgrades for Water and Wastewater System**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the new equipment and software necessary for the SCADA operations to be evenly expensed as follows \$8,265.60 water fund and \$8,265.50 sewer fund as listed:

- Dell Computer/backup software and installation \$2,500
- SCADA software upgrade – Automatic Systems \$14,031

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

***Resolution #12-47 Authorize Certifying Fire Services Unpaid to Property Taxes**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften approve Resolution #12-47 certifying fire services unpaid to property taxes as listed against the 2012 taxes and payable 2013 assessment tax roll.

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

Open Forum YES For The Future

The mayor called for open forum. Michelle Byers and Chad Roban from Corcoran Parks and Trails Department were present. YES For the Future is a group of parents and concerned citizens that are raising awareness about the upcoming \$27 million bond referendum for the Rockford School District. YES has a website YES for the future.com with pertinent information about the school referendum which will be on the ballot at the November 6th election. Strong schools equal strong communities stated Michelle Byers. Ms. Byers urged the city council to support the school bond by writing an editorial and in the local newspaper or

by sending in a testimonial for the website. Your support will help pass this bond. If you have questions, contact the school.

Council asked why all of the repairs are being done at one time instead of in phases? Ms. Byers state that it was discussed in length by the school board and they would rather ask voters once than having to come back again in 4 or 5 years and ask for more money and some of the repairs cannot wait that long. Also the interest rates are at an all time low and it makes sense to borrow the money now at the lower rate. Ms. Byers noted that by updating and improving the school buildings the school district will get a state equalization in the amount of \$6 million. This bond will be paid off in 16 years and bond payments are structured to be the same throughout the life of the bond so homeowners will not have higher costs in the beginning. Of course as new businesses and homes are built in the district the payments will go down for everyone. Astro turf was discussed as some felt this was a luxury item but it was explained that this type of turf can save the district money on maintenance and can be used for many recreational programs. The Astro turf has proven to be safer as it is softer and turf costs the schools less costs per event as it can be used many times in one day which is not the case with sod fields.

Mayor Beyer asked when the community center bond will expire and that will be paid off in two years.

The bond will allow the school district to use the operating budget for education and not repairing boilers as has been done in the past. A lot of these improvements have been deferred too many years and are necessary to continue to operate. Building tours for the public are taking place on Oct 11th, 23rd and 24th.

R.A.C.E. Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant

Michelle Byers and Chad Roban presented information about the grant application that R.A.C.E. is submitting October 5, 2012. The group is asking support from the City for the grant application for this grant by sending a letter of support and to allocate funding for the project. The grant application scores higher with all of the collaboration and support from the community.

This grant if awarded will fund an additional varsity baseball field in Corcoran that the school owns. With the addition of this varsity field all the baseball games will be played in Corcoran and that will allow the existing varsity field in Rockford to be used for tennis or other athletic fields. The mayor asked the attorney whether the city can donate money to the school and he stated that Minnesota Statute allows donation to the schools for recreational programs and uses. The City of Corcoran is planning to contribute \$45,000 towards the grant. Greenfield has not yet agreed to make any financial contribution towards the grant. The Rockford Lions, Rockford/Greenfield Chamber are contributing as well as RAAA.

Chad Roban stated that he would like Corcoran's Parks and Trails Committee to meet with the Rockford Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss future collaboration.

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to authorize a one time cash participation in budget year 2013 of \$2,500 for the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant Application applied for by R.A.C.E. to upgrade the baseball fields in Corcoran that are owed by the Rockford School District.

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

Debt Management Report

The mayor suggested that staff research paying off the PFA bond in December, 2013.

Attorney's Report

Couri reported that the LMCIT is working on a contract between the city and the LMCIT in regards to the sewer backup that occurred on May 10, 2012 during the Highway 55 Utility Improvement project. The Highway 55 utility improvement contract states that the contractor must keep the main open during the project but their insurance company is not willing to pay the damages. So the city and LMCIT attorney have been discussing the city pay off the homeowner's damages and withhold paying off the remainder of the contract until the contractor pays the damages. If the contractor still refuses to pay the damage the city and LMCIT agreement will state that the two entities will share equally in the costs of mediation against the contractor if it comes to that. There damages amount to a little over \$19,000.

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to authorize the administrator to sign an agreement between the City and LMCIT to pay for damages for the May 10, 2012 sewer back up due to the Highway 55 Utility Improvement project.

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

Attorney's Report Hurst woods Development

Shelard has agreed to pay up to \$3,500 in administration fees to the city for Hurst Woods development. The city council agreed that since they are willing to pay \$35,000 in the channel restoration project that this is fair.

Administrator's Report

The administrator's report included: Hennepin County Sheriff's Department communication involving emergency calls, city hall office furniture, Vision Session Oct 2nd, fire department computer/software issues, storm water fee research, planning commission hearing, update on sewer backup, update on Shelard's share of the Hurst Woods restoration project, update on 5512 Sunset Circle neighbor is acquiring, public works will train fire department on how the water interconnect between Rockford and Greenfield operates and update on the Byerly's site.

Fire Chief Report

Chief Sanderson reported that there have been 35 calls since his last visit. Sanderson also reported that there is a Fire Board meeting scheduled for October 3rd. In regards to the communication with Hennepin County Sanderson will urge the City of Greenfield to send a letter to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department stating they want the Rockford Fire and Rescue Department to be called out for all emergency incidents. Sanderson also reported that there was vandalism of the fire hydrants in Greenfield a week ago. Council member Hafften asked Sanderson to make sure that there are enough fire department members to set up barricades for the River Days parade next year. Carswell recommended that the River Days committee come to council as was done in the past about the in kind services they expect from the city departments so everyone is aware of their responsibilities. Hafften stated she would rather invite the public works and fire department to the River Days Festival Committee meetings.

Council Reports

Martinson – expressed concerns about the AED's the city owns to make sure that the batteries are good

Hafften – nothing to report

Wenz – invited everyone to come to the Harvest Festival – October 13th at the Stork House

Beyer – nothing to report

Graner – congratulated the 5 fire dept. members who completed first responder training and thanked Ben Sanderson for coming out to the accident on County Road 50 when she called him at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Beyer adjourned the meeting at 8:35p.m.

Michael Beyer, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator