

City of Rockford, Minnesota Workshop Meeting Minutes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24th, 2018

The workshop was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at 5:00 p.m. Council members Debbie Buoy, Ted Hill, Rick Martinson and Scott Seymour were present.

City Administrator / Special Counsel, Dan Madsen; and Kris Strobel, Kathy Ehlers, Tom Lemmage and Kevin Koehler of the Rockford Area Historical Society were also in attendance.

Members of the Historical Society presented for discussion their direction and goals for this year and subsequent years and brought forward the topics of maintenance and funding for the Stork House. Members of the Council and Historical Society generally discussed a variety of topics including the condition and status of the Stork House garage, City contributions for the operation of the Stork House and support of the Historical Society, and overall guidance on the CAP assessment and what process should be used to review what repairs – if any – are necessary in the short term. No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for discussion purposes only. During the workshop, Kathy Ehlers presented the City with a reproduction of an 1881 letter signed by the City Council of Rockford formally establishing the community as a City in the State of Minnesota.

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The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at 6:00 p.m. Council members Debbie Buoy, Ted Hill, Rick Martinson and Scott Seymour were present.

City Administrator / Special Counsel, Dan Madsen; Parks Director, Darcy Desens; Street Superintendent, John Quirk; Fire Chief, Ben Sanderson; Assistant Fire Chief, Jamie Buoy; School Superintendent, Paul Durand; Dan Sanderson, Rockford Area Athletic Association; Lisa Thorenson and Chase Holley; and Alaina Rooker, Crow River News, were also in attendance.

A **MOTION** was made by Buoy, and seconded by Hill, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3A through 3D and set the Agenda for the Council Meeting as listed:

3A. Approve Minutes from the April 10th, 2018 Regular Council Meeting

3B. Approve Payment of Claims, Check Number: 28566 through Check Number 28608 totaling \$35,832.14.

3C. RESOLUTION #18-18 /Planned Unit Development Amendment for 9000 Walnut Street

3D. Hire Seasonal Summer Part-Time Employee

Motion Carried: voting in favor; Hill, Seymour, and Buoy. Hafften abstained as a family member was set for summer part-time employment with the city.

New Business: Presentation of the 2017 Volunteer of the Year – Kathy Ehlers

Mayor Renee Hafften read off the accomplishments for Ms. Ehlers, including her service to the Rockford Public Schools and volunteerism with the Rockford Area Historical Society, and presented her with a plaque commemorating her 2017 award. No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for discussion purposes only.

New Business: RESOLUTION #18-19 /Award 2018 Seal Coat Project Bid

Street Superintendent, John Quirk, presented the bids he had received for the city's annual street seal coating project. Of the four bids received, Pearson Brothers had the lowest bid in the amount of \$55,960.38. It was noted that this was approximately \$13,539.62 under the budgeted amount for 2018 for this project.

After additional discussion and review, **MOTION** was made by Hafften, and seconded by Martinson, to pass Resolution #18-19 and approve the award of the bid to Pearson Brothers.

Motion Carried: voting in favor; Hafften, Hill, Seymour, Martinson and Buoy.

New Business: RESOLUTION #18-20 /Donation of batting cage for Jim Thome Park

Dan Sanderson appeared on behalf of the Rockford Athletic Association and explained that they had raised enough funds to donate a batting cage for Jim Thome Park. Planning and Zoning had already reviewed this matter and the proposed location, and no objections were noted regarding the use or location. The Council asked Mr. Sanderson various questions regarding the use, make-up and interest in the batting

cage. After discussion, MOTION was made by Hill, and seconded by Seymour, to approve Resolution #18-20 and accept the donation.

Motion Carried: voting in favor; Hafften, Hill, Seymour, Martinson and Buoy. Members of the Council then thanked Mr. Sanderson for his initiative and the support that the Rockford Area Athletic Association provides to the community and Jim Thome Park.

New Business: RESOLUTION #18-21 /Fire Department Salaries and Wages

Administrator / Counsel Madsen explained that the City Council and Officers of the Fire Department had met on three occasions to discuss and review compensation provided to the Fire Department personnel and how that equitably relates to compensation provided to thirteen other area fire departments. After discussion and review, it was determined that the City was under compensating our firefighters, and generally agreeable modifications to the compensation were discussed as provided in the Resolution. The Fire Department and members of the Council then met with the Fire Board, comprised of representatives from the Greenfield Council and Township Board, and reviewed the proposed compensation. Both Greenfield and Rockford Township expressed their support for the increases in compensation as presented in the Resolution. On that basis, Madsen explained, the compensation increases were set forth in the Resolution up for Council consideration.

Members of the Council and Fire Department discussed the process and basis for the compensation, and again discussed the cities that were used as comparisons for the proposed compensation increases. After additional discussion and review, MOTION was made by Hill, and seconded by Seymour, to approve Resolution #18-21 and related compensation increases as provided therein.

Motion Carried: voting in favor; Hafften, Hill, Martinson and Seymour. Buoy abstained as a family member was a member of the Fire Department and subject to the compensation increase proposed.

Staff Report

Staff and members of the Council then discussed various updates including the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast, City Clean-up Day and the status of the Compost Site.

A MOTION was then made by Hill to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Seymour.

Motion Carried: voting in favor; Hafften, Hill, Seymour, Martinson and Buoy, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Typed this 1st day of May, 2018.

Dan Madsen
City Administrator, Special Counsel
City of Rockford Minnesota

All meetings of the Rockford City Council are video recorded and available for viewing on-line at www.cityofrockford.org. Meeting minutes are intended to be a general synopsis of the meetings of the City Council, and more detail regarding discussions and policy considerations is provided by watching the recording of the meeting.

Approved:

Renee Hafften
Mayor

Attest:

Dan Madsen
City Administrator, Special Counsel