

Mayor Beyer called the December 14, 2010 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 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, the following council members were present: Beyer, Graner, Hafften, Martinson and Nichols. Absent: none. Also in attendance were: Attorney Couri, Administrator Carswell and Public Works Supervisor Dennis Peterson.

TRUTH AND TAXATION HEARING PUBLIC HEARING

The City Administrator, Nancy Carswell was present to review the proposed General Fund budget for 2011 and the Tax Levy 2010 collectible 2011.

The proposed general fund budget for 2011 is \$1,600,118 which is \$46,969 less and translates to 2.8% decrease from 2010. The proposed property tax levied for 2011 is \$1,389,041 or an increase of \$32,337 which is a 2.3% increase over 2010.

The preliminary tax levy consists of:

General Fund tax	\$ 1,205,099
GO Bond Public works building	\$ 114,500
Tax Abatement Bond Flood Levee	\$ 49,442
MVHC Unallotment	\$ 20,000
TOTAL TAX LEVY	\$ 1,389,041

The preliminary 2011 General Fund Expenses were reviewed as follows: Administration \$396,427, Transfer of Funds \$177,500 Safety \$463,311 Streets \$373,196, Parks/Library \$181,959 and Contingency of \$7,725. The budget amounts were compared to 2010 expenses.

The transfer of funds was reviewed to show how that dollar amount is distributed to special funds as follows: Historical \$7,000, Park Dedication \$0, Senior Citizen \$500, Street Improvements \$130,000 Parks/Street Equipment \$35,000, City hall CIP \$5,000 for a total of \$177,500.

The increases of the preliminary budget was described as increased health insurance costs, heating costs, Wright County Sheriff's Contract, Assessor's Contract and Fire Department. Decreases were in Transfer of Funds.

The 2011 preliminary revenues in the general fund were reviewed as follows: tax levy \$1,205,099, State credits \$48,700, Grants \$22,700, Fees/Licenses \$156,865, LGA \$142,623, and Interest \$12,000.

Carswell presented a few tax statements for Wright and Hennepin County Rockford residents for 2011. The tax statements reflected reduction in city taxes for most all.

Mayor Beyer asked for comments for the public as there were no comments Mayor Beyer closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

***CONSENT AGENDA/SET AGENDA**

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

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

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/November 23, 2010**

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve the minutes of the November 23, 2010 regular Council Meeting.

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

***Approve Payment of Claims**

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve the payment of claims #18486 to #18579 in the amount of \$453,429.62.

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

***Approve Building Permits**

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve the building permits #10-132 to #10-140.

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

Resolution #10-66 Adopt Interfund Loan Policy

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-66 to adopt the Interfund loan policy.

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

Resolution #10-67 Approve Wright County Assessment Contract

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-67 to approve the Wright County Assessment Contract and authorized the Mayor and Administrator to sign the agreement between the City and Wright County for assessment services commencing on January 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

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

Resolution #10-68 Approve Worker's Compensation Insurance & Excess Liability Ins Coverage

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-68 to approve the worker's compensation insurance & excess liability insurance coverage.

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

Resolution #10-69 Approve Gambling Premises Permit to NW Area Jaycees at 6020/6030 Main St

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-69 to approve the gambling premises permit to NW Area Jaycees at 6020/6030 Main Street.

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

***Approve 2011 Contract for Cable Production**

Motion was made by Nichols, seconded by Graner to approve the 2011 contract for cable production technician, Sherrill Hyatt at a rate of \$15.14 per hour with a minimum of two hours of compensation for each meeting attended.

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

***Resolution #10-70 Approving the State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreements with the City**

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-70 approving the State of Minnesota joint powers agreements with the City.

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

***Resolution #10-71 Approve Licenses for Dairylicious, LLC / dba Instant Replay Bar & Restaurant**

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-71 to authorize licenses for Intoxicating On Sale and Intoxicating On Sale Sunday to Dairylicious, LLC/dba Instant Replay Bar & Restaurant located at 8909 Walnut Street, starting December 14, 2010 to June 30, 2011; contingent upon receiving the items listed on the resolution.

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

***Resolution #10-72 to Adopt the Final General Fund Levy 2010/Payable 2011**

Motion was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #10-72 adopting the Final General Fund Levy 2010/Payable 2011.

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

OPEN FORUM/Toys for Tots

Mayor Beyer called Open Forum and Council member Troy Nichols reminded the public about the Rockford Toys for Tots boxes placed throughout the city. The last day the residents can drop off toys is Friday December 17th. Councilor Nichols stated that the toys will stay in the community this year and noted the locations of drop offs available.

Council Recognition

Mayor Beyer presented a plaque to council member Troy Nichols in recognition of his eight (8) years of service on the city council. Mr. Nichols chose not to run for re-election and his term ends December 31, 2010. Troy also served on the park commission for the City of Rockford prior to being elected as a council member and his service will be missed.

Open forum/Snow Around Hydrants and Meters

Mayor Beyer asked residents to remove the snow from the fire hydrants by their homes so that if the fire department needs to use them there won't be a delay that could cause fire to do more damage to the structures. The gas meters are also an issue that needs to be kept free of ice and snow. An email was sent out to those few residents we have email addresses for and this was also be put on the web site and Rockford's government access channel bulletin board on Charter Cable.

Appoint Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief for the Rockford Fire & Rescue Department

Council member Martinson informed the city council that he and Administrator Carswell had interviewed six candidates for the position of fire chief and assistant fire chief. The qualifications of the candidates were impressive and made the decision a tough one. So the goals of each applicant was reviewed along with the training and experience and the selection was made and is being recommended to the city council for approval this evening.

Gordon Hopkins was present and introduced himself to the city council who asked him what his goals for the Fire Department were for 2011. Gordon responded by saying that he plans to make sure training is up to date for all members, build on the morale of the department and to mentor the new members. It was noted that the terms were supposed to be staggered and the motion was revised to reflect a 3 year chief term and 2 year assistance chief term. This will probably change in the future so that these terms are always staggered.

MOTION was made by Martinson seconded by Hafften to appoint Kevin Reed as the Fire Chief to serve a three year term effective January 1, 2011 and Gordon Hopkins as the Assistant Fire Chief to serve a two year term effective January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012.

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

Resolution 10-73 Adopt Ordinance #10-08 Snow Season Parking

At the last city council meeting Wright county Deputy was present and stated that the new snow parking ordinance was vague and tough to enforce. Therefore, staff has submitted a seasonal parking ordinance amendment for council adoption. The goal of the new ordinance is more specific and addresses snow and ice accumulation and includes vehicles will be towed if they are in violation of the ordinance.

MOTION was made by Nichols seconded by Graner to adopt Resolution #10-73 Adopt Snow Season Parking Ordinance #10-08.

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

Ongoing Directives

The ongoing directives were reviewed and a lengthy discussion surrounding the hazardous excavation on 5512 Sunset circle. Mayor Beyer wondered why this was not filled and staff reported that the property owner feels that he has safely secured the excavation on the property and is willing to fill it in after the ground thaws.

Administrator’s Report

Council reviewed the administrator’s report including the following items: Crow River Christmas events, 2010 tax settlement 95%, LGA in 2011 budget, LMC meeting to discuss Ergonomics for Public works tasks, public works monthly meeting, 2011 employee benefits, Medica rates dropped 4.7%, employee evaluations completed and the Youth Sports Grant for updating the school tennis courts was not awarded due to lack of funding.

Public Works Report

Dennis Peterson reviewed his report including the following: restoring ditch along south Maple Street, talked in length about a repeater for the 800 MHz radio system to be installed on the water tower on Linden Street by Hennepin county, snow removal and pre wet kit for the truck is being installed.

Engineer’s Report

Bonestroo’s report included an update on the Parkwood Development agreement and working on public works goals for 2011.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Graner seconded by Nichols to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Beyer adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Michael Beyer, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator