

Mayor Hafften called the **March 26, 2013** 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: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz. Absent: none. Also in attendance were: Administrator Carswell, Engineer Mark Statz of Stantec 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 Martinson to approve all the items listed on the consent agenda.

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

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/March 12, 2013**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Martinson to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2013 Regular Council Meeting.

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

***Approve Payment of Claims**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Martinson to approve the payment of claims #21689 to #21743 in the amount of \$97,054.67.

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

***Approve Building Permits**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Martinson to approve the March 2013 Building Permits #13-08 to #13-11.

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

***Approve Employee Wage Increase**

Motion was made by Graner, seconded by Martinson to approve a 3% wage increase to Trevor Brummer for receiving his Class D water license making his wage \$20.38 per hour effective pay period 6.

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

Jeff Johnson, Hennepin County Commissioner

Jeff Johnson, Hennepin County Commissioner was present to provide an update on what is happening at Hennepin County. Mr. Johnson noted that the budget for 2013 was a small tax increase of 1.3%. Council asked how they are working to keep taxes under control. Mr. Johnson noted that the corrections and human

services department are doing things differently and changing in the way services are being delivered which has proven to be a cost savings. Commissioner Johnson stated that the county board is discussing measuring program through outcomes on programs and funding the programs with the positive outcomes and possibly cutting the programs that do not create a better solution. Some of the other budget cuts include: staff reductions, and no wage increases. Jeff Johnson noted that health and human services are almost one half the entire budget. Mayor Hafften noted that the county needs to continue to monitor welfare fraud as she had read.

Wright County Deputy Adam Fornier

Deputy Fornier reported to council that things have been pretty quiet in town and noted that the snow season ordinance will expire on April 1st.

2012 Volunteer of the Year

The city received volunteer of the year nominations for 2012 as follows: Naomi Binsfield, Karen Fuller, Rebecca Mavencamp, Karra Oberlander and Nancy Walker. The council voted and the vote was kept confidential so that the volunteer could be informed of the council vote by Administrator Carswell. The volunteer will be invited to attend an April council meeting to be recognized by the city council.

Event Center Update

The latest letter with cost estimates from CPMI and the email states they can bring the event center project in at \$1.4 million. Martinson wants to move forward with this and feels it is necessary. Graner says that she would rather spend the money on a food co-op. Martinson feels that the event center will be a draw for the city. Graner stated that an event center is a luxury and is concerned about the cost to taxpayers. The mayor asked Dennis Peterson the public works supervisor what he thinks about the event center. He says that the project seems to be too costly now with other projects that are planned. Kesanen said this could be a morale booster and a step of faith that helps our community to grow and attracts.

Hafften stated that the economy is coming back now and housing values are increasing. Hafften also expressed concerns about the existing dilapidated park building. Graner says that the school referendum is still going to come on the tax roll and we need to keep that in mind.

Mayor Hafften asked Public Works Supervisor Dennis Peterson for his comments on the event center. D. Peterson responded that he thinks the city should delay making any decisions on moving forward with the event center until more financial information from financial consultant Shannon Sweeney of David Drown and Associates is reviewed. Council stated that they do not want the operating costs included in the annual levy costs.

The next step would be to prepare the plans and specifications and get bids on the project. Staff has contacted CPMI to obtain the costs of the plans and specifications prepared for a future meeting. Council was reviewed the bids and noted that it does not include tables and chair, no kitchen equipment, only allows for cement floors, etc.

Graner stated that if the existing park building is unsafe that the city needs to shut it down. The council decided to ask our building official in inspect the building to make sure that it is not unsafe for use.

In conclusion the council asked staff to invite Shannon to the April 9th meeting at 6 p.m. to discuss the costs of the event center and to update the annual bond costs which will not include operating costs. Staff will also show the costs for the existing building, the revenue and expense projections for the new event center.

Administrator's Report

Carswell presented the administrators report including: revised preliminary Hennepin County FEMA map, team building meeting changed to April 3rd, business license, vacant building inspections, HRA meeting rescheduled to April 23rd at 6:30pm, Public Hearing for Local Board of Appeal and Equalization scheduled for April 9th, Fire Board Meeting scheduled for March 28th, Crow River Food Co-op annual breakfast scheduled for April 6th from 9-11am in the Rockford High School, 2012 Audit is complete and Abdo, Eick and Meyers will present the 2012 audit report at the April 23rd City Council Meeting, economic development on the web site is being updated and a senior housing developer is meeting with staff. Housing committee needs to meet to review the housing code.

Council Reports

Hafften – Three Rivers Park trail connection meeting went well. Next meeting will be scheduled around June 2013. The actual Trail completion may not be until 2015.

Graner – asked Dennis about flooding and stated that Audra is doing a great job with the email blast

Kesanen – Riverworks raised about \$19,600 in Feb. including the matching funds from the Masonic Lodge

Martinson – suggested the city purchase I-pads for all city council members for agendas they can be used for saving notes and to reduce paper. Staff will get costs for 2014.

Wenz – Historical lecture series of civil war at the lions building on April 13th 10am-noon

Open Forum/PCA Award

Peterson – last week the MPCA presented the city a certificate for obtaining no violations at the wastewater treatment facility in 2012. Dennis stated that this is due to the diligence of all the staff in the public works department, especially Doug Duda the operator.

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 8:30 p.m.

Renee Hafften, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator