

Mayor Beyer called the **June 22, 2012** Regular Meeting of the Rockford City Council to order at 7:03 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: Engineer Ward, Administrator Carswell, and Public Works Supervisor 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 items on the consent agenda.

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

**\*Approve Regular City Council Minutes/June 12, 2012**

**MOTION** was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2012, Regular City 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 #20614 to #20661 in the amount of \$190,146.84.

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

**\*Approve Temporary Liquor License/Rockford River Days Festival Committee**

**MOTION** was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve

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

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

**MOTION** was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to approve Temporary Liquor License/Rockford Lions.

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

**Resolution #12-29/Ordinance #12-04 Services, License and Permit Fees**

**MOTION** was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to approve Resolution #12-29 adopting Ordinance #12-04 as written and authorizes staff to publish.

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

**Resolution #12-30/Ordinance #12-05 Dogs**

Administrator Carswell stated that the discussion about the public works crew having to come into to the city after hours to pick up dogs seems to be a waste of time. Sometimes, by the time they get back to the city the dog has already returned home. Therefore, Chris King called some other cities to find out how they handle stray dogs and

found that unless they have their own police department that the staff is not called out to pick up dogs after hours. The staff discussed the need to have the dog restrained before the public works are called out to pick it up. Therefore, the dog ordinance has been revised to state no dogs will be picked up after regular working hours or on the weekends, and the dog must be restrained before the staff is called out to pick up the dog.

Dennis Peterson disagreed with the policy because he says Wright County calls him when they get a call after hours about a stray dog. Mayor Beyer stated that this is not a big issue and staff can research some options for people after hours and post that on the city website and provide that information along with the new ordinance to Wright County Sheriff's Department so they don't call our staff after hours about dogs.

**MOTION** was made by Beyer, seconded by Hafften to approve Resolution #12-30 adopt Ordinance #12-05 Dog Regulations and authorizes staff to publish.

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

### **RACE/Michelle Beyer**

Rockford Area Collaborative Effort representative Michelle Beyer was present to discuss what the group has been working on and to inform the city that their main purpose is to seek grant money for youth athletic needs within the Rockford, Greenfield, Corcoran area. Ms. Beyer thanked the city for the financial support they provided in the last grant application. The grant was rejected, but they reapplied for a grant through the Twins funds and received \$30,000 with financial support from the City of Rockford. The grant was awarded for necessary improvements at the pinwheel fields at the high school. What they are looking at doing with the grant money is to move the back fences to 200' and some maintenance things that include increasing the height of the fences in front of the dugouts to 8' to make it safer, change two softball backstops, etc. Ultimately, a concession stand will be developed in the future that will help fund the maintenance of the fields. The work on the fields will start in August this year and take about one month. RACE plans to hold an open house celebration when the work is completed to thank all of the volunteers and to those who supplied financial support.

Ms. Beyer showed a map of the pinwheel field complex and all of the planned improvements that are needed to bring these fields up to date for youth softball.

RACE plans to apply for additional funding again in August this year and will need financial support from the area cities and the school. No dollar amount was provided as the project/grant application has not been started, since the city is working on the 2013 budget now staff will try to set aside some funding for this project.

### **Resolution #12-31 /Re-Assessment of 2008 Delinquent Water for The Meadows Out lot C**

Administrator Carswell reviewed the delinquent water assessment for Out lot C113-047-000030 located in The Meadows townhome development which was for water used by a sprinkler system installed for the green space. The assessment was certified to the county by the city in 2007 payable 2008 with a 15% interest rate, however, the developer went bankrupt and the assessment has never been paid. The Meadows Homeowners Association now owns the out lot and found out about the assessments which include \$1,937.04 in penalties. Staff has discussed this with the Wright County Auditor's office and they suggested that the city reassess the lot and allow the property owners 30 days to pay without interest and to waive the existing penalties. The resolution to reassess the original delinquent water in the amount of \$3,568.74 was submitted to council for action.

Mr. Wayne Theusch a resident of the Meadows was present and stated that the association is willing to pay the assessment with interest as presented to council. Council asked Mr. Theusch who owns the vacant lots in the development and he stated that some of the property is owned by a finance company and the 12 lots are owned by a new developer that completed the construction of three homes and sold them and constructed two more. There are 16

active homes/members in The Meadows Association now and they are being assessed for the dues and a portion is being paid by the new developer and the finance company .

**MOTION** was made by Hafften, seconded by Martinson to approve Resolution #12-31 to Reassess delinquent water for Out lot C in The Meadows 113-047-000030 in the amount of \$3,568.74.

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

### **Tax Forfeiture Property/Marsh Run – Lot 28**

Administrator Carswell explained that she has spoke with Wright County since the last council meeting about the assessed value on the tax forfeited lot. The county is holding a hearing on July 18<sup>th</sup> to reset the value on the property as a blighted lot so that the city will be able to acquire the lot for \$1. The city will be responsible for completing an application and a fee of \$250, plus paying \$1 for the lot. The county will send the city the form after they have held the hearing and the 30 days that was mentioned in the letter from the county has been waived.

### **Review Results of Event Center Survey**

Staff provided a summary of the results and comments from the event survey. Council member Martinson asked how does this change this project. Martinson feels we should move forward with building the event center as this is good for the city's future. The council agreed that the small amount of surveys returned is not an accurate opinion of the residents. Martinson stated he knows many people think that it is a good idea and once it gets built the public will be grateful that the city moved forward with the project.

Council member Graner stated she is struggling with the estimated costs of \$850,000 and wondered if we couldn't make the building smaller at a reduced cost.

Martinson says the costs of fill required to elevate the building one foot out the flood plain is an additional cost of \$125,000 so we may as well make it 300 capacity at the same time. Hafften suggested that the city construct the building without the fill. Carswell noted that the ordinance requires that the building be constructed one foot above the flood plain. If the city were caught violating the ordinance the city could be dropped from the flood insurance per FEMA.

Martinson noted that financial consultant Shannon Sweeney already provided bond payment information to the city which shows we can afford the project.

Mayor Beyer said he is not comfortable with putting this building up out of the flood plain because of the surrounding structures and how it looks. Beyer stated that he was not sure that the downtown will ever be raised out of the flood plain as we haven't got real numbers on this yet.

Graner noted that the original discussion started when Beyer brought in pre-engineered building plans the costs were \$70,000 and now the costs have grown substantially. Graner asked for Peterson's opinion since he is on the committee, and he suggested that the city should get bids for the project.

Administrator Carswell will invite the DNR specialist Roger Stradahl to attend and review the location and plans. The city council wants to know for sure that the fill is required and if there is a possibility of getting a waiver building this without the fill.

### **Open Forum**

Mayor Beyer called for open forum. No one was present for open forum.

**Administrator's Report**

The administrator's report included the following items: Hurst Woods erosion, sewer backup at 8010 Highway 55, status of the sewer backup from May 10<sup>th</sup> on Main Street, Cowboyz demolition delays, Lunds/Byerlys update, staff meeting, mosquito control, Movie in the Park July 13<sup>th</sup>, Crow River Food Co-op update.

**Engineer Report**

Jared Ward of Stantec Engineers provided an engineering update on the Highway 55 project.

**Public Works**

Dennis noted that an informational brochure will be mailed out in the next few days regarding the wellhead protection plan. The brochure was prepared by Stantec and is funded by a grant through the Minnesota Dept. of Health.

**Council reports**

Martinson – had nothing to report

Graner –reported that she attended the fire department training last night – and took pictures

Beyer – reported that the Fire Department bylaws are going to be brief regarding the compensation so the city will need to have a specific policy regarding the hourly compensation and responsibilities of each party, etc.

Hafften – nothing to report

Wenz - nothing to report

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

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

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Michael Beyer, Mayor

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Nancy Carswell, Administrator