

Mayor Hafften called the **July 9, 2013** Regular Meeting of the Rockford City Council to order at 7:02 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: Attorney Couri, Engineer Ward, Administrator Carswell, Public Works Supervisor Peterson and Deputy Clerk Etzel.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

***Approve Consent Agenda/Set Agenda**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve all items on the consent agenda.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/June 25, 2013**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the minutes of the June 25, 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 Wenz to approve the payment of claims #22049 to #22113 in the amount of \$213,884.17.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

***Approve Building Permits**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve the June Building Permits #13-43 to #13-60.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

***RES 13-28/Approve Fire Department Members**

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve Resolution #13-28 to approve the Fire Department Members.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

Five Year Employee Recognition/Etzel

Mayor Hafften congratulated Deputy Clerk Audra Etzel for her five years of service and presented her with a framed certificate.

Authorize 2013 Seal Coat Bids

Public Works Supervisor Peterson stated there is an error in the seal coat memo and the correct total for the project should read \$30,400. Staff would like to go out for bids for some streets and trails. They are also going to ask for a quote for the skate park to prepare for the 2014 budget. The process of fog sealing is

different and does a better job, with minimal sweeping and less rocks coming loose. This process should give the streets about 10 years when they are projected to be redone. The estimate of \$26,000 is for Maple (Tamarack Lane to RR trestle), Main (TH 55 to Linden), Linden (Main to Maple) & Maple Street (Linden to RR trestle) and \$4,400 for trails. Project total is \$30,400 and would come out of the Capital Improvement Plan.

Maple Street is due for a total reconstruction, but this process should buy time until the sewer and water are replaced in 2019.

Add bid for alternate street, Walnut Street (Main Street to High Street). This cost is estimated to be \$6,045.00.

Council and staff discussed the project and agreed to go out for bids.

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Kesanen to authorize staff to go out for bids for seal coating the proposed streets and trails as discussed.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

Animal Ordinance Review

Council was approached by residents on June 11, 2013 at open forum to reconsider allowing chickens in the residential district. The Rogich family presented staff with a packet of information regarding raising chickens in urban areas. The main points of information was emailed to council for review. Staff also provided council information from the City of Montrose from their research regarding chickens.

Mayor Hafften asked if anyone for the public would like to add to the dialogue.

Meda Rogich of 8630 Park Street thanked the council for allowing the discussion. She feels chickens are no different than a cat or a dog, she doesn't live near a water source, own .9 acres and would like to keep their chickens. A petition from her neighbors was presented for consideration.

Jessica Schellenberg of Maple Plain feels her parents, the Rogichs, should be able to keep their chickens.

Charlie Rogich of 8630 Park Street stated he enjoys the chickens and claims he received permission from the city two or three years ago before purchasing. He gives away the chicken waste for peoples gardens and places some under his own trees.

Mayor Hafften said they would take their information into consideration.

Attorney Couri noted there is no grandfather in the ordinance, even if the city made an error in saying they could have chickens. Couri stated this is a zoning issue and should go to planning and zoning for review.

Council had the following comments: Martinson liked some of the portions of the Golden Valley ordinance and might be do able for the city, Graner is concerned about lot sizes, Wenz is ok with chickens and not roosters, and Kesanen does not feel this is a good fit for the city.

After discussion, council decided this is a zoning issued and asked Planning Commission to review since they would require a zoning change. Planning Commission will review at their July 25th meeting to consider changes and will schedule a public hearing if needed.

Approve 2013 Walnut Street Drain Tile Bid

Public Works Supervisor Dennis Peterson stated they received two bids for the Walnut Street drain tile project. Squirrel's Landscaping has the best price of \$4,800 - \$5,500 versus \$11,756 from Morris Excavating. The price range from Squirrel's is because they most likely will need to place the drain tile deeper than 30".

Staff is recommending council approve the quote and authorize the work to be completed.

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve the quote from Squirrel's Landscaping for the amount not to exceed \$5,500 for the placement of 400 feet of drain tile along the north side of Walnut Street and authorizes staff to sign the contract.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

Picnic Shelter Information

Staff researched and received quotes for a shelter and kitchen to replace the dilapidated Lion's building/shelter (20 x 60 shelter and 20 x 20 kitchen). This size structure would meet the flood plain regulations. The quote is about \$175 per square foot.

Council would like to replace the current building with a shelter with a kitchen to fit the same foot print of the existing space, which is larger than the quote staff received. The engineers would need to review the elevation plans.

Council discussed replacing the existing foot print with possibly two shelters and the kitchen separating the two – only one space would have use of the kitchen. Would restrooms be added? The time frame to demolish and rebuild.

Council Martinson stated the electrical would need to be separate to meet the needs of Rockford River Days events. They would want to add electrical capacity.

Council wants staff to bring back an estimate to replace the existing foot print at the next council meeting. Administrator Carswell will put together a time line.

Administrator's Report

Movie in the Park will be Friday, July 26th and the movie is Brave, sponsored by the R-G Area Chamber of Commerce. The Crow River Food Co-op will be offering root beer floats before the movie and Dollars for Scholars will be selling concessions.

The Crow River Food Co-op will be going door-to-door to promote the store. Members will be doing a training on July 22nd at 5 pm at City Hall before going door-to-door. They plan to pull a solicitors license as required.

Public Work's Report

Supervisor Peterson stated some projects are 4-5 weeks behind. The staff is doing their best to catch-up, but some areas are still too wet to mow. Riverside Park and Parkwood have been sprayed for mosquitoes and it seems to be helping.

The budget has funds for two wells to be inspected. Well #6 is having issues with air and staff is trying to resolve the issue.

Supervisor Peterson received notice just today that TH55 traveling east will be down to one lane for repairs.

Council Member Martinson was concerned about the tree debris in the river. Supervisor Peterson said he is aware of the situation, but is not willing to put his staff in danger at this time.

Engineer's Report

Wenck has reviewed the current facilities Plan, met with staff and corresponded with the MPCA and is currently analyzing additional options with regards to treatment and solids handling. They are evaluating the priority list scoring worksheet in order to move up on the priority list to the fundable range (45pts. and up) to ensure qualifying for the State Revolving Loan Fund Program. The facility plan has a preliminary priority list score of 34 points, as communicated in the MPCA comment letter. The alternative is that the City bond for the portion of the project that is not covered by the PFA's Point Source Implementation Grant Program. (Up to 50% match for phosphorus removal improvements). Next steps: resolution and finalize project with recommendations for council. There are three options: Phosphorous Removal, Solids Treatment and Solids Disposal – some have been approved. If council wants to use one of the unapproved options, an amendment would need to be submitted for approval.

Supervisor Peterson is meeting with the City of Buffalo to negotiate some options.

Wenck has met and toured the Ver-Tech site and feel they have a good understanding of the plant. A tenant renting space from Ver-Tech has moved out and the space is being rented by DRC. Staff plan to continue weekly monitoring of the Ver-Tech plant.

Fire Report

Administrator Carswell is working with the Fire Chief on the policy and will bring to the next council meeting for review.

Council Reports

Martinson – RRD's the Lion's will have: spaghetti on Friday, pork chops on Saturday and roast beef sandwiches on Sunday. Bean bag toss is a new event, to register go to: www.therockfordlions.org

Wenz – Stork House will host a kite making event on Saturday, July 13th starting at 10am

Kesanen – nothing to report

Hafften – nothing to report

Graner – nothing to report

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hafften called for open forum.

Ryan Bernard of 4030 Woodhill Court thought he was going to be on the agenda regarding a drainage issue. Mr. Bernard called city hall regarding drainage on his property and how it is affecting his neighbors. Staff thought Mr. Bernard knew this was being reviewed and not an agenda item.

Scot Prudhomme of 4020 Woodhill Court was also present to discuss the same drainage issue Mr. Bernard was concerned about. He also noted one of the neighbors has a moat directing the water away from their property. Also noted that every spring the water rushes through.

Supervisor Peterson stated they had been out to the site and have some solutions. Peterson will meet with both to discuss options to fix the problem.

Michael Potter the Wright County Commissioner was present to update the council on what he has been working on and what is going on in the county since he started six months ago. He has been at the capitol fighting for transportation funding for the county.

The county is supporting the proposed wheelage tax. This has to be passed by August 1, 2013 to start collecting in 2014. The funds would be collected with tab renewals and could only be used for transportation purposes.

The county is also looking at a ½ percent tax to raise about 6.5 million. This would be a project just for transportation purposes.

Council asked what feedback they have received from local businesses. Potter stated that across the river in Hennepin County the taxes are higher and is open to input. Attorney Couri said he has seen this in other cities and the business did not have a problem.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Kesanen to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED - Voting in favor: Hafften, Graner, Kesanen, Martinson and Wenz.

Mayor Hafften adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Renee Hafften, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator