

Mayor Hafften called the **November 12, 2013** 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 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: Engineers Libby & Ward, Assistant Fire Chief Buoy, Administrator Carswell, and Deputy Clerk Etzel.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

Public Hearing – 2014 Utility Improvement Project

Mayor Hafften opened the public hearing at 7:02 pm.

Mayor Hafften started the hearing with stating the 2014 mill and overlay portion of the project has been removed after hosting the November 5th open house. At this time the road improvement portion has been removed from the 2014 project and the project will consist if replacement of water and sanitary sewer mains and laterals as needed. In 1998 the sewer and water was not updated when the streets were improved. In the last four years there have been many water main breaks costing the city about \$40,000 per year. There is infiltration in this area caused by tree roots, cracks in the piping, rocks, etc. which costs the city money to treat that is not charged to users.

During the proposed 2014 project private sewer laterals will be inspected at the home owners expense at an estimated cost of \$250 per home. Repair or replacement of the private sewer lateral is the home owner's responsibility which connects to the sewer main to the house. Cameras will televise the sewer line and problems will be noted. A policy will be established to allow the home owner to replace within a reasonable amount of time. The city will also adopt a policy where the city may assess the costs of replacing the private sewer laterals.

Engineer Ward presented the final feasibility study for the 2014 Utility Improvements which includes:

- Removing the mill and overlay portion and instead patch streets and curb repairs as necessary to complete the utility improvements and several of the streets will require patching and curb replacement if there were no utilities being improved. The streets would be sealed the following year.
- Cost to replace the sewer line are about \$6300 (main to right-of-way) and \$3600 (right-of-way to house).
- Televised inspections of each homes sewer in January 2014.
- Estimated costs are \$3.6 million.

Wenck is recommending:

- Infrastructure be rehabilitated.
- Televise each sanitary sewer line

- Consider option to replace water service (right-of-way to the home) at about \$2500-\$3000 per home at 104 homes is about \$350,000 added to the project.
- Update the Capital Improvement report.

Schedule the 2015 Street lift & patches and seal coat the following year.

Staff will post the feasibility report on the website.

Mayor Hafften called for public comments:

Linda Voss of 6511 Maple Street noted that the sewer cost could be about \$10,000 and wanted to know how long sewer lateral last. Engineer Ward noted it varies but these laterals should last anywhere from 25-50 years depending on the soils and vegetation surrounding the lateral.

Stephen Voss of 6511 Maple Street asked if lining the pipe would diminish the capacity and Engineer Ward stated the impact would be minimal.

Jim Lupino of 6400 High Street noted from his past experience as a Council Member and a long time resident, that there are certain streets (Oakwood and Elmwood) in Maplewood Manor that had springs which may be causing infiltration into the sewer lines. Mr. Lupino would like the city to report back to the residents their finds on the lines.

Meda Rogich of 8630 Park Street had concerns about the cost if the lines ran under the driveway. She also noted the televising only takes 15 to 20 minutes and the fees of \$250 is too much money, Maplewood is an old neighborhood with many older residents and new families that are unable to afford this. She would like to have an opportunity to vote to move forward with the project. Mayor Hafften explained they did hold an open house last week and everyone received the public hearing notice for tonight.

Charlie Rogich of 8630 Park Street would like to see where in the ordinance the city has permission to view his private sewer line. He does not want the city on his property. Wants to know if the issue is from sump pumps pumping into the sewer. After doing some research he found the \$250 to televise is on the high end and would like the city to review and find the most cost efficient; he would like the opportunity to hire his own company to televise the line, if required.

Council Member Graner noted the all pumps were all inspected several years ago.

Some driveways will have to be dug up to replace the lines.

Administrator Carswell explained the specifications and bids will come back to City Council for final approval. Other cities have an ordinance/policy to deal with hazardous conditions and if not repaired by the homeowner, the city can repair and assess.

Council Member Graner stated our city is not that old and this the first time we are replacing water/sewer mains pipes and noted the mains have already surpassed the life expectancy (50-60 years).

Mr. Rogich does not feel the ordinance/policy should be changed and residents should not be forced to have an inspection. Staff will email the current ordinance to the Rogich family.

Mrs. Lupino asked the televising will be less than \$250 and Engineer Ward stated this is the worst case scenario for cost and anticipates the bids will come lower.

Mayor Hafften closed the public hearing at 7:57 pm.

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Graner to approve Resolution #13-47 approving the Feasibility Report for the 2014 Utility Improvement Project.

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

MOTION was made by Graner, seconded by Wenz to approve Resolution #13-48 approving ordering and preparing the specifications for the 2014 Utility Improvement Project

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

***Approve Consent Agenda/Set Agenda**

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

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

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/October 22, 2013**

MOTION was made by Wenz, seconded by Kesanen to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2013, Regular Council Meeting.

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

***Approve Payment of Claims**

MOTION was made by Wenz, seconded by Kesanen to approve the payment of claims #22513 to #22589 in the amount of \$92,478.59.

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

***Approve Building Permits**

MOTION was made by Wenz, seconded by Kesanen to approve the October Building Permits #13-96 to #13-111.

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

***Resolution #13-49/Adopt 2014 Fire Department Budget**

MOTION was made by Wenz, seconded by Kesanen to approve Resolution #13-49 adopting the 2014 Fire Department budget.

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

***Resolution #13-50/Adopt 2014 Special Fund Budget & Park Dedication Budget**

MOTION was made by Wenz, seconded by Kesanen to approve Resolution #13-50 adopting the 2014 Special Fund budget and Park Dedication budget.

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

Discuss Fire Station Rental

The Council was recently made aware of a personal function held at the Fire Station and is concerned about the cities liability. It was understood the building was used for community events and non-profit gatherings where no fee is collected but donations are accepted by the Fire Department. The Lion's Building in Riverside was constructed for the purpose to be rented for public and private functions.

Assistant Fire Chief Buoy stated he has been on the department for twenty-two years and they have always used the Fire Station for personal events. They do not allow alcohol in the building.

The Council discussed various liability concerns and decided to form a committee to draft a policy for future use of the Fire Station. The committee will be Chief Sanderson, Assistant Chief Buoy, Council Member Kesanen and Council Member Graner and Nancy Carswell or Jennifer Swendsen from staff. Staff will check availability and schedule a meeting in the future.

Discuss Taxi Cab Ordinance

The City recently received and approved a taxi cab application, since this time there are two more potential requests.

The ordinance has requirements that are unable to be met by the companies – example: the meter requirement.

Staff asked if Council wanted the ordinance to be written to be more flexible and allow the companies to operate legally.

Council agreed and asked staff to bring back an ordinance amendment.

Schedule Special Council Workshop/Rockford Area Historical Society

Staff will schedule and post a meeting for Tuesday, December 17th at the Public Works facility to start at 6 pm to discuss the Rockford Area Historical Society agreement with the RAHS Board, City Council and staff. A packet will be prepared and include the original 1989 agreement

Administrator's Report

The Administrator's report included: review of other cities sewer and water policies, Peterson found our sewer and water rates to be lower than other cities – consider a per month charge, during a business retention interview staff found a user in the industrial park looking to expand – so staff is researching their needs, phosphorus limits start in 2014, staff and some council

recently had a demonstration with Liquid Force a way to fix the piping without digging, the Administrator job has been advertised in numerous location, and City Hall will be closed November 11th for Veteran's Day.

Engineer's Report

The Engineer's report included:

- Wastewater treatment facility is being designed and discussions continue with Big Lake and Becker regarding solids disposal costs
- Hurst Woods channel stability – finalizing the contract with an anticipated start date in November, buffer signs in Hurst Woods
- Elm and Ash Street Sanitary Sewer Re-Direct – the work has been completed and a payment request will come to council for approval at the next meeting
- General Items: MDH Wellhead Protection, Wright County improvement scheduled for 2014 for County Road 20 – prolong to 2016

Council Member Martinson asked if the city was in compliance with the MPCA and the reply was yes.

Fire Department Report

Mayor Hafften asked if the Fire Department was receiving enough lead time on road closures. Assistant Chief Buoy stated usually the County notifies the Fire Department of closures to the best of their ability.

Council Reports

Graner – Bye Bye Birdie is playing the Rockford High School this week (Thursday – Saturday)

Kesanen – Thursday, November 14th is give to the Max Day – put in zip code 55373 and find all the organizations in the Rockford Area. Empty Bowl is a RiverWorks Food Shelf fund raiser on Monday, November 18th from 5pm to 8pm – come and enjoy a meal!

Martinson – nothing to report

Wenz – nothing to report

Hafften – nothing to report

OPEN FORUM

Mayor Hafften called for open forum. No one from the public spoke.

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 8:50 p.m.

Renee Hafften, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator

