

Mayor Beyer called the December 27, 2011 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.

Roll Call

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was given.

***Set Agenda/Approve Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to approve all items on the consent agenda except 2-D financing the new fire equipment

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

***Approve Regular Council Minutes/December 13, 2011**

Motion was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2011 Regular Council Meeting.

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

***Approve Payment of Claims**

Motion was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to approve the payment of claims #19903 to #19975 in the amount of \$163,766.24.

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

***Approve Financial Concepts 2012 Agreement/Benefits Agent**

Motion was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to approve the agreement with Financial Concepts and authorizes the Administrator and Mayor to sign the agreement.

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

***Approve 2012 Cleaning Contract/Skelly and Company**

Motion was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to approve Skelly & Company contract for 2012 cleaning services and authorized the Administrator to sign the agreement.

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

***Approve Christmas Tree Disposal/Waste Management**

Motion was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to authorize Waste Management to come to Rockford on January 11, 2012 to dispose of Christmas trees at a cost of \$5.00 per tree to be billed to the resident where the tree was picked up.

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

Approve Financing Fire Equipment

Council member Martinson requested information from Administrator Carswell regarding the research she had done on the specifications for the fire equipment that was approved at the last council meeting. Carswell reported that she had contacted the State Fire Marshall, the LMC Robert Boe, and Pierce Manufacturers of Fire Equipment. Carswell found that the city specifications for the fire equipment were not too specific to the point that other manufacturers could not bid on them.

MOTION was made by Martinson seconded by Wenz to approve the financing for the Fire Department high pressure brush truck, Kubota ATV and trailer with a down payment of the Fire Department funds \$29,460 and \$36,385.06 cash from the Rockford Township's portion of the equipment and to finance \$180,000 with Baystone financial group for a term of five years with annual payments of \$39,501.55 to start in 2013 ending in 2017.

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

Employee Recognition

Mayor Beyer presented Accounting Clerk, Marlys Elsen with a certificate of recognition for her 13 years of service and noted that her customer service is exceptional.

Open Forum

Mayor Beyer called for open forum, no one from the public spoke.

Wright County Sheriff's Deputy

Ben Shock, Deputy was present and stated it has been very quiet in Rockford. He noted that Casey's gas station is going to be open 24 hours starting January 7th. The Deputy also met the owner at the Shell Station that will be opening the middle of January. The 2012 schedules have been set at the Wright County Sheriff's department and Rockford's Deputy's at night will not change.

Hennepin County Communications/Linden Street – Water Tower Site

Dennis Peterson stated that he had been contacted by the Hennepin County Communications department regarding locating antenna's and a structure on the city water tower site at Linden Street to support the 800 mega hertz radio that is used by cities. Our city is a weak spot which is why Hennepin County is looking at the city's site to provide better communications. The radio's reception in Rockford is not adequate you cannot receive a signal on the radios at the fire station, or in downtown and at the Rockford School District, etc.

John Gunderson from Hennepin County was present to state that the 800 mhz system is mostly used by the public. Gunderson stated that the need for better communication for emergency's such as first response in our area is needed. Hennepin County will pay for the upgrades to the communication system which includes: 3 antennas on the water tower a building/shelter and a backup generator on our site in the future.

Beyer asked why this site was selected instead of another site Gunderson replied that the location of the antenna has to have a clear site for these microwaves to connect. The county just wants a preliminary approval from the city council to allow them to complete further studies of the area. The county is planning on signing a long term lease with the city and paying no rent. They realize they need to go through the typical channels, planning commission, building permits, etc. The county will pay all utility costs associated with their operations at this site and provide their building an address for billing of electric.

Attorney Couri stated that the city has to make sure that this lease will not interfere with Verizon's current lease, and that the lease agreement will state there is no liability on the city's part. Attorney Couri wondered if any other cities get money for use of their towers/land. Gunderson said that Hennepin County could address all of the city attorney's concerns in the lease document and noted that they are not paying other cities for leases such as this.

Beyer asked if we allow these antenna's how will it affect the future use of our Millennium Park water tower, will it prohibit or cause interference. Gunderson was unsure about this but thought with the distance and the direction of the antenna's microwave beam thought it should not be a problem but further research will be done.

Mayor Beyer wants to make sure if technology changes with Verizon that this new equipment does not impede their operations since they are paying the city for use of the tower site. Gunderson noted that all antennas are required to have a FCC license that states they cannot cause harmful interference.

MOTION was made by Martinson, seconded by Wenz to allow Hennepin County Communications to research the Linden Street water tower site for the future location of their antennas, shelter and generator for the 800 mega hertz public radio system.

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

Administrator's Report

Council reviewed the administrator's report including the following items: review of 2011 events and accomplishments, personnel committee needs to get together to review employee evaluations, tree stumps on the levee have been chipped to satisfaction, and Lamperts has become the Flagship Corporate sponsor for the youth baseball field in Parkwood.

Council Reports

Martinson, Hafften and Wenz had nothing to report.

Council member Graner reported that she will be attending the Fire Department workshop meeting to go over the SOG's on Wednesday December 28th at 7:00 p.m.

Beyer had nothing to report.

Mayor Beyer Closed the regular meeting at 8:00 p.m. to discuss attorney client privilege.

Mayor Beyer opened the regular meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn was made by Graner, seconded by Hafften to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

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

Mayor Beyer adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Michael Beyer, Mayor

Nancy Carswell, Administrator