City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Meeting Minutes
6:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 14th, 2020

The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at 6:00 p.m. Council members Scott Seymour, Debbie Buoy, Rick Martinson and Ted Hill were present, with all but Mayor Hafften and Councilman Hill appearing telephonically.

City Administrator / City Attorney, Dan Madsen; City Engineer, Steve Hegland of Wenck and Associates; Annette Tryon, 1,000 Hearts; Keith Tripplet, Jamie Jenson and Terry Morrow from Wright County Assessor's Office; and Joel Wulfing, Mitch King and Dave Thompson of the Hennepin County Assessor's Office; Tom Bermel, resident were also in attendance, with all but Engineer Hegland and Administrator / Attorney Madsen appearing telephonically.

Public Hearing – Local Board of Appeal and Equalization for Wright County & Hennepin County

Mayor Hafften called the Public Hearing to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Administrator / Attorney Madsen ran through the parameters, notice requirements satisfied, certifications held by members of the Council, and the purpose and process of the Board of Equalization and Appeals. Members of the Hennepin County Assessor's Office reviewed their presentation on market valuation for the potion of Rockford located in Hennepin County, and then asked for questions or comments. Mayor Hafften opened the meeting to public comment. After asking multiple times if anyone in attendance or appearing telephonically, and with no response, Mayor Hafften moved onto the Wright County Assessors.

Staff from the Wright County Assessor's Office presented information on the market values of properties in Rockford located within Wright County. In the discussion and review, it was noted that many properties increased in excess of 30% in market value. It was explained that this increase was due to houses in a specific price range and supported by similar or equivalent comparable sales. Mayor Hafften opened the meeting to public comment. Tom Bermel of 5538 Basswood Circle stated that his market value increased in excess of 20% in one year and stated that seemed incorrect and, at a minimum, unfair. Members of the Wright County Assessors Office explained their process in setting his homes market value and discussed comparable sales. Mr. Bermel continued his objection, but stated no specific amount of market value he thought to be more appropriate. After additional discussion and review, and with ample time given to Mr. Bermel to address his questions and concerns, **MOTION** was made by Hill, and

seconded by Hafften to reject a reduction in Mr. Bermel's property based upon the facts, explanations and the technical basis and nature of the request. Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Hill, Martinson, and Seymour.

Wright Hennepin then shared information on a market value decrease they proposed that was worked out with the owners of the property located at 4010 Maple Hurst Drive. Based upon sales and the condition of the property, the Wright County Assessors recommended that the market value of the property be reduced from $483,500 to $467,900. After discussion and review, including the policy in reducing the market value and how that compared to prior requests for reductions and consistency in application of parameters for market value evaluations, **MOTION** was made by Hill, and seconded by Hafften, to approve the reduction in market value. Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Hill, Martinson, and Seymour.

Mayor Hafften then asked for any other public comment, questions, comments or concerns. Hearing none, Mayor Hafften again called for public comment. Again hearing none, **MOTION** was made by Hill, and seconded by Hafften to close the public hearing. Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Hill, Martinson, and Seymour and the Public Hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.

Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items:
A **MOTION** was made by Hill, and seconded by Seymour, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3A through 3D and set the Agenda for the Council Meeting as listed:

3A. Approve Minutes from the March 24th, 2020 Workshop and Regular Council Meeting
3B. Approve Payment of Claims, Check Number: 31120 through check number: 31181, and check number 502414E through 502426E totaling $111,548.18
3C. Approve March 2020 Building Permits
3D. Approve final payment request for the 2019 Street Improvement Project

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Hill, Martinson,and Seymour.

Sheriff's Update
Deputy Prince from the Wright County Sheriff's Department appeared and provided updates on COVID-19 related calls, social distancing and staying safe during this pandemic.

New Business: Proclamation Volunteer Recognition Week

Mayor Renee Hafften read the Proclamation for Volunteer Recognition Week and thanked all volunteer for their dedication and support of other people and our community. No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for Proclamation purposes only.

New Business: Thousand Hearts Crow River Serve Day
Annette Tryon appeared by phone and explained that, sadly, Crow River Serve Day was postponed due to the Coronavirus. There was not a date to re-schedule the event, but Thousand Hearts would stay in touch and announce when a new date would be set. No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for informational purposes only.

New Business: EDA Emergency Loan Program
Madsen explained that the EDA had discussed the potential and parameters of an emergency loan program earlier that evening. The plan, as initially discussed, would be for no interest loans, with the first four months of payments deferred, in an amount up to $25,000 with the loan being payable over 3 years. The Council briefly discussed this matter and stated that it would be discussed further at a future meeting. No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for informational purposes only.

Staff Reports
Members of the Staff and Council provided updates including the Compost Site, COVID-19 related issues, and commentary on how the first telephonic meeting went under the City's Emergency Declaration.

Open Forum
Mayor Hafften called for open forum, no one for the public spoke.

Adjournment
MOTION was then made by Hill, and seconded by Seymour, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Hill, Martinson and Seymour, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

Typed this 22nd day of April, 2020.

Dan Madsen
City Administrator, Special Counsel
City of Rockford Minnesota

All meetings of the Rockford City Council are video recorded and available for viewing on-line at www.cityofrockford.org. Meeting minutes are intended to be a general synopsis of the meetings of the City Council, and more detail regarding discussions and policy considerations is provided by watching the recording of the meeting.

Approved:

_____

Renee Hafften
Mayor

Attest:

_____

Dan Madsen
City Administrator, Special Counsel