

**City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Workshop Meeting Minutes
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 9, 2021**

The City Council Workshop was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at approximately 5 p.m. Council members Scott Seymour, Denise Willenbring, Debbie Buoy and Rick Martinson were present.

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen; City Engineer, Steve Helgand; and LeAnn Sather were also in attendance.

Members of the Staff, Council and people in attendance discussed the status of the Tailwind Growth, LLC project referred to as the “Cornerstone of Rockford,” proposed to be built on the City’s property located on the Northeast corner of the Highway 55 and County Road 20 intersection. Ms. Sather discussed the status of the project, challenges the development faced last year due to the Pandemic and requested that the Council reconsider their recent vote to terminate the Purchase Agreement. Members of the Council asked questions clarifying the reason for the two year delay in construction and expressed concern over a lack of communication and updates from Tailwind Growth, LLC when the project stalled in the Spring of 2020.

No formal action was taken, as these matters were set on for discussion purposes only. Discussions were concluded, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6 p.m.

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The City Council Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at approximately 6 p.m. Council members Scott Seymour, Denise Willenbring, Debbie Buoy and Rick Martinson were present.

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen; City Engineer, Steve Helgand; Deputy Hoffman of the Wright County Sheriff's Department; Darcy Desens, Guru of the Parks Department, Art Wacholz of the Masonic Star Lodge 62, and Fire Chief, Ben Sanderson were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Buoy, and seconded by Willenbring, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3A and 3B as listed and set the Agenda for the Council Meeting:

- 3A. Approve Minutes from the February 23, 2021 Workshop and Regular Council Meeting
- 3B. Approve Payment of Claims, Check Number: 32284 through 32328; Check Number 1325E through 1357E; totaling \$167,978.50

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

Deputy Hoffman, Wright County Sheriff

Deputy Hoffman of the Wright County Sheriff's Department provided general updates that arrests and stops have been way down in the community, and asked Staff and the Council if we had any concerns to share. Members of the Council and Staff discussed general happenings around town and thanked Deputy Hoffman for appearing at the meeting.

New Business: Masonic Star Lodge 62 Fundraiser, Riverworks

Mr. Wacholz presented information regarding the Masons' 9th Annual Fundraiser for Riverworks, wherein the Masons match donations made up to \$23,000. Donations can be made in person at BankWest in Rockford, on-line on the Masonic Star Lodge 62's Facebook page or by dropping a check off at 6000 Main Street, Suite 1 in Rockford, Minnesota. Mr. Wacholz stated that the hog roast had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, but that the fundraiser was still happening.

No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for informative purposes only.

New Business: Brush Grinding Quotes

Parks Guru, Darcy Desens, presented information that he received a quote from Sylvester Custom Grinding to grind and haul away the excess brush and tree limbs in the City's compost site. The estimate is for \$6 per yard, plus a \$900 mobilization charge. The proposed budget was set for \$6,000 for this project. Desense explained that he had contacted Tree Top and other local

landscaping companies to get quotes, but they were either not interested in just a brush grinding project or proposed quotes much higher than Sylvester Custom Grinding.

Members of the Council and Staff asked questions, including stating that the proposed quote was not intended to be a multi-year contract for services. Administrator / Attorney Madsen stated that he would adjust the language to more clearly state that the quote was for one year only. After additional discussion and review, Motion was made by Martinson, and seconded by Seymour, to approve the quote up to \$6,000.

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

Members of Staff and the Council then presented updates including an update from the Fire Chief regarding the sustained increase in calls, medicals and fires. The pancake breakfast was cancelled for this year, but the Fire Department was instead planning to hold a gun raffle as a fundraiser for the Fire Relief. Other updates included the Lions holding Winterfest this Saturday, and the Chamber of Commerce luncheon that was scheduled for Thursday.

Motion was then made by Seymour, and seconded by Martinson, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried: Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Willenbring, Seymour and Martinson and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 p.m.

Typed this 10th day of March, 2021.

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