

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
August 15, 2017**

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met in the Council Room of the municipal building on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 commencing at 7:34 PM, Mayor Paul F. Corcoran presiding. Alderpersons Diane Cox, Kathy Troxel, John Collins, Dan Schweinefus, Travis Wertz, and Marsha Machotka were present. Alderperson Justin Lockwood was present via Facetime. Mayor Corcoran ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Motion by Kaufman, second by Cox to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the last meeting in lieu of printed copies and to approve the same. Motion carried 8-0.

REPORT FROM TODD FISCHER, WASTE WATER SUPERINTENDENT ON RECENT PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE JULY 20, 2017 FLOOD. Waste Water Utility Superintendent Todd Fischer explained that floodwaters breached the sewer line near the former waste water plant in the city during the heavy rain on July 20th. As a result, sand and debris filled the transport pipe system. In the process of cleaning the pipe system on August 3rd, the PIG device became stuck behind roughly 300 feet of sand near Koenig Court and Wedgewood Drive at the Center Court Mobile Home Park. Crews were able to excavate the site, and remove the PIG and 75-80 cubic yards of river sand that were blocking the pipe at that location. While the cleanup took place, roughly 609,000 gallons of sewage were released into the city arboretum next to the former wastewater treatment site in the city, 18,000 gallons of which went into the Pine River. Nearly 20,000 gallons of liquid waste were vacuumed from the arboretum and additional solid waste was raked, removed, and disposed of at the landfill. A total of 1,200 lbs. of barn lyme was also applied to the arboretum site for cleanup purposes. Fischer stated that the Wisconsin DNR was on site both Thursday, August 3rd and Friday, August 4th to monitor the situation and approved of the mitigation steps that were taken. Todd Fischer estimated the costs incurred by the Waste Water Utility for the cleanup and repair were \$75,809. There is additional work to finish cleanup of the sewer main and bike trail repairs. Fischer also reported that there were 5 or 6 homes/properties that had sewer backups into their homes.

PRESENTATION FROM NEWLY ORGANIZED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Craig Woodhouse, Rebecca Furbish, Jayme Walsh, and Sue Patch were present representing the Greater Richland Area Chamber of Commerce. Woodhouse explained that they have been working for a year on formalizing the organization. He said the Chamber's goal would be to serve the business community through outreach and promotion of commerce, but would not focus on recruiting new businesses to the area. The group's upcoming goals include electing a board of directors, finding a Chamber business location, fundraising, and developing an operating budget. Woodhouse said that member signup will take place sometime this fall. They will also be seeking some level of financial support from the city to assist with start the organization. Craig Woodhouse said they hope to secure space for the organization at the Depot.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sandra Layer spoke in favor of continuing to receive service from the Richland County Ambulance Service (RCAS). Gordon Palmer, a member of the Joint Ambulance Committee and Joint Ambulance Sub Committee, stated that multiple issues are listed on the agenda to be decided on tonight. He stated that they need to be decided on separately. He supports the city continuing with the RCAS. Sharon Schmitz encouraged the Council to move forward with a contract

with the RCAS. Jerry Gander said that a paramedic service is needed for transfers out of the Richland Hospital to another facility. Gander spoke in favor of upgrading to a paramedic-level service even if it means adding money to residents' tax bills. Jessie Huntamer spoke in favor of upgrading the current municipal swimming pool. Amy Gander said that the city can only fix the current pool so much, and is in favor of pursuing a new swimming complex. Laura Ewing, a lifeguard at the Richland Center municipal swimming pool, supports a new pool facility. Ewing outlined a number of maintenance and upkeep issues that they currently deal with. Jacob Lundgren said that he and his family use the outdoor pool and said there is lots of space where the current pool sits that could be utilized for a new aquatic center. Deb Fontana spoke in favor of pursuing a new swimming complex and encouraged residents and the Council to go see the condition of the existing pool facility. Sheila Troxel said she was in favor of a new pool and urged the council to approve \$2,100 to have an engineer develop a design for a new complex. Pat Elliot said that Ramaker & Associates are providing the design work at a much lower rate than other engineers. He said Richland Center needs to upgrade its pool.

PRESENTATION REGARDING NEW SWIMMING POOL/AQUATIC FACILITY AND CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM RAMAKER & ASSOCIATES, INC FOR SCHEMATIC DESIGN OF AQUATIC CENTER WITH PROBABLE COST. Liz Perkins presented information in support of getting design ideas with Ramaker & Associates at a total cost of \$4,200. She said that there are many individuals and families who support a new swimming complex, but need to have a plan and cost estimates to move ahead with fundraising. Motion by Wertz, second by Collins to use \$2,100 from the city's Contingency Fund to match the \$2,100 in donations to pay for the schematic design for an aquatic center from Ramaker & Associates. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER APPROVING RICHLAND COUNTY AMBULANCE OR BARABOO AMBULANCE PROPOSAL, EITHER WAY, WITHIN THE FIRST YEAR DEVELOP A LONG-TERM SOLUTION AND THE SECOND YEAR IMPLEMENT THE BEST OPTION WITH ALL FUTURE EXPENSES ON A PER CAPITA BASIS. Motion by Collins, second by Cox to approve a contract with the Richland County Ambulance Service at a cost of \$92,480 for both 2018 and 2019. Motion carried 7-1, with Alderperson Troxel dissenting.

CITY EVENTS & CITIZENS CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Mayor Corcoran stated that the Council and city residents need to be concerned with the current financial picture with the county. He encouraged people to ask county leaders to seek guidance and direction to fix the county finances.

ALDERPERSONS CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Alderperson Cox asked for the formation of an Ad Hoc committee for a new aquatic center. Cox also asked to consider providing space at the Depot to the new Chamber of Commerce.

Motion by Wertz, second by Cox to approve the agenda. Motion carried 8-0.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER ACCEPTING GIFT OF MODEL FARM MACHINERY FROM JIM RIEDEL TO BE KEPT AT DEPOT, BREWER LIBRARY, AND A.D. GERMAN WAREHOUSE. Motion by Kaufman, second by Cox to accept the gift of model farm machinery from Jim Riedel to be kept at the Depot, Brewer Library, and A.D. German Warehouse. Motion carried 8-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL LICENSE RENEWAL FOR GARY MANNING FOR TREE CUTTING. Motion by Machotka, second by Wertz to approve the Tree Cutting license to Gary Manning. Motion carried 7-0. Cox abstained.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TRUCK BID FOR STREET DEPARTMENT. Motion by Machotka, second by Collins to approve the bid of \$24,100 from Jones Chevrolet for a new Street Department truck. It was the lowest of five bids received. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER DONATION OF \$1,000 TO RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR COMMITTEE. Motion by Kaufman, second by Machotka to donate \$1,000 from the city's Contingency Fund to the Richland County Fair Committee. The funds will help pay for children's entertainment at the 2017 fair. Motion carried 8-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM LESTER PARKER AT 872 ITHACA ROAD TO INSTALL RETAINING WALL WITHIN THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY. Motion by Collins, second by Schweinfus to approve Lester Parker to install a retaining wall within the city right-of-way. It was determined that the wall would be 4-feet tall and utilize blocks 8-inches high and 16-inches wide. Attorney Robb will develop a contract that states that the wall will require tiebacks and that Parker is responsible for maintaining the wall. Also, the maintenance agreement will remain with the property. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER RESOLVING SIDEWALK ISSUES WITH THERESA GOPLIN AT 515 E. KINDER STREET. Motion by Cox, second by Wertz to authorize \$2,200 from the city's Contingency Fund and not put \$924 on the tax toll that city already paid toward the repair and replacement of Theresa Goplin's sidewalk at 515 E. Kinder Street. Because the action involved spending unbudgeted funds from the Contingency Fund, the motion failed on a 5-2 vote. Alderpersons Machotka and Troxel dissented, and Alderperson Kaufman abstained.

UTILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER FROM STAAB CONSTRUCTION CORP. UNDER CONTRACT A FOR THE WWTP PROJECT. It was noted that the change order represents a decrease of \$21,780 from the original contract price of 20,310,135.78. Motion by Machotka, second by Collins to approved the change order from Staab Construction for the Waste Water Treatment Plant project. Motion approved 8-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PAYMENT APPLICATION FROM STAAB CONSTRUCTION CORP. UNDER CONTRACT A FOR THE WWTP PROJECT. Motion by Wertz, second by Machotka to approve a payment of \$75,199.99 to Staab Construction for the Waste Water Treatment Plant project. Motion approved 8-0.

CONSIDER ACCEPTING THE AWARD OF CDBG-PF GRANT FROM WI DEPT. OF ADMINSTRATION FOR WESTSIDE DRIVE PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR

AND CLERK TO SIGN DOCUMENTS. Motion by Wertz, second by Machotka to approved the \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant for Public Facilities (CDBG-PF) for the Westside Drive project. Motion approved 8-0.

CONSIDER ONE-TIME PAYOUT OF VACATION TO EMPLOYEES DUE TO STAFFING AND FLOOD ISSUES. Mayor Corcoran explained that due to the floods and other staffing issues, it has been difficult for some employees to find an appropriate time to take vacation. Action is not intended to set a precedent for future payouts. Payout of unused vacation would have to be absorbed into each department's budget. Council members expressed concerns with employees not taking vacation and the costs associated with that. No action on this issue was taken.

APPOINTMENTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Cox, second by Machotka to approve Ann Dodsworth and Shawn Tjossem to the ADA Appeals Committee. Motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS: Motion by Cox, second by Wertz to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 8-0.

ALDERPERSONS SCHWINEFUS THROUGH COLLINS – REPORTS, ETC. Alderperson Troxel noted that Southwest Partners will host a glow golf event at Quail Run on August 26th for the municipal pool fund. Alderperson Collins thanked Liz Perkins for her efforts with this summer's Richland Rocks and spearheading the efforts for a new swimming pool. Alderperson Schwinefus commended those involved with the repair and cleanup involved with the July 20 & 21 waste water issues. Schwinefus also said it's nice to see the motivation behind developing a new pool. Alderperson Machotka also thanked those involved with the WWTP repair and cleanup. She also hoped that the mountain bike trails could be promoted as another recreation opportunity, similar to the Pine River. Alderperson Cox said she appreciates the enthusiasm behind Richland Rocks and the Pine River opportunities. Alderperson Wertz thanked the council for approving the funding for the pool schematic. He also congratulated those involved with a successful Walk with GRACE.

DEPARTMENTS & UTILITY – REPORTS, ETC. Shane Stibbe noted that the outdoor municipal pool will close on August 25th. A dog swimming party will be held August 26th.

ADJOURN: Motion by Cox, second by Wertz to adjourn. Motion carried at 10:33 PM.

Minutes by Aaron Joyce, Deputy City Clerk / Treasurer

Mayor, Paul F. Corcoran

Attest:

City Clerk / Treasurer Melinda D. Jones