

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

February 5, 2019

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met in the Council Room of the municipal building on Tuesday, February 5, 2019 commencing at 7:30 P.M., Mayor Michael J. Kaufman presiding. Alderpersons Ryan Cairns, Kathy Troxel, Justin Lockwood, John Collins, Travis Wertz, Diane Cox, Marsha Machotka and Karin Tepley. Mayor Kaufman ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Motion by Collins, second by Machotka to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Tepley, second by Collins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sharon Schmitz invited the council and the public to attend a Southwest Partners forum on February 20, 2019 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Auditorium to hear about the aquatic center and the grocery store issues.

MAYOR AND ALDERPERSON CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Justin Lockwood asked for an update on the aquatic center. Mayor Kaufman said he and Attorney Robb have a meeting scheduled with the architect this Thursday because they are wanting more money.

CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS: Tourism Coordinator Lon Arbegust gave a report on Tourism. In 2018 a tourism assessment was completed and a web site upgrade started which should be completed soon. In 2019 the Tourism Commission approved limiting print media only to the Hidden Valleys magazine with all other advertising done through social media. A 3-year contract was approved with Discover Wisconsin so there will be a television show as well as advertising through their outlets through 2021. There is also a partnership with Travel Wisconsin for 2019. The Frank Lloyd Wright Trail is energized and SC Johnson is leading the group of others along the trail in promotion. There are bus tours to the warehouse and architectural tours of the city. A new business Ridge & Valley Tours will be opening in May with the agriculture to food related tourism. The AD German Warehouse was awarded both Federal and State tax credits between 1.3 and 1.5 million dollars so the project is close to having their funding goal and will happen soon. On June 1st the Wright of Spring annual event is planned, the 60th anniversary of the High School Rodeo will take place this summer and he asked the Community to step up and make the parade something really special this year.

Police Chief Lucas Clements reviewed his 2018 annual report on the Police Department. Calls went up by 96 to a total of 4644 in 2018. Criminal arrests were at 549 which is up from 436 in 2017. He reported a 29% increase in drug offenses and a 30% increase in bail violations however a 38% decrease in emergency detentions took place from 2017 to 2018. Traffic crashes were at 125 in 2018 with no fatalities. Chief Clements talked about years of service recognition for personnel. He noted that the required training is a minimum of 24 hours each year and the average for the RCPD staff is 62 hours. There are many things the Officers do to reach out to the local and surrounding communities and the kids in school system.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The report for January 2019 with the month end balance is as follows:

General Fund	585,253.48
State Pool - Account # 1	1,826,485.36
Money Market Tax Acct.	2,278,319.59
State Pool – Account #2 Long Term Care	561,228.04

Restricted Funds:

CDBG - Housing RLF	95,018.19
Revolving Loan Fund- Savings	785,239.48
Revolving Loan Fund – Checking	1,217.07
Landfill Care – CD	284,724.37
Landfill Care - CD	290,503.71
Library Checking	138,987.03
Room Tax	63,852.12
State Pool #3 TIF-Panorama Estates	215,326.95
State Pool #5 TIF-Affordable Housing	948,881.29
State Pool - Account # 6 - TIF - 2-5	0.42

Committed Funds:

State Pool - Account # 4 - Project Carryover	3,836,678.83
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Assigned Funds:

Cemetery	4,704.82
Park / Community Center	35,216.18
Park and Rec Checking	2,495.00
Aquatic Center	1,015.38

CITY UTILITIES:

Electric Utility Fund	61,524.92
Electric Unrestricted Funds	52,204.33
Water Utility Fund	66,415.55
Water Utility Unrestricted Funds	86,026.85
Waste Water Utility Fund	35,244.07
Waste Water Unrestricted Funds	50,618.74

RESTRICTED FOR PROJECTS:

Electric	710,987.54
Water	747,595.56
WWTP	4,434,190.90

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ACCEPTING DOANTION FROM VERNON HOMB FAMILY RELATED TO RAILROAD MEMORABELIA: Lon Arbegust reported that Sandy Homb talked with him about the donation and that they family wanted the items on display at the Depot and taken care of. Mr. Homb was the last Agent at the Depot when the railroad came into Richland Center. Mr. Arbegust said he would obtain pictures and an

inventory for the next meeting. Motion by Machotka, second by Collins to place the item on the next agenda. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION FROM ANDREW NUSSBAUM, WI DEPT. OF TOURISM REGIONAL TOURISM SPECIALIST ABOUT THE RECENT SURVEY AND TOURISM IN THE COUNTY: Mr. Nussbaum reported that the reason people come to and want to live in Wisconsin is because of the Law Enforcement and their personal safety. He reported that communities need resources and Travel Wisconsin evaluates this and works with the Department of Tourism to get packages together for communities. The trend for young people had been the find out what kind of job they wanted then figure out where they could get the job and live but now it has transitioned to, they pick where they want to live and find out what kind of job they will have when they get there. Mr. Nussbaum reported that \$19.9 million dollars were directly spent on tourism in Richland County in 2017 and there are indirect funds spent here in addition meaning if the vehicle broke down while visiting Richland Center, the visitors need their vehicle repaired which is an indirect impact of tourism. The total of direct and indirect impact of tourism in Richland County for 2017 is \$33.9 million dollars and is responsible for 312 jobs in the county. As a result of the survey in 2018, a tourism business plan is developed with a manageable list. Items on the list are the Frank Lloyd Wright designed A. D. German Warehouse, the Pine River, the historic downtown, events, and agricultural tourism. Richland County has state highways, airports and good secondary roads. An overnight stay triples the amount of money spent in the community. The residents that completed the survey showed 90% thing the area's top strengths are the beauty of the outdoors and natural assets while 100% supported finding ways to grow the community's tourism.

PUBLIC SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS: CONSIDER CHANGES TO ORDINANCE CH. 101.15 ALTERNATE SIDE PARKING RELATED TO STREETS THAT ONLY ALLOW PARKING ON ONE SIDE OF THE STREET: Alderperson Machotka said there are many streets in the city that are narrow and parking is only permitted on one side of the street so residents can't park on the other side during alternate side parking or it is an ordinance violation. Some of the streets are exempt from alternate side parking and she feels that all streets with parking permitted only on one side should be exempt. At the Public Safety meeting, Chief Clements felt this could wait until spring to be addressed. It was determined that Alderperson Machotka could work with department heads and Attorney Robb to update the ordinance.

DISCUSSION ON NEW GARBAGE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION PROCESS: Mayor Kaufman said he followed a garbage truck for an hour to see what the issues are and many residents have not complied with the letter sent. Garbage and recycling totes have to be 3' apart and have the handles facing the home. No blue totes may be used. All containers have a number on them and there is a camera that videos the number and what is inside. Garbage has been placed inside the recycling totes and we will be looking at possible fines for doing this. The recycling is picked up every other week so please mark this on your calendars. Town & Country will be allowing an additional recycling tote if you do have too many recyclables. Issues are parking in front of totes and that there are too many for the downtown apartments. Mayor Kaufman asked council members if they had any ideas. Suggestions were that items should be broken down and placed in the recycling containers, place the container so the lid opens at the street, obtain a larger trash bin rather than have them overflowing because items on the grass will not be picked up, downtown pickup should be first on the route very early before businesses open, downtown totes could be placed in the street and the arms could return the bins

onto the sidewalk and lastly it was asked what is taking place in other communities. Alderperson Wertz reminded the residents that the landfill is open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings and there is no charge to drop off recycling.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR PARKS PROPERTY & GROUNDS

FUEL FARM: David Fry said the bids were for two 550 gallon above ground storage tanks. One tank is for gasoline and the other for diesel. It includes new concrete, fencing, and electrical as well as all permits. Metco is the low bid at \$24,227.18 and OEC Inc bid \$29,013.00. It was stated this project is in the 2019 budget. Alderperson Lockwood said Finance approved and suggested trying to contract the fuel for better pricing. Motion by Lockwood, second by Machotka and Cairns to approve the bid from Metco for \$24,227.18. Motion carried 8-0.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion by Machotka, second by Tepley to pay the bills. Motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURN: Motion by Cox, second by Tepley to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:35 PM.

Minutes by Melinda Jones, City Clerk / Treasurer