

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

May 21, 2019

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met in the Council Room of the municipal building on Tuesday, May 21, 2019 commencing at 7:30 P.M., Mayor Michael J. Kaufman presiding. Alderpersons Scotty Wallace, John Collins, Travis Wertz, Diane Cox, Todd Coppernoll, Karin Tepley, Ryan Cairns, and Aaron Ewing. Mayor Kaufman ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

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

Motion by Collins, second by Wertz to approve the agenda with number 11 being placed after 19 and removing item number 12. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Samantha Kern and Rikki Bishop both spoke on the need for stop signs being placed on Westside Drive at 2nd Street.

MAYOR AND ALDERPERSON CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Mayor Kaufman stated that he was notified that the dialysis center will be closing so he and Alderperson Cox will investigate and work to keep it open. He asked that there be a proclamation to reduce fossil fuels at the next meeting and that it be sent off to Washington DC. He said he has pictures of retaining wall blocks to pick from that will be placed around the entrance signs that the council should look at before leaving. He also encouraged everyone to support the 60th Rodeo next month.

Todd Coppernoll said at the Public Safety Committee meeting some of the forfeiture section of ordinances were still at \$25 which would be equivalent to \$200 now and they should be amended.

Karin Tepley asked that Attorney Robb prepare an overview on how meetings should be run. She also reported that the Brewer Library is 50 years old and will hold many special events this year. Next Thursday on May 30th, Author Michael Tidemann of Estherville, Iowa will give a program on his research for his historical novel *Letters from Elk City*.

CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS: Public Works Superintendent Terry Nelson said about 12 street name signs are missing and if found, please return them to the street garage. Parks & Grounds Superintendent Dave Fry said there is an over abundance of garbage being placed in the park trash bins which is against the ordinance.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DESIGNATING THE JOHN HOUSTON HOUSE AT 932 W. SEMINARY ST., PRESENT OWNERS DEREK KALISH AND JASON COY, BE PLACED ON THE LOCAL HISTORIC REGISTER. Dr. Jerry Bower presented information about the property and presented the owners with a plaque showing their property is approved to be on the local historic register. Motion by Collins, second by Tepley to approve 932 W. Seminary St. being placed on the local historic register. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL E LOYAL PROGRAM FROM THE SHOPPING NEWS PAID FOR WITH FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY:

Linda Post from the Shopping News presented the new online business directory to encourage all to shop local. She said that every business has a basic listing and the public can search alphabetically. Businesses can upgrade and maintain their own information with the unlimited number of pages, coupons, pictures and videos added for \$499 per year or \$49 per month. Motion by Collins, second by Coppernoll to table the item and refer it to the Finance Committee for a recommendation back to the council. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER LEASING CITY OWNED LAND BY THE WASTE WATER FACILITY TO THE DNR FOR THE VOLUNTARY PUBLIC ACCESS AND HABITAT INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

The DNR would pay the city a small amount to allow the land to be used as public access for hunting, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing. The program also offers an incentive to establish and maintain native grasses. Motion by Collins to accept the program with Attorney Robb's approval of the final documents. Wertz seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO ATV/UTV ORDINANCE CHAPTER 104 RELATED TO OPENING UP MORE ROUTES THROUGHOUT THE CITY:

Aldersperson Coppernoll said this comes at the requests of residents being able to access businesses and the Veteran's Memorial, and other locations throughout the city. Chief Clements has no records of issues with the ATV/UTVs in the city. The ordinance has been in place for a year and since all is working well the public safety recommends expanding. Motion by Coppernoll to approve the amended ordinance, Collins seconded. The motion was amended and seconded to suspend the rules and waive the reading. Motion carried 8-0. Attorney Robb stated the hours have been set in the amendment to read 7 AM to 10 PM.

CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PROCEED WITH DNR LOAN FOR WATER DEPARTMENT RESERVOIR AND AUTHORIZE SIGNATURES:

Clerk Jones reported the DNR Clean Water Fund has approved a loan to construct the new reservoir. The City Council would need to approve the loan and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign documents. The loan would be repaid through water revenue. Commissioner Perry stated the cost is 2.7 million dollars and a 1.18% interest rate for 20 years. Gerke Excavating is contracted to do the piping from the well to the property, the electric utility has installed electric to the site and the tank will be constructed by DL Tanks. Mr. Perry said there are only 2 contractors who install tanks in the nation. Motion by Collins to approve proceeding with the DNR loan, not to exceed 2.7 million dollars, for the reservoir and authorize signatures. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE CHAPTER 321.08 RELATING TO MOWING GRASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY THAT IS TOO HIGH:

Dave Fry said he waits until he receives a complaint, he has 2 already, then he drives around the community to see if there are others needing mowing that are over 8" high. He has to write and send a letter which can take a week or more. By this time the grass could be as high as 12" when he goes back to check and write down the properties the department will mow. When the grass is this 12" they have to walk the property to be sure they do not mow over items left in the yard and possibly bag the hay out. He said it takes a long time. Options were discussed and a motion was made by Collins, seconded by Cairns to amend the ordinance to a height of 6" at which time the city can place a door hanger and send a letter to be sure the owner is notified, but act on the mowing after

48 hours of when the door hanger notice is placed. Attorney Robb is to draft the ordinance change for the next meeting. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT (ORDINANCE CHAPTER 620) AND FUTURE STREET CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PLANS: Terry Nelson said that in 2018 wards 1 & 2 sidewalks were marked that need replacement that year. In 2019 any sidewalks not replaced from 2018 will be replaced by the city and billed to the owner. In addition, in 2019 wards 3 & 4 sidewalks will be marked for 2019 replacement. The rotation continues each year.

As far as street projects, Mr. Nelson said a lot depends the utilities underground. Central Avenue from Haseltine to South Street and 7th & 8th Streets from Church Street around the loop back to Church Street is scheduled for 2020 while 5th Street between Congress and Church as well as 4th Street from Main to Cedar Streets is scheduled for 2021. Projects are also dependent on funding.

Terry Nelson reported that cold patch is now \$102 per ton and patching is not working much of the time. He has requested prices on a 1 ¼" overlay that he hopes will be about \$60 per ton and would last about 10 years. He handed the council members a listing of streets for overlay.

CONSIDER SETTING GUIDELINES AND PERMIT PROCESS FOR MURALS OR SEND IT TO A COMMITTEE: Kelly Coppernoll said she plans to put a mural on the Main Street side of the coffee house but it is a puzzle for \$7.00 a puzzle piece to reveal what it will look like. She said that Jamie and Craig Rogers will paint the mural on a thin layer that will be pasted on and last 10-15 years. There are no guidelines yet except she cannot place any business names on it or it becomes a sign. Alderperson Wertz and Collins suggested Attorney Robb draft an ordinance based on the Ashland Ordinance for the next meeting.

REVIEW OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 303 AND 310 RELATED TO PETS AND ANIMALS WITHIN THE CITY: Mayor Kaufman reported that non-traditional animals that some people call comfort animals are in the city and he is receiving complaints. Attorney Robb said that landlords can't refuse to rent to a tenant that has an emotional support animal but there is no law that says the city has to allow them. No action was taken.

REVIEW OF ORDINANCE CHAPTER 101.23 RELATED TO DISABLED, INOPERABLE, INCOMPLETE OR UNREGISTERED VEHICLES: Alderperson Wertz said the penalty is not very high and he would like to see these vehicles taken care of. He asked if anyone had a problem if he worked with Attorney Robb and brought an ordinance update back to the council on the next agenda.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION TO VACATE STREETS IN KROUSKOP PARK: Attorney Robb said the aquatic center is close to the right-of-way of a platted street. The procedure is to introduce a resolution to vacate it, publish and mail notices as well as have a public hearing 40 days after the introduction. Motion by Wertz to introduce the resolution to vacate streets. Cox seconded and the motion carried with no opposition.

CONSIDER EXTENDING CONTRACT WITH SOUTHWEST PARTNERS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UNTIL 12/31/2019: Dale Bender and Mick Cosgrove spoke on Southwest Partners being built on trust, relationships, and accountability as well as accomplishments and how economic development is structured financially. Mick Cosgrove said

all funds have been raised, bills paid, and there is a positive balance in the account. He said the CPA would consider the contract through 12/31/2019 provided the City, County, Southwest Partners and Southwest WI Regional Planning Commission meet to discuss a functional model, set priorities and have better communication. Motion by Cairns, second by Collins to approve extending the contract for the economic development specialist working 2 days per week with Southwest Partners through 12/31/2019 for a total of \$5190.00. Motion carried 8-0.

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

ADJOURN: Motion by Cox, second by Collins to adjourn. Motion carried at 10:18 PM.

Minutes by Melinda Jones, City Clerk / Treasurer