

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

September 17, 2019

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met in the Council Room of the municipal building on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 commencing at 7:30 P.M., Mayor Michael J. Kaufman presiding. Alderpersons Diane Cox, Todd Coppernoll, Karin Tepley, Aaron Ewing, Ryan Cairns, Scotty Wallace, John Collins, and Travis Wertz were present. Mayor Kaufman ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Motion by Cox, second by Collins & Tepley to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the regular council meeting on September 3rd. Motion carried.

Motion by Collins, second by Cox to approve the agenda with item 12 being removed. Motion carried.

MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Mayor Kaufman reported that bicycles on sidewalks continues to be a problem downtown. Alderperson Coppernoll said that there are speeding and traffic concerns on Westside Drive. The Public Safety Committee is considering options to address these issues. Alderperson Tepley reported that 5G internet service is coming to rural areas of the county and wondered if transmitters would be utilizing utility or traffic poles in the city.

CITY & UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS: Library Director Martha Bauer stated that the Brewer Public Library would be celebrating its 50th anniversary soon with an open house set for November 16th. Zoning Administrator Bill McCorkle reported that the paving along the Haseltine Street project is weather dependent and is likely to take place around October 1st.

PRESENTATION FROM WPPI PRESIDENT AND CEO MIKE PETERS: Peters said that Richland Center City Utilities is among 51 municipal utility members of WPPI in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa. It serves over 200,000 customers with a 2019 budget of \$432-million. WPPI is member owned and governed with Richland Center Electric Superintendent Dale Bender serving on its board of directors. Peters said that WPPI's power supply is diverse, which makes the service reliable and costs steady and competitive. Among WPPI's power suppliers is Richland Center Renewable Energy – the wastewater treatment facility of Foremost Farms USA and Schreiber Foods – which provides bio gas. Peters invited Richland Center representatives to a meeting at its office in Sun Prairie on Monday, September 30th.

DISCUSSION ON POSSIBLY DRAFTING AGREEMENT WITH RICHLAND COUNTY TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF STREETS AT THE UW-PLATTEVILLE RICHLAND CAMPUS: Roger Petrick, Richland County Highway Commissioner, was unavailable for this meeting. He has ideas for possible grant funding that could help facilitate the possible city street project at the campus. He will be put on the next council agenda for consideration.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF ENGINEERING CONTRACT FOR SOUTH CENTRAL AVE BETWEEN HASELTINE AND SOUTH STREETS ALSO WITH A BID ALTERNATE OF KINDER STREET BETWEEN MAIN STREET AND CENTRAL AVENUE: Motion by Cairns to approve the amendment for engineering services from MSA Professional Services in the amount of \$10,200. Second by Collins. Motion carried 8-0 on a roll call vote.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT WITH NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES OF SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN TO WORK WITH THE CITY ON RENEW RICHLAND CENTER HOUSING PROGRAM: Motion by Cairns, second by Wertz, to enter into an agreement with NHS of Southwest Wisconsin to work with the city on the Renew Richland Center Housing Program. Cairns noted that the agreement allows the city or NHS the option of non-participation in a project. In the event such a project were to take place, NHS would forfeit the 10% administration fee for that project only. Motion carried 8-0 on a roll call vote.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER SUSPENDING THE RULES, WAIVING THE READING, AND ENACTING AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE CHAPTER 101.14 TO REQUIRE BUS DRIVERS TO USE RED LIGHT AND STOP SIGN WITHIN THE CITY: Motion by Coppernoll, second by Cox, to suspend the rules, waive the reading, and enact the amendment to ordinance Chapter 101.14 to require bus drivers to use red light and stop sign within the city. Coppernoll explained that state law prohibits the use of red lights and stop signs by buses unless local ordinance specifically requires it. It was also noted that school bus drivers requested this change in the name of safety. Motion carried 8-0 on a roll call vote.

CONSIDER APPLICATION FROM THE AD GERMAN WAREHOUSE CONSERVANCY, INC FOR TEMPORARY CLASS “B” LICENSES TO SERVE FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGES AT EVENTS HELD ON OCTOBER 6, NOVEMBER 15, AND DECEMBER 7, 2019 AT 177 E. HASELTINE ST. AND/OR 316 S. CHURCH STREET: Motion by Coppernoll, second by Wallace to approve the application from the AD German Warehouse Conservancy for Temporary Class “B” licenses to serve fermented malt beverages at events on October 6, November 15, and December 7, 2019 at 177 E. Haseltine St. and/or 316 S. Church Street. Motion carried on a voice vote without opposition.

CONSIDER DEVELOPING A DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN: The cities of Portage, Eau Claire, and Reedsburg have developed deer management plans. The Richland Center plan would allow bow hunting on some city-owned property upon completion of a proficiency test and obtaining a permit. Alderperson Collins said that Portage utilizes police officers who serve as deer sharp shooters. Once a deer is harvested, it is given to someone for food. Lieutenant Billy Jones expressed that his biggest concern about the idea is safety and how the city will respond to any accidents. Alderperson Ewing asked if the hours of hunting allowed within the city limits could be adjusted to account for visibility at dawn and dusk. Ewing also questioned how the city would control the proficiency test hunters would be required to take before being issued a permit. Alderperson Coppernoll said that managing the deer in and around the city not only helps protect the property of landowners, it helps maintain the health of residents and the deer herd in the area. He noted that Lyme’s disease has been more prevalent in humans,

and there have been several recent incidents of dead deer in the city by unknown reasons. A deer management ordinance to be considered will be brought to the council at the October 1st meeting.

RAPID RESPONSE TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH RICHLAND COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Motion by Collins, second by Ewing, to approve the amended agreement with Richland County for the purpose of economic development. The amendment deals with the creation of the voting members of the Board of Economic Development. Alderperson Tepley asked for clarification on what the “Board” referred to in the amendment, noting that there are only three voting members in addition to four advisory members. Alderperson Cairns stated that the intent to seat or unseat a voting member was to be made by both of the other existing voting members and the advisory members. Alderperson Cox said that the wording is confusing. Collins asked for his motion to be rescinded. The wording on the amendment will be clarified and brought back to the council for consideration at the next meeting.

RICHLAND COUNTY AMBULANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER RENEWING CONTRACT WITH RICHLAND COUNTY FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE FOR 2020, 2021, AND 2022: In the new 3-year agreement for ambulance service, the City of Richland Center will pay \$97,750 each year. This total is based on \$170 per call for an average of 575 calls per year over the past four years. This represents an increase of \$5,270 per year. Motion by Wertz, second by Wallace, to approve the ambulance contract with Richland County for 2020, 2021, and 2022. Motion passed 8-0 on a roll call vote.

CONSIDER CREATING AN AD HOC COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT THE DOWNTOWN PLAN: Alderperson Collins stated the city developed a Downtown Revitalization Plan in 2013, however very little has been done to implement the plan. Collins said that anyone interested in being part of the ad hoc committee should contact the city clerk’s office.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS: None

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS: Motion by Cairns, second by Tepley, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote without opposition.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sharon Schmitz thanked everyone for their continued support of the ambulance service. She outlined a list of priorities and goals the ambulance committee has set over the last year. They include purchasing a replacement ambulance, evaluating the feasibility of purchasing a building for EMS and the county Emergency Management Department, increasing the number of staff and overall compensation, set aside funds for large capital purchases, set minimum staff levels that permit the service to provide primary and backup coverage and transfer services to the Richland Hospital, establish a close working relationship with the Richland Hospital to provide interfacility transfer services, and upgrade the service to a paramedic level.

MAYOR & ALDERPERSONS – COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS AND COMMENTS: Mayor Kaufman reported that there is a land purchase agreement in the works for the proposed dialysis center. Alderperson Wallace said he has been seeing ATV’s and UTV’s on Highway 14 between Sextonville and Bohmann Drive. Alderperson Coppnoll clarified that ATV’s and UTV’s

are not permitted on any roadway with a speed limit of 35 MPH or greater. Alderperson Collins thanked the city Street Department for installing the flashing lights at the pedestrian crossing on Highway 14 West. Alderperson Wertz said that the pedestrian crossing signs downtown are a good addition.

DEPARTMENTS & UTILITY REPORTS: City Clerk/Treasurer Melinda Jones reported that the census is actively looking to hire people as census workers. City Utility Commission President Rod Perry said he hopes people will be able to attend the September 30th WPPI meeting. He added that additional information about WPPI is available in the Utility office.

ADJOURN: Motion by Cox, second by Tepley, to adjourn. Motion approved unanimously on a voice vote at 9:13 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aaron Joyce, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer