

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
June 16, 2020**

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 commencing at 7:30 PM, Mayor Todd Coppernoll presiding. Alderpersons Ryan Cairns via speaker phone, Scotty Wallace, John Collins, Melony Walters, Travis Wertz, Carson Culver, Susan Fruit, and Karin Tepley were present in person. Mayor Coppernoll ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Motion by Wertz, second by Tepley to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and approve the minutes. Motion carried 8-0 via voice vote.

Motion by Tepley, second by Fruit to approve the agenda with item numbers 7b 7c and 7c removed. Motion carried 8-0 via voice vote.

MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Alderperson Tepley reported that she heard the news that there is grant money this fall for rural broadband and she would like City Utilities to apply.

CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS: Nothing was presented.

UTILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE CHAPTER 430.09(4)(B) RELATING TO THE 6-MONTH BILL AVERAGING: Mr. Rod Perry explained how during the summer months the sewer bills are less costly because they are averaged over the 6-month period through the Winter and some customers filled their swimming pool before the averaging was effective this year. The wording does need to be changed from “the months of mid-October through mid-April” to “will be determined by the date of the meter reading in November through the date of the meter reading in May which” shall be used for residential billings for the following 6-months. Motion by Collins, second by Tepley to suspend the rules, waive the reading and enact Ordinance 2020-6 amending Chapter 430.09(4)(b). Motion carried 7-0. Alderperson Cairns lost telephone connection due to the stormy weather.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF INSTALLATION OF NEW SCORE BOARDS AT NORTH PARK: Quotes were reviewed from Greeley Signs and BL Signs. Motion by Wallace, second by Tepley to approve the low bid from BL Signs in the amount of \$4317.00 to install the score boards in North Park with the funds coming from the Park Shelter account. Motion carried 7-0 via roll call vote. Alderperson Cairns lost telephone connection due to the stormy weather.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF DEPARTMENT ISSUED FIREARMS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief Jones stated he would like to look at starting a program that most departments are moving toward. He reviewed the cost of uniforms at \$70 each for a shirt and pants as well as the items needing to be put on their belts. New officers have to purchase their own guns for between \$450-900 and their uniform check is \$750 for the first year and \$650 each year after. Chief Jones would like all officers to eventually have the same gun, a 9mm Glock, so department issued ammunition is less costly by buying in bulk. He would allow

existing officers to use their own if they choose to but future new hires would be issued a department gun. He explained that if an officer is involved in a shooting, their personal gun is taken away for anywhere from 6 months to a few years until it is cleared. They could return to work without having a gun and by having a department issued gun, the Officer would not have to purchase another gun. He would have one spare gun for this type of situation. Chief Jones also explained that the new officer is 20 years old and a person needs to be 21 to purchase a gun. The only way for this officer to legally have a gun is by having a department issued gun. Chief Jones said he donated one of his personal guns to the department so this officer has one to carry in the line of duty. Motion by Wallace to approve the purchase of the firearms for the police department as presented. Fruit seconded. Chief Jones answered questions that the County is discussion this as a future option. Ammunition purchase costs about \$1400 now but with using all 9mm size, it would be approximately a \$470 per year of savings to the City once all officers use the same gun. Most academies across the state use the 9mm Glock. Chief Jones still has to write a policy and checkout procedure. He said he needed extra money in the 2020 budget to purchase the two guns and add \$1000 to the budget each year after. Clerk Jones stated that needing extra funding for 2020 would require a budget amendment so that cannot be done at this meeting since it is not listed that way as an agenda item. Wallace amended his motion to add that Chief Jones could come back with where additional funds could come from and if he needed more money later. Chief Jones stated he would like to look at starting a program that most departments are moving toward. He reviewed the cost of uniforms at \$70 each for a shirt and pants as well as the items needing to be put on their belts. New officers have to purchase their own guns for between \$450-900 and their uniform check is \$750 for the first year and \$650 each year after. Chief Jones would like all officers to eventually have the same gun, a 9mm Glock, so department issued ammunition is less costly by buying in bulk. He would allow existing officers to use their own if they choose to but future new hires would be issued a department gun. He explained that if an officer is involved in a shooting, their personal gun is taken away for anywhere from 6 months to a few years until it is cleared. They could return to work without having a gun and by having a department issued gun, the Officer would not have to purchase another gun. He would have one spare gun for this type of situation. Chief Jones also explained that the new officer is 20 years old and a person needs to be 21 to purchase a gun. The only way for this officer to legally have a gun is by having a department issued gun. Chief Jones said he donated one of his personal guns to the department so this officer has one to carry in the line of duty. Tepley seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

PUBLIC SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER WAIVING THE READING, SUSPENDING THE RULES, AND ENACTING AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE CHAPTER 205 PROHIBITING UNDERAGE POSSESSION OF VAPOR PRODUCTS: Motion by Wertz, second by Collins to suspend the rules, waive the reading, and enact Ordinance 2020-7 prohibiting those under the age of 18 to possess vapor products. Motion carried 7-0. Alderperson Cairns was lost telephone connection due to the stormy weather.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL LICENSE RENEWALS: Motion by Wallace, second by Tepley to approve the list of municipal licenses as presented with Terry Peer's license contingent upon receipt of required insurance certificate and non-renewal of Corey Jongquest's application for tree cutting. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWALS: Motion by Wallace to approve the list as presented and read. Culver seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY CLASS “B” (BEER) AND “CLASS B” (WINE) LICENSES FOR THE GREATER RICHLAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT 397 W. SEMINARY STREET ON JULY 17, 2020 FOR A MIDSUMMER’S NIGHT MARKET: Sean Walsh presented the application for a get together outside on the 17th of July with a brick oven pizza, other vendors and music. There will not be any advertising out of the area. Motion by Wallace, second by Tepley to approve the application. Motion carried 8-0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CSM AMENDMENT FOR 190 NORTH ORANGE STREET: Attorney Robb said he had not reviewed the CSM. The item was postponed to the next meeting.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Coppernoll appointed Frances Braithwaite, Ida Ryan, Blossom Wright, and Dawn Kiefer to the Library Board as well as Keith Behling to the Rapid Response Team. Motion by Wallace to approve the appointments. Collins seconded and the motion carried unanimously via voice vote.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS: Motion by Wallace, second by Collins to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried 8-0 on a roll call vote.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Mayor and Alderpersons Reports, Requests, Etc.: Alderperson Collins stated Denise Lins will be retiring July 7th from Symons after 33 years of service.

Department and Utility reports: Rod Perry stated as a citizen, he appreciates the Police Department, Sheriff’s Office and State Patrol employees. He also said he was elected to the Utility Commission in 1980 and plans to resign at the end of his term this September.

Motion by Collins, second by Culver to move into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1)(d) except as provided in Wis States 304.06(1)(eg) and by rule promulgated under Wis. Stats. 304.06(1)(em), considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision or parole, or considering strategy for crime detection or prevention. The purpose of the closed session is to discuss security measures that may be taken to protect city property and employees from potential criminal interference. Also pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee subject to the jurisdiction or authority of the governing body. The council will discuss hiring a full-time employee for the Parks & Grounds Department. Motion carried 8-0.

Closed Session.

Motion by Collins to reconvene into open session. Walters seconded and the motion carried.

Motion by Collins to hire Jodi Mieden to fill the Parks & Grounds Department opening, waive the 6-month probation period and the 90% salary. Culver seconded and the motion carried 8-0.

ADJOURN: Motion by Collins, second by Tepley to adjourn. Motion carried 9:00 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melinda D. Jones, Clerk/Treasurer