

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
January 19, 2021**

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 commencing at 7:30 PM, with Mayor Todd Coppernoll presiding. The meeting was held virtually via WebEx. Alderpersons present over phone: Scotty Wallace, Carson Culver, John Collins, Karin Tepley, Melony Walters, and Ryan Cairns. Susan Fruit and Travis Wertz were absent from the meeting. Mayor Coppernoll ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Collins makes motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 1-5-2021 meeting and approve the same with no additions or corrections, Walters seconds, motion carried unanimously.

Wallace makes motion to approve agenda with no additions or corrections, Tepley seconds, motion carried unanimously.

MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING: Wallace stated he would like the consideration of approval to purchase lighted pedestrian crossing signs to be placed on the next Council and Public Safety agendas. Culver stated he would like a review of the Public Safety Network to be placed on the next Council agenda. Coppernoll noted he would like the consideration of approval to remove an abandoned house located on the southeast corner of Jefferson and Union Streets to be placed on the next Council agenda.

CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS: No concerns brought forward.

Chief of Police Billy Jones shared the Police Department's 2020 Annual Report. Jones reported that the following statistics for 2020: 392 arrests, 3,924 service calls, 970 investigations, and 780 officer reports. Jones also noted that overall was a decrease in call volume and in increase in drug arrests. Jones stated there many firsts that occurred in regards to personnel changes. Jones reported that projects included the establishment of a canine fund, continued work on prescription drug drop boxes, and that the Police Department collected approximately 355 pounds of prescription drugs. Jones noted that partnerships have been formed with several groups such as the Richland County Sobriety Court, Reach-A-Child, and Counteract. Jones praised the men and women staff of the Police Department and the everyone for their support.

Library Director Martha Bauer provided the Library's 2020 Annual Report. Bauer reported that 2020 was a challenging year and COVID greatly impacted their service model. Bauer stated that the library closed to patrons on 3-17-20 and that contactless pickup started on 5-4-20. Bauer reported that new book browsing events were popular and that an assortment of virtual programming had been offered throughout the year. Bauer noted that a reopen plan for 2021 was been approved and computer/internet access would be available again soon. Bauer reported that approximately 33,000 items were circulated in 2020 compared to nearly 66,000 items in 2019. Bauer noted that the impact of COVID on library funding is unknown at this point. Bauer stated that a mural was recently painted in the story time room, she took part in a Community Engagement Training, and that the library has partnered with WILS to assist with the strategic planning process. Bauer noted that a community survey is now available and the results will

help shape future services. Lastly, Bauer noted she is excited to offer an array of activity kits that appeal to everyone of all ages.

Streets Superintendent Terry Nelson provided the Streets Department 2020 Annual Report. Nelson reported that the first part of the year was quiet and maintenance work and hole patching were completed as necessary. Nelson reported that street sweeping and the filling of pot holes began in March. Nelson stated that the completion of Haseltine Street slowed down the ice build up compared to previous years. Nelson stated that the large item pickup for April was cancelled and the rest of the year was normal from there on out. Nelson reported that during 2020 there was one major repair needed, sections of three different streets were reconstructed, and several other street projects were completed. Nelson noted the annual dike inspection went well, the early warning flood devices will be updated, the water collection test went well, and that 2020 was a good year for leaf collections.

UPDATE FROM THE RICHLAND AREA CHILD TASK FORCE: Tepley introduced the members of the Richland Area Child Task Force and noted that child care was deeply impacted by COVID. Group member Becky Dahl noted that the task force's goal is to support, maintain, and recruit new child care providers. Dahl stated that child care is important to our community as our workforce is dependent on it and that regulated child care providers have decreased from 39 providers in 2012 to 8 providers in 2020. Group member Chelsea Wunnicke reviewed the survey that assisted parents in documenting their child care needs. The survey was distributed to 100 families and represented the needs of approximately 200 children. Wunnicke noted that 68% of families experienced difficulty in finding childcare, childcare affected the ability for those to work, that more options are needed, and that childcare needs to become a priority. Group Member Liz Perkins shared the success of their Box of Thanks packages distributed to nominated childcare providers as a way to show appreciation for the service to the community. Perkins noted that the Boxes of Thanks distributed were a great way to support and maintain our current childcare providers. Dahl noted many providers were emotional when receiving the packages.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF A NEW VEHICLE FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief of Police Billy Jones reviewed the three bids received and noted that two of the bidders provided a pickup truck as an alternate item on the submitted bid. Jones noted that the pickup trucks bid cost less than the SUVs, the officers of the department are open to utilizing one, and that pickup trucks often hold their value longer. Culver questioned the mobility of trucks in pursuits. Jones replied by stating there is a difference in handling, only supervisors of the department would be driving the truck, and the pursuit policies have changed. Culver inquired as to whether a bid was put out for one or two vehicles and if there was a possibility for the bidder who did not submit a pickup truck as a part of the bid to reoffer their bid. Jones stated the bid was placed for two vehicles and that he was unaware alternate items would be included on bid as the bids are sealed upon receipt. Cairns inquired about Jones' experience with car dealer in the past and Jones replied by stating the majority of the squad cars have come from the local Fillback Ford. Jones also noted that although Fillback was not the lowest bid the notion that the vehicle could be serviced locally in Richland Center makes up for the difference in cost compared to the lower bid. Culver asked if Ewald was given the chance to reoffer and Jones replied by stating he did not reach back out to them. City

Attorney McGough initially stated not allowing Ewald to rebid may present a problem and the discussion continued. Cairns asked if the City reserved the right to reject or refuse a bid and McGough replied by stating the City can. Cairns asked McGough the City needed to submit a request for bids and if the distance from between the City and bid supplier impacted acceptance of the bid. McGough answered by stating that the consideration of future service needs could be a factor for choice and a valid service clause as a reason. Coppernoll asked McGough if the City should resubmit the request for bids. Cairns asked how to proceed since bid amounts have already been made public. McGough answered by stating that he doesn't feel the City would be facing any liability in accepting a bid at tonight's meeting, he could stand being the decision of Jones and the Finance Committee, and he does not see any major consequence whether a bid was accepted or not. Jones noted that the extra information was given voluntarily and that the bid request was not altered. McGough stated he felt it was evident that the proper due diligence had been completed. Cairns makes motion to accept bid from Fillback Ford in the amount of \$28,764.50, Tepley seconds, motion carried 6 – 0.

CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE SALT FROM THE RICHLAND COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT: Nelson stated the purchase of salt is a standard annual expense. Nelson noted there was some salt leftover from last year and the salt is purchased from the County at the state contract rate plus and an additional administrative fee. Nelson stated he would like to purchase 330 tons at a cost of \$100/ton plus an administrative fee of approximately \$1,500. Cairns makes motion to approve purchase of salt from the Richland County Highway Department up to an amount not to exceed \$34,500.00, Wallace seconds, motion carried 6 – 0.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF LOCATION FOR NEW STORAGE SHED TO REPLACE CURRENT STORAGE SHED ON ORANGE STREET: Coppernoll noted that the yellow storage shed on Orange Street is full and is in disrepair. Parks & Grounds Superintendent Dave Fry stated that several spots were reviewed as potential locations for the replacement shed to be built on. Fry noted the best of these options was located in the Industrial Park on W Robb Drive next to the Street Department building that is already there. Fry noted the plot of land is flat and if placed here the shed would be with other buildings that belong to the City. Fry noted he has already spoken with Building Inspector Tracy Johnson regarding the placement of the building in relation to those around it. Economic Development Director Jasen Glasbrenner noted that it would be difficult to find a place with a better fit than the proposed location on W Robb Drive. Culver makes motion to approve the location of the new storage to be in the Industrial Park on W Robb Drive next to the already existing Street Department building, Collins seconds, motion carried 6 - 0.

PARKS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO FACILITY USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER: Parks and Recreation Director Shane Stibbe noted that school district's attorney suggested additional revisions to the facility use agreement after it had already been approved by Council. Stibbe noted that once approved again by Council, it would need to be approved again by the school district. Attorney McGough noted he felt the additional language provided further clarification on the agreement. Collins makes motion to approve the changes to the facility use

agreement between the Richland School District and the City of Richland Center, Tepley seconds, motion carried 6 – 0.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS: No appointments made.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS: Bills reviewed as presented. Wallace makes motion to approve bills as presented, Walters seconds, motion carried 6 – 0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: No one present for public comments.

COUNCIL REPORTS: Coppernoll noted that the aquatic center received the Wisconsin Parks and Recreation Award for outstanding facility design/renovation. Coppernoll also noted that those that are 65+ will be eligible for the next round of COVID-19 vaccinations and instructed Clerk Kalish to post this notification on the City's website.

DEPARTMENT AND UTILITY REPORTS: None.

ADJOURN: Tepley makes motion to adjourn at 9:24 PM, Collins seconds, motion carried unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Derek S. Kalish, Clerk/Treasurer