

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
February 2, 2021**

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 commencing at 7:30 PM, with Mayor Todd Coppernoll presiding. The meeting was held virtually via WebEx. Alderpersons present over phone: Scotty Wallace, Susan Fruit, Carson Culver, John Collins, Karin Tepley, Travis Wertz, Melony Walters, and Ryan Cairns. Mayor Coppernoll ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Tepley makes motion to waive the reading of the minutes of the 1-19-2021 meeting and approve the same with no additions or corrections, Walters seconds, motion carried unanimously.

Culver makes motion to approve agenda with no additions or corrections, Collins seconds, motion carried unanimously.

**MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS CONCERNS TO BE DISCUSSED AT A FUTURE MEETING:** None.

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

Electric Superintendent Scott Gald provided the 2020 Annual Electric Report. Gald reported the department experienced no issues with COVID, no accidents, and won the gold award from MEUW and APPA for safety. Gald noted that personnel training and the apprenticeships are going very well. Gald stated that \$22,990 was reimbursed from WPPI for Community Funds Program and that the funds were distributed to various organizations within the community. Gald reported that an electric vehicle charging station was also reimbursed through WPPI. Gald noted that the department is in month 15 of not being able to turn services off. Gald noted there are many summer maintenance projects scheduled, rate adjustments occurred in October of 2020, the number of locates was comparable to last year, outages were down, and that the Dialysis Center and Techcom properties were great additions for City Utilities.

Water Superintendent Steve Krueger provided the 2020 Annual Water Report. Krueger stated that the department was impacted by COVID, fewer digging projects occurred, one positive case of COVID was experienced in the department, and that staff worked less closely with one another. Krueger noted that the well house interior was repainted, there were new water meter adjustments, curb stops were adjusted, and the department began using the GCS equipment for pinpoints. Krueger also reported that larger projects such as those on South Central/Kinder Streets and Central/Church were completed. Krueger stated that there were 2,092 in service water meters, the department eliminated seven lead service laterals, exercised several water main valves, 405 hydrants were serviced twice throughout the year, there is 204,400 feet of water main in the ground, and 1,600 feet of new water main was installed on Central Avenue. Krueger then reported there were five water main breaks in 2020 and only two this year. Krueger noted an average of 963,500 gallons of water were pumped through the city a day and included a mixture of residential, commercial, and operational uses. Krueger stated that one sanitary issue was noted in the sanitary survey and that it was fixed within a week. Krueger reported that the new reservoir on the southeast end of town was completed. Lastly, Krueger noted that the increased communication between departments is helpful and that the engineering portion of projects

should be considered much sooner than it is now. Collins echoed Krueger’s comment and noted that this is becoming the norm in other communities.

Wastewater Superintendent Todd Fischer provided the 2020 Annual Wastewater Report. Fischer stated the importance of looking ahead to future projects and giving early consideration to the engineering needs of projects is extremely helpful. Fischer reported that the Central Avenue project went smooth and believes this was due to the fact that only one engineer and one contractor were utilized throughout the entire process. Fischer noted that given the COVID virus survives in sewage, testing for increased virus tracking has occurred and added an additional layer of sanitation and safety as a result. Fischer reported that the F1 Phosphorus levels were a problem in 2020 as the levels exceeded regulated limit and that the adjustments take time as they move through the system. Lastly, Fischer noted that compliance was regained in January of 2021.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** The report for January 31, 2021 with the month end balance is as follows:

General Fund	685,596.07
State Pool - Account # 1	3,870,159.85
Money Market Tax Acct.	2,557,066.59
State Pool – Account #2 Long Term Care	576,701.25
State Pool #3 TIF-Panorama Estates	210.27
State Pool - Account # 6 - TIF - 2-5	108,408.19
Revolving Loan Fund- Savings	555,616.49
Revolving Loan Fund – Checking	1,164.57

**Restricted Funds:**

CDBG - Housing RLF	28,651.07
Landfill Care – CD	293,561.14
Landfill Care - CD	298,130.77
Library Checking	167,477.87
Canine Fund	6,970.00
Room Tax	83,660.25
State Pool #5 Renew RC Loan-Affordable Housing	874,949.78
Renew RC Loan Program Checking-Affordable Housing	13,143.42

**Committed Funds:**

State Pool - Account # 4 - Project Carryover	1,965,924.95
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**Assigned Funds:**

Cemetery	4,798.88
Parks, Rec & CC Checking	9,696.28
Aquatic Center	265,665.59

**CITY UTILITIES:**

Electric Utility Fund	37,319.84
Electric Unrestricted Funds	131,759.39
Water Utility Fund	115,799.20
Water Utility Unrestricted Funds	215,382.55

Sewer Utility Fund	47,935.04
Sewer Utility Unrestricted Funds	60,199.20

**RESTRICTED FOR PROJECTS:**

Electric	876,622.35
Water	628,961.06
WTP	4,174,818.32

Cairns makes motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Fruit seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-1 APPROVING A TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT (TID) AFFORDABLE HOUSING EXTENSION FOR THE CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER TID #4.** Coppernoll read Resolution 2021 – 1 aloud. Glasbrenner noted that the year extension of the TID #4 would generate a projected revenue of \$99,659 that must be utilized for affordable housing. Collins makes motion to approve Resolution 2021 – 1, Tepley seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2021-2 TO AMEND RESOLUTIONS 2017-10 AND 2017-11 WHICH WERE ADOPTED ON MAY 2, 2017 AND THAT PERTAIN TO TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT (TID) AFFORDABLE HOUSING EXTENSION PROGRAMS.** Coppernoll read Resolution 2021 – 2 aloud. Glasbrenner noted this would be a simple amendment to the language passed in the previous resolutions that narrowly defined how the funds from the extension could be used. The amendments to the resolution broaden the scope of use of the funds. Glasbrenner noted that City Attorney McGough had consulted with the TIF department at the DOR to ensure the process the amend the resolution was correct. Collins makes motion to approve Resolution 2021 – 2, Tepley seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

Mayor Coppernoll leaves the meeting. City Council President Collins conducts meeting in his absence.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE STORYWALK EXHIBIT PANELS:** Collins provided brief explanation of exhibit panels. Cairns makes motion to approve the purchase of the StoryWalk Exhibit Panels up to a total cost not to exceed \$8,000, Culver seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID TO PURCHASE TWO LAWN TRACTORS:** Cairns provided a summary of bids received. Fry noted his favorable experience in working with Simpson’s. Cairns makes motion to accept the bid from Simpson’s Tractor for two New Holland Workmaster 25S tractors in the amount of \$24,688.00, Fruit seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID TO PURCHASE ONE ALL-TERRAIN UTILITY VEHICLE:** Cairns provided a summary of bids received. Cairns makes motion to accept the bid from Vetesnik’s Powersports for one Polaris Ranger UTV in the amount of \$9,080.48, Tepley seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

Mayor Coppernoll rejoins and resumes conducting the meeting.

**PUBLIC SAFETY RECCOMEDNATIONS**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PURCHASE LIGHTED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNS TO BE PLACED AT THE INTERSECTION OF SEMINARY STREET AND THE BIKE PATH.** Wallace stated that the Police Department has assembled a list of intersections that would benefit most from having lighted pedestrian crossing signs at them. Coppernoll noted that the intersection of Seminary Street and the bike path is located at the middle of a block and that the next location to consider future placement of lighted pedestrian crossing signs is the intersection of Main and Sixth Streets. Culver noted that the consideration to purchase a set of lighted pedestrian signs for this intersection should be discussed by the Finance Committee at their next meeting. Wallace makes motion to approve the purchase of lighted pedestrian crossing signs to be placed at the intersection of Seminary Street and the bike path, Walters seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY NETWORK REPORT.** Culver presented and reviewed the Public Safety Network Report. Culver reviewed the identified needs of people and the various organizations that could provide the needed services. Culver noted that he wanted the report presented to Council and to be used as a safety net for people whom as displaced and/or have certain needs. Culver also noted he would like the report to be included in the minutes as a way of raising awareness to the various needs of people. Culver makes motion for Council to receive the Public Safety Network Report and have it entered into the official minutes of the meeting, Wallace seconds, motion carried 8 – 0. *See end of minutes for the report.*

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

**PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS:** Bills reviewed as presented. Cairns makes motion to approve bills as presented, Collins seconds, motion carried 8 – 0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** No one present for public comments.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:** Wallace noted he would like the consideration to approve another set of lighted pedestrian crossing signs to be placed on the next Finance Committee agenda. Collins reminded everyone to keep sidewalks clear and of the forecasted inclement weather. Tepley noted that she received complaints about trash cans being left in the street. Coppernoll stated that it is against city ordinance to push cleared snow back into the City streets. Jones noted some downtown locations are an exemption to the ordinance. Wertz noted he wanted to clarify those exemptions did exist.

**DEPARTMENT AND UTILITY REPORTS:** None.

**ADJOURN:** Collins makes motion to adjourn at 8:44 PM, Tepley seconds, motion carried unanimously.

## Public Safety Network Report

February 2021

### General Categories for Assessing Municipal Health & Safety of Displaced Persons and People in Need

Indigence: Some people are of a wandering nature traveling about. These are generally cared for by the Sheriff's Dept and such agencies as Salvation Army.

Displaced Persons: Some people are suddenly displaced from their normal living yet are resident to Richland County. There are varied helps for them by Social Services and by charitable agencies: Social Services also helps with re-employment searches.

Examples:

**Housing and General helpful care:**

Sundry items such as deodorant, socks, tooth paste, etc – Bridge of Hope

Lydia House Ministries:

Individual Male housing - Lydia's House – various reasons, temporary housing

Suddenly Displaced Families – Lydia's House – may be due to fire, loss of lease etc, temporary housing and help

Children's Needs – A Child's Place – part of Lydia ministry program, temporary assistance

An educational help program – operated separately by volunteers

**For Battered spouses:** Two facilities privately operated.

**Immediate Welfare concerns** including health and safety checks: Sheriff and Police Departments.

**Food needs:** Second Harvest and Food Pantry.

**Clothing needs:** Thrift Shop and Good Will.

**Utility Assistance:** Richland Utilities.

**Rental Assistance:** Richland Co programs – Social Services.

**Personal Emotional Issues:** Referrals to counseling services re Social Services?

**EMT & Fire Protection:** per State, County and Municipality including auto and other accidents.

**Community Diversity:** This concern is likely to become a sharpened focus in the next several years; and may result in political sway. Setting the political implications aside, the culture and thereby the community will likely experience a developing sensitivity about diversity. As a local government, consideration of the issue is a part of the safety net for our residents.

It may be defused from political partisanship in that the underlying issue for local communities arises from mobility. The mobility of people in our communities is often hidden but very real and probably increasing. And, with such mobility develops more diversity of not only opinions but even cultural shifting such as religious norms, holiday celebrations, income status, family issues, etc. By being conscientious of and attentive to the various differences within our resident groups the City may assess and sustain a regard for Propriety; a reasonable sense of Proportionality; and a humane sense of Boundary that protects vulnerability.

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