

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
May 4, 2021**

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met in person and Webex on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 commencing at 7:30 PM with Mayor Todd Coppernoll presiding. Alderpersons Melony Walters, Scotty Wallace, Chelsey Walters, John Collins, Karin Tepley, and Carson Culver were present. Alderpersons Susan Fruit and Ryan Cairns were absent. Mayor Coppernoll ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Motion by Collins, second by Chelsey Walters to approve the minutes of the April 27<sup>th</sup> council meeting and the April 27<sup>th</sup> closed session council meeting with the clarification of Alderperson Melony Walters and Chelsey Walters. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Tepley, second by M. Walters to approve the agenda with item 8b removed, motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER ALDERPERSON TRAVIS WERTZ:** Mayor Coppernoll presented former Alderperson Wertz with a resolution noting his service and accomplishments during his tenure representing District 2 on the city council. Motion by Collins, second by Tepley to approve Resolution 2021-6 honoring Alderperson Travis Wertz. Motion carried 6-0. Mayor Coppernoll also read and presented resolutions honoring former Mayor Michael Kaufman (Resolution 2020-2) and former Alderperson Diane Cox (Resolution 2020-3).

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

**CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCERNS:** Police Chief Billy Jones noted that with the Richland School District likely moving to a 3-building model next school year, there will need to be discussion regarding the school crossing guard that is currently stationed at Jefferson School.

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

General Fund	551,837.60
State Pool - Account # 1	3,950,126.17
Money Market Tax Acct.	17,752.36
State Pool – Account #2 Long Term Care	576,807.98
State Pool #3 TIF-Panorama Estates	96,931.37
State Pool - Account # 6 - TIF - 2-5	212,294.25
Revolving Loan Fund- Savings	557,328.39
Revolving Loan Fund – Checking	1,164.57

**Restricted Funds:**

CDBG - Housing RLF	39,339.83
Landfill Care – CD	293,561.14
Landfill Care - CD	298,130.77

Library Checking	449,616.68
Canine Fund	14,893.00
Room Tax	74,938.84
State Pool #5 Renew RC Loan-Affordable Housing	830,929.00
Renew RC Loan Program Checking-Affordable Housing	4,439.03

**Committed Funds:**

State Pool - Account # 4 - Project Carryover	1,923,776.34
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**Assigned Funds:**

Cemetery	4,802.19
Parks, Rec & CC Checking	9,748.59
Aquatic Center	265,691.62

**CITY UTILITIES:**

Electric Utility Fund	205,546.07
Electric Unrestricted Funds	81,775.72
Water Utility Fund	97,085.20
Water Utility Unrestricted Funds	60,504.69
Sewer Utility Fund	86,979.90
Sewer Utility Unrestricted Funds	60,323.98

**RESTRICTED FOR PROJECTS:**

Electric	543,351.41
Water	883,265.91
WTP	4,240,118.19

Wallace makes motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, M. Walters seconds, motion carried 6 – 0.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF JUVENILE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM:** Attorney McGough stated that judges sometimes prefer the option to utilize community service rather than fines for juveniles. An established program in the community would allow community service to be an option. Officer Joe Nusse would serve as the point person for the program and would screen the juveniles who are referred. McGough stated that the juveniles who receive the community service would not be considered high-risk. They would also have to agree to go into the program and sign a waiver that protects the city. Motion by Wallace to approve the Juvenile Community Service Program, Culver seconds. Motion carries 6-0.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF BID FOR SHELTER IN DOG PARK:** The city received one bid for the 20’ x 20’ flow through shelter despite bids being solicited from other contractors. The shelter is a budgeted item. Motion by Tepley to approve the bid from Bontrager Seamless Gutters in the amount of \$8,600 to construct the 20’ x 20’ shelter in the dog park, M. Walters seconds. Motion carries 6-0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL TO INCREASE HOURLY WAGE OF POOL AND PARKS SEASONAL EMPLOYEES:** Shane Stibbe, Parks & Recreation Superintendent, conducted a recent survey of employers of young employees and reported that those employers are paying more, thus making it increasingly difficult to draw workers into the summer park programs. Stibbe requested the first-year hourly rate for pool employees be increased from \$8.25 to \$9.75, and the first-year hourly rate for recreation and office/concessions employees be increased from \$7.25 to \$8.50. The total increase would cost approximately \$14,000. The funds would primarily come from savings realized by the vacant Park & Community Center Administrative Assistant position. The wage increase was previously approved by both the Personnel & Insurance and Finance committees. Motion by Tepley to increase the hourly wage of pool and parks seasonal employees from \$8.25 to \$9.75 for first year pool employees, and the first-year hourly rate for recreation and office/concessions employees be increased from \$7.25 to \$8.50, second by Collins. Motion carries 6-0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL FOR POLICE CHIEF TO KEEP POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AT PERSONAL RESIDENCE FOR USE WHEN NEEDED:** Allowing the chief to take a department vehicle at home would allow a quicker response time to incidents. Chief Billy Jones said the vehicle would be the oldest squad in the department's fleet and the only cost would be maintenance and the added insurance. The proposal was approved previously by the Finance committee. Collins motioned to allow the Police Chief to keep a police department vehicle at their personal residence for use when needed, second by Tepley. Motion carries 6-0.

**CONSIDER APPROVAL TO PLACE "SMOKEY BEAR FIRE DANGER" SIGN AT OLD SEWER PLANT LOCATION:** The sign has been purchased by the fire district with a 50/50 grant through the DNR. The 8'x8' sign is very similar to signs in other communities that indicate the level of wildfire danger at the present time. Steve Krueger of the Richland Center Fire Department stated that they are currently waiting on the state's approval to place the sign at that location along Highway 14, but approval was needed from council because it would be located on city property. Motion by Chelsey Walters to approve placing the "Smokey Bear Fire Danger" sign at the former wastewater treatment plant site upon approval by the state, second by Tepley. Motion carries 6-0.

**PUBLIC NUISANCE ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS AND CITATIONS ISSUED:** Chief Jones reported that six locations were initially sent notices on April 22<sup>nd</sup> that they were in violation of the ordinance with a compliance date of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. He has heard from three of the six regarding the notification. He will follow up with each of the six property owners to see if progress is being made. Two additional locations will get notices this week.

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

**PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS:** Tepley makes motion to pay bills as presented, Wallace seconds, motion carried 6-0.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Sharon Schmitz shared information regarding the Partners for Prevention "Not in My House" campaign. She said yard signs are available for anyone who is interested in displaying them.

**MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS – COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS**

**AND COMMENTS:** Collins reported that the Plan Commission will be meeting to consider bids for the properties on Wedgewood. Tepley reported that the Brewer Library is opening up more, with select days of the week fully open and others still open by appointment only. Chelsey Walters reported that the local cycling group is gathering again and those interested can contact her for more information. Mayor Coppernoll reported that the Story Walk is in place and there has already been a lot of interest and good comments.

**DEPARTMENTS AND UTILITY REPORTS:** Bill McCorkle reported that the Schmitz & Jarvis Street project is beginning on Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Shane Stibbe reported that the community center will reopen on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Stibbe also reported that the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association has awarded Richland Center’s aquatic center with an award for outstanding aquatic center design and the facility will be featured in the “Waterworld” water park magazine.

**ADJOURN:** Wallace makes motion to adjourn, Collins seconds. Motion carries unanimously at 8:39 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Aaron Joyce, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer