

## **City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Workshop Minutes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at 5:00 p.m. Council members Scott Seymour, Debbie Buoy and Rick Martinson were present. Councilman Ted Hill was absent.

City Administrator / City Attorney, Dan Madsen; Trevor Brummer; Public Works Director, and City Engineer Steve Hegland, of Wenck and Associates were also in attendance.

Members of the Council and Staff discussed and reviewed the policies of other area jurisdictions as they related to utility bill assessment and disconnect notices. Staff and Council reviewed the benefits and detriments of disconnecting utility service, assessing bills, and how the various policies have both positive and negative effects on their respective communities. Additionally, members of the Staff and Council discussed how each policy and practice had different impacts on different groups within each city. No formal action was taken as this matter was set on for discussion purposes only.

## **City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Meeting Minutes 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at 6:00 p.m. Council members Scott Seymour, Debbie Buoy and Rick Martinson were present. Councilman Ted Hill was absent.

City Administrator / City Attorney, Dan Madsen; Trevor Brummer; Public Works Director, City Engineer Steve Hegland, of Wenck and Associates; Wright County Commissioner Potter, and Adam Shepard of the Rockford Mason Star Lodge 62 and Sue Van Cleaf of the Crow River News were also in attendance.

### **Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items:**

A **MOTION** was made by Buoy, and seconded by Seymour, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3A through 3D and set the Agenda for the Council Meeting as listed:

3A. Approve Minutes from the February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Workshop and Special Council Meeting

3B. Approve Payment of Claims, check #1170E through #1173E, 31010 through 31054, and 502400E through 502406, totaling \$62,056.51

- 3C. Approve February Building Permits
- 3D. 2019 Pay Equity Report

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Martinson, and Seymour.

**New Business: Rockford Masonic Star Lodge 62 Update**

Adam Shepard appeared on behalf of the Masonic Star Lodge 62 and provided updates on several initiatives happening in the next few months. The Star Lodge 62 will be having a fundraiser for RiverWorks again this year. Last year's effort raised approximate \$18,000 that was matched by Star Lodge 62 for a total donation to RiverWorks of approximately \$36,000.

Shepard then shared with the Council that Star Lodge 62 was having their annual Hog Roast on April 4<sup>th</sup>, and having an open house on March 19<sup>th</sup> at their lodge building. These events provide a great opportunity to learn more about the Masonic Lodge, celebrate community engagement and achievement, and help support local nonprofits that rely on the Star Lodge for operational funding and contributions.

No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for informational purposes only.

**New Business: Utility Bill Assessment, Service Disconnection**

Administrator / Attorney Madsen shared the policies of other area jurisdictions as they related to utility bill assessment and disconnect notices. Staff and Council reviewed the benefits and detriments of disconnecting utility service, assessing bills, and how the various policies have both positive and negative effects on their respective communities. Additionally, members of the Staff and Council discussed how each policy and practice had different impacts on different groups within each city.

Specifically, the Council and Staff discussed the impact of disconnection on staff time and workload, versus the benefits that nearly all people with disconnected service pay their water bill within hours of disconnection. Waiting on disconnections would save staff hours and time, but could potentially result in higher bills that may be more difficult to pay. Assessing, and not disconnecting utility service, could result in tens of thousands of dollars being placed on the property tax rolls, which could result in higher foreclosures or vacant properties. The Council and Staff discussed other potential policy positions and what benefit and detriment they may have on the Rockford community.

No formal action was taken, as this matter was set on for informative purposes only.

**Wright County Updates:**

Deputy Voss of the Wright County Sheriff's Office appeared for a brief update, but nothing was new to report.

Commissioner Potter appeared and updated the Council on the Courthouse and Emergency Management Building Construction, Highway 55 project and other County initiatives.

**Staff Reports:**

Members of the Staff and Council provided updates including development updates, river levels and restating the events of the Masonic Star Lodge 62.

**Open Forum**

Mayor Hafften called for open forum, no one from the public spoke.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION** was then made by Buoy, and seconded by Seymour, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Martinson, Buoy, and Seymour.  
and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Typed this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020

Dan Madsen  
City Administrator, Special Counsel  
City of Rockford Minnesota

All meetings of the Rockford City Council are video recorded and available for viewing on-line at [www.cityofrockford.org](http://www.cityofrockford.org). Meeting minutes are intended to be a general synopsis of the meetings of the City Council, and more detail regarding discussions and policy considerations is provided by watching the recording of the meeting.

Approved:

---

Renee Hafften  
Mayor

Attest:

---

Dan Madsen  
City Administrator, Special Counsel