**City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Workshop Minutes**

**5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 14th, 2024**

Mayor Renee Hafften called the City Council Workshop to Order at 5 p.m. Council members Mike Werman, Wyatt Gutzke, Heather Michalik and Melissa Vogel were in attendance. Council members absent: None.

City Administrator Anna Carlson, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk Debbie Buoy, Finance Director Viktoriya Montik, Permits/Billing/Finance Clerk Amanda Daniels, Engineer Steve Heglund and Public Works Director Trevor Brummer were also in attendance.

Also in attendance was Jay Kolls and Nate Kruse who left at 5:13 pm.

Members of Council and staff discussed utility rates, Rockford data practices policy, amended Hennepin County Law Enforcement Service Agreement and various City updates.

No formal action was taken, as these matters were set on for discussion and introduction purposes only.

**City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Meeting Minutes**

**6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 14th, 2024**

Mayor Renee Hafften called the City Council Meeting to Order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Council members Mike Werman, Wyatt Gutzke, Heather Michalik and Melissa Vogel were in attendance. Council members absent: None.

City Administrator Anna Carlson, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk Debbie Buoy, Finance Director Viktoriya Montik, Permits/Billing/Finance Clerk Amanda Daniels, Engineer Steve Heglund and Public Works Director Trevor Brummer were also in attendance.

Also in attendance was Fire Chief David Angell, Jenny Kneeland, Kevin Koehler, Nikki Nute, and Manager of Veolia John Seifert. Nadine Schoen arrived at 6:07 pm. Daniel Sarkinen arrived at 6:12 pm. Nick Qualle arrived at approximately 6:36 pm.

A motion was made by Werman and seconded by Gutzke to approve the Consent Agenda Items 2A through 2D as listed and set on the Agenda for the Council Meeting:

1. Approve Minutes of April 23, 2024, City Council Workshop & Regular Meeting
2. Approve Payment of Claims
3. Rockford Data Practices Policy
4. Approve Massage Therapist & Massage Enterprise Licenses for Rockford Chiropractic

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Werman, Gutke, Michalik and Vogel.

**Wright County Sheriff’s Update**

Deputy Larson was not present at this meeting to provide an update.

**Present Kevin Koehler with the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2023**

Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk Debbie Buoy stated that the City of Rockford annually recognizes a Volunteer of the Year. This year the City Council has chosen to present Kevin Koehler with the honor of Volunteer of the Year for 2023. Mayor Hafften read from a plaque and presented the plaque to Mr. Koehler. Photos were taken to post to the website.

**Approval of Utility Rates**

City Administrator Anna Carlson presented a history. She stated that the City has not raised utility rates since 2014. Since then, the City has been able to effectively support the repairs and maintenance of the City’s utility infrastructure as well as successfully provide utility services to residents. Costs have significantly increased over the past ten years, and we are planning for major improvements to both the water and sewer systems over the next five years.

Information was presented regarding the rates. This included comparisons to other cities rates, a graph showing that recycling expenses are far higher than the current revenue and information that the City will see a loss in the water fund and a minimal profit in the sewer fund by the end of 2024 at the current rate schedule.

City Administrator Anna Carlson stated to Council that the proposal is to increase recycling by $3.00 per month, base rates to water and sewer to increase by $5.05 per month, water usage rate to increase by $.51 per 1,000 gallons and sewer usage rate to increase by $.50 per $1,000 gallons. This would be approximately a $16.00 increase to the monthly bill for a home using 3,000 gallons of water per month if Council approves the proposal.

Motion was made by Michalik and seconded by Vogel to approve the increases as presented.

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Werman, Gutke, Michalik and Vogel.

**Staff Reports**

Members of Staff and Council then discussed various City updates including what they are currently working on. Fire Chief David Angell stated that the Fire Fighter of the Month is Nathan Alnes. Manager of Veolia John Seifert stated that all wells in the city came back as non-detect for PFAS.

**Open Forum**

Jenny Kneeland requested that the stop sign be put back at the SW corner of Walnut and High St. Daniel Sarkinen stated that it is imperative to slow down traffic due to the high pedestrian traffic in that area. Commissioner Schoen stated she was glad to be at our Council meeting. Nick Qualle stated that residents are frustrated with your decisions, and he is wondering if you guys are going to discuss anything.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Werman and seconded by Gutzke to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:44 pm.

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Werman, Gutke, Michalik and Vogel.

Typed this 22nd day of May 2024.

Debbie Buoy

Clerk/Assistant City Administrator

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:

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Renee Hafften

Mayor

Attest:

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Debbie Buoy

Clerk/Assistant City Administrator