

City of Rockford, Minnesota Workshop Meeting Minutes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The City Council Workshop was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at approximately 5 p.m. Council members Mike Werman, Denise Willenbring, Wyatt Gutzke and Heather Michalik were in attendance.

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen and City Engineer, Steve Hegland; and Jamie Thelen were also in attendance.

Members of the Staff and Council reviewed the proposal of Sand Companies to construct a 48 unit workforce housing apartment on the old Cates property.

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

City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Meeting Minutes 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The City Council Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at approximately 6 p.m. Council members Mike Werman, Denise Willenbring, Wyatt Gutzke and Heather Michalik were in attendance.

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen; City Engineer, Steve Hegland; and Wright County Deputy Cassidy were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Willenbring, and seconded by Gutzke, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 3A through 3F as listed and set the Agenda for the Council Meeting:

- 3A. Approve Minutes from the February 28, 2023 Workshop and Regular Council Meeting
- 3B. Approve Payment of Claims, Check Number: 34927 through 34973 totaling \$115,938.53
- 3C. Approve Public Works Seasonal Hires
- 3D. Approve Resolution, FD Pancake Breakfast Raffle
- 3E. Approve Resolution, State Prosecution Joint Powers Agreement and Court Data Subscriber Agreement
- 3F. Approve Resolution, Track and Field Booster Raffle

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Werman, Willenbring, Gutzke and Michalik.

Wright County Update: Deputy Cassidy

Deputy Cassidy of the Wright County Sheriff's Department provided a general update that there were 129 calls for service, with 39 initial case reports being filed. Deputy Cassidy reminded members of the community to lock their doors, but stated otherwise everything else was going well and there were no real other issues to report.

New Business: Lawful Gambling Ordinance Discussion

Administrator / Attorney Madsen reviewed the gambling ordinances for the City of Rockford and nine other area cities; comparing the amount of contribution retained by the city and the amount required to be provided to the service area of those cities. Members of the Staff and Council discussed what level of contribution and fund retention would be best for Rockford, which was the lowest of the nine other area cities. It was generally agreed by the Council that the general average and median amount of 50% of gambling proceeds to be expended in the trade area, with the City of Rockford continuing to retain 10% of net proceeds was desired. Madsen stated he would draft an Ordinance Amendment and present the same for review and discussion with the Council at an upcoming meeting.

No formal action was taken, as this matter was for educational and training purposes only,

New Business: Planning Company Code Enforcement Service

Administrator / Attorney Madsen explained that City Staff were struggling with some Public Nuisance Ordinance enforcement matters when property owners refused to comply, especially when the complaint does not have substantiating evidence where Staff can independently verify the complaint. Members of the Staff and Council discussed the benefit and saved staff time in being able to provide cases to Dan Licht and the Planning Company; also noted as the City's official City Planner, wherein his office can move difficult cases forward. It was discussed that the cost of the service would be \$60 per hour. After additional discussion and review, Motion was made by Willenbring, and seconded by Werman, to hire the Planning Company to move forward with Public Nuisance Enforcement in Rockford.

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Werman, Willenbring, Gutzke and Michalik.

New Business: Riverside Park Fishing Pier Grant

Administrator / Attorney Madsen and Engineer Hegland explained the grant opportunity for fishing piers, that the City could match up to \$90,000 which would be provided by the DNR with a plan to construct two fishing piers in Riverside Park. Engineer Hegland reviewed standard river depths, and members of the Staff and Council discussed general park layout, the design of the piers and identified potential challenges with usability as contrasted with the cost. Members of the Staff and Council also discussed the potential benefits of waiting on the grant and instead re-envisioning this area of the park with help from the Park Board in an effort to secure a DNR Grant with matching funds that could be budgeted by the City. Members of Staff and the Council discussed a broader project that would maximize the complete Riverside Park canoe launch available space. It was encouraged that members of the Council and Park Board look at a variety of options and opportunities for the space that could include fishing piers, river contact points, picnic and recreation areas and any other ideas that members of the Council or Park Board may find as good options for this area in Riverside Park. It was further discussed that the Park Board would review this matter and that Staff, the Council and the Park Board would circle back on this matter in the future.

No formal action was taken, as this matter was for educational and training purposes only,

Members of the Staff and Council then discussed other general updates related to the City.

Motion was then made by Werman, and seconded by Gutzke to adjourn the meeting.

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Werman, Willenbring, Gutzke and Michalik, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Typed this 15th day of March, 2023.

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. 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