

**City of Rockford, Minnesota Council Workshop Minutes
5:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 21, 2022**

The City Council Workshop was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at approximately 5 p.m. Council members Denise Willenbring and Mike Werman were in attendance. Council Members Debbie Buoy and Scott Seymour were absent

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen; Council Member Elect, Wyatt Gutzke; Council Member Elect, Heather Michalik; Doug White, Marsha White, Trent Shipley, Jessica Nielsen, Pete Nielsen, Kevin Haugen, Kevin Voss, Heidi Voss, Scott Holm, and Angela Bischke were also in attendance.

A motion was made by Willenbring, and seconded by Werman, to approve the Consent Agenda Items 2A and 2B and set the Agenda for the Council Meeting:

- 3A. Approve Public Works Seasonal Hire
- 3B. Approve Clays Liquor License Application

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

New Business: Resolution, Clays Gambling Application, DAYHA Premises Permit

Administrator / Attorney Madsen explained that this matter had been on the December 13, 2022 Council Agenda for discussion. Based upon questions related to contributions made pursuant to City Ordinance, record keeping and a better understanding of contributions made in the Rockford Trade Area, the matter was continued for discussion. This Special Council Meeting was requested by the Delano Area Youth Hockey Association in an effort to address those questions and concerns, but also in an attempt to expedite a gambling license approval to the benefit of Clays so they can receive gambling proceeds to support their business.

Members of the Council, DAYHA and Rockford Lions listed and made statements regarding lawful gambling, Rockford Ordinances and the benefits lawful gambling provide to both nonprofit entities and the business in which they are housed. Discussion also included the benefit lawful gambling should and does provide to the community. Concern was raised over reporting and concerning what safeguards are in place to require and enforce that amounts required by Ordinance are paid into the City and Rockford Trade Area. Kevin Voss of DAYHA spoke on behalf of the Board and reviewed challenges they had in timely reporting, but stated they had different staff in place that will help ensure all reporting and payments are made in a timely manner. Additionally, Voss addressed the concern regarding expenditures being made in the Rockford Trade Area, and stated that DAYHA would be open to contributing the amounts required by Ordinance directly to a nonprofit in Rockford, as opposed to generally supporting lower association fees for trade area residents that play for DAYHA or summer Lacrosse. After additional discussion and review, Motion was made by Hafften, and seconded by Werman, to approve the Resolution as presented.

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

Administrator / Attorney Madsen made a statement expressing support and appreciation for the new owners of Clays in investing and opening a small business in Rockford, and stated that all of the lawful gambling discussions was not a reflection of, and had nothing to do with, the owners or their business. Madsen thanked the owners for opening a business in Rockford.

Members of the Staff and Council then presented general updates regarding general happenings from around the city, including a grant received by the School to help support a Community Garden initiative planned for 2023 in Rockford.

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

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Buoy, Seymour, Willenbring and Werman and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.

Typed this 22nd day of December, 2022

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