

City of Rockford, Minnesota Workshop Meeting Minutes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 27th, 2022

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

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen; and City Engineer, Steve Hegland; Kevin Koehler, Chuck Tryon, Annette Tryon and Bonnie Mowie of the Rockford Area Historical Society; and David Reed, Patrick Christensen, Michel Bilbe, Justin Mielke, Randy Schwitters, Domanick Lark, Ben Sanderson, Chase Peyton, Tom Weineck, Nathan Buoy, Brian Thoennes of the Rockford Fire Department; and Sharyn North, Gemma Miltich of PERA; and Heather Mchalik, Council Candidate, were also in attendance.

Members of the City Council and Staff discussed and reviewed the F.D. Utility Vehicle proposal, PERA for the Fire Relief and the Draft 2023 Preliminary Property Tax Levy. 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, September 27th, 2022

The City Council Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Renee Hafften at approximately 6 p.m. Council members Scott Seymour, Debbie Buoy, Denise Willenbring and Mike Werman were in attendance. Council member Willenbring was absent.

City Administrator / Attorney, Dan Madsen; and City Engineer, Steve Hegland; Kevin Koehler, Chuck Tryon, Annette Tryon and Bonnie Mowie of the Rockford Area Historical Society; and David Reed, Patrick Christensen, Michel Bilbe, Justin Mielke, Randy Schwitters, Domanick Lark, Ben Sanderson, Chase Peyton, Tom Weineck, Nathan Buoy, Brian Thoennes of the Rockford Fire Department; and Sharyn North, Gemma Miltich of PERA; and Heather Mchalik, Council Candidate, were also in attendance.

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

- 3A. Approve Minutes from the September 12, 2022 Workshop and Regular Council Meeting
- 3B. Approve Minutes from the August 26, 2022 Special Council Meeting
- 3C. Approve Payment of Claims, Check Number: 34,2341 through 34,407 totaling \$77,688.69
- 3D. Resolution Assessment of Garbage / Refuse Delinquent Accounts
- 3E. Resolution Approve 2022 General Election Judges

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

New Business: PERA Retirement F.D. Relief Association

Gemma Miltich of the Public Employees Retirement Association provided a presentation outlining the benefits of moving the Fire Department Pension investments to PERA. As a part of this discussion, Miltich provided a table showing the various amounts the Pension could be

funded annually, and how those may or may not impact the City's budget and property tax levy. It was recommended by the Fire Department that the level of retirement be increased, from what would be \$2,800 to \$3,600 as presented. Members of the Staff and Council discussed the request and what impacts it may or may not have on the City's property tax levy. Representatives from PERA stated that the next steps in this process involve the Council passing a Resolution establishing PERA as the new agency for investment of Pension funds, and identifying a rate at which PERA would provide Pension Benefits.

No formal action was taken, with this matter to be set on a future Agenda for discussion and review.

New Business: Fire Department Utility Vehicle Purchase

Justin Milke of the Fire Department presented the proposed purchase of the Utility Vehicle and reviewed several quotes received for the vehicle and equipment to be installed. Milke stated that all of the purchases were being made pursuant to the State Contract Bid Program, which guaranteed that they would be the lowest available. After additional discussion and review, including a review of the current vehicle depreciation schedule and impact on future purchases, Motion was made by Willenbring, and seconded by Werman, to approve the purchase of the vehicle and equipment as presented in the amount of \$131,607.96.

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

New Business: RAHS 2023 Budget Presentation

Kevin Koehler of the Rockford Area Historical Society provided a presentation regarding the activities and funding levels involved with the Historical Society and the Stork House. After explaining all of the initiatives, programs and experiences the Historical Society has provided with funding from the City, Koehler asked the Council to again consider funding their efforts and initiatives related to the Stork House for 2023. Koehler stated that traditional RAHS had requested \$20,000 per year, \$10,000 from general operations funding and \$10,000 from gambling proceeds. This year, the request is reduced to reflect projects that have been completed and increased success in fundraising by RAHS. For 2023, it was requested that the City fund a total of \$16,380; with Staff suggesting the \$10,000 continue from the general fund and the remainder from gambling proceeds. After discussion and review, including sharing the gratitude the City has for the work and efforts of RAHS, Motion was made by Seymour to approve the funding request. This was seconded by Buoy.

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

New Business: Veteran's Memorial Update

Council Member Denise Willenbring and Lions Memorial Committee Member Cheri Ashfeld presented an update on the Veteran's Memorial and highlighted benches and planters that were being considered for the Memorial. The intent of the presentation was to keep the Council and Community informed as the process moved forward, and to allow questions, comments or

concerns by the Council or Staff on the plan or process, or on the materials or appearance of the benches or planters proposed for the Memorial. Members of the Staff and Council thanked Willenbring and Ashfeld for their time and stated their appreciation for the update.

Members of the Staff and Council then provided updates regarding general happenings from around the city, including Rocktoberfest and the 2022 Street Project.

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

Motion Carried: Voting in favor; Hafften, Buoy, Seymour, Willenbring and Werman and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Typed this 6th day of October, 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