

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

June 7, 2011

The Common Council of the City of Richland Center, Wisconsin, met in the Council Room of the municipal building on Tuesday, June 6th, 2011 commencing at 7:00 P.M., Mayor Larry D. Fowler presiding. Alderpersons Marie Rakow, Susan Fruit, Lester Parker, Jay Buchanan Mueller, Steve Deets, Bill Kloehn, and Lorna Dilley present. Alderperson Judy Shireman was absent. Mayor Fowler ascertained from the Clerk that the meeting was properly noticed.

Attorney Robb read the motion under the Polensky land split and said it was a bit confusing with his comment. He suggested that the motion be clarified that the land split was approved unanimously. Motion by Fruit, second by Rakow to waive the reading of the minutes of the last meeting (May 17th, 2011) in lieu of printed copies and to approve the same with the correction as presented by Attorney Robb. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Treasurer Jude Elliott presented the General Fund Report for May, 2011. The complete Treasurer’s report follows:

GENERAL FUND:

Treasurer’s balance at start of month	456,936.57
Receipts	183,866.13
Disbursements	469,620.10
Treasurer’s balance end of month	171,182.60
 Money Market Tax Acct.	 21,243.27

INVESTMENTS:

State Pool - Account # 1	633,863.03
State Pool – Account #2 Long Term Care	526,597.31
State Pool - Account # 4 - Project Carryover	481,896.96
State Pool - Account # 6 - TIF - 2-5	897,201.59

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

CDBG - Housing RLF	115,720.47
Cemetery	3,864.33
Revolving Loan Fund- Savings	474,992.71
Revolving Loan Fund – Checking	9,169.06
Park / Community Center	23,367.03
Park and Rec Checking	127.52
Recycling	7,082.46
Landfill Care – CD	476,286.65
Landfill Closure	88,633.95

Room Tax	24,786.66
Library Checking	83,399.15
RDA Checking	108,341.40

ELECTRIC UTILITY FUND:

Treasurer's balance at start of month	82,118.16
Receipts	881,750.91
Garbage Receipts	19,721.67
Public Benefit	5,049.78
Telecom Utility	5,064.00
Disbursements	930,548.13
Treasurer's balance at end of month	63,156.39
Investments	1,539,153.27

WATER UTILITY FUND:

Treasurer's balance start of month	55,824.00
Receipts	80,541.17
Disbursements	83,874.26
Treasurer's balance end of month	52,490.91
Investments	1,445,492.03

SEWER UTILITY FUND:

Treasurer's balance start of month	64,724.59
Receipts	361,580.78
Disbursements	363,885.77
Treasurer's balance end of month	62,419.60
Investment	5,239,236.67

LOANS:

Telecom from Elect	67,720.08
Electric advance to TIF	0.00
Water advance to TIF	257,932.16
Water advance to TIF	0.00
WWTP advance to TIF	18,351.00
WWTP advance to TIF	32,311.58
WWTP advance to TIF	139,480.31
Total due TIF	448,075.05
City	400,000.00

DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN REFERENCE TO ROUNDABOUTS FOR HIGHWAY 14 EAST:

Mayor Fowler said several businesses and residents of the area were at the last meeting with comments about the roundabouts. He said he is not aware what the Council wants to see on a

resolution but asked for input so Attorney Robb can draft it. He said this stretch of Highway is a safety concern but we have to work with the Department of Transportation every year on other projects. Alderperson Parker said he felt we should ask the DOT to look at alternatives for the safety issues. He said the east exit at the square could have the median taken out so there would be no left turns at the intersection or look at stop lights there. Alderperson Deets said he emailed Rob Winterton at the DOT with some options and the response was that stop lights need to meet certain warrants and they do not. He said a frontage road was looked at and there is not enough room without significantly impacting businesses. He said a speed change from 40 to 30 mph would not work because as reported in their speed studies, people drive the speed they are comfortable with. Alderperson Kloehn asked out of all the accidents, how many accidents at the Burnstad's intersection were due to a left hand turn. Chief Annear said each accident report would have to be looked at to find that information. Alderperson Dilley said she did not feel there was a need for 3 roundabouts and people are opposed to them. Alderperson Rakow suggested all the business owners should be named on the resolution. Attorney Robb said it is important to remember to be careful with the wording. Mr. Bob Bellman suggested another dialog with the DOT so we can let them know how we feel and they can validate their statistics. Mayor Fowler said there could be another public hearing with the DOT engineers so we can have the opportunity to be involved. Alderperson Mueller said he agreed with Mr. Bellman because they have just given informational meetings in the past and we need the chance to respond. Mr. David Foth agreed that in the past there has not been open dialog. Meegan Thompson said she has asked for timelines and have not had any feedback to let us know what is happening on their end. Mr. Foth said he would pay for a ½ page ad in the paper with all Alderpersons names and phone numbers so residents can call with their opinions. Alderperson Deets asked that the meeting with the DOT be scheduled in the evening but not on a Council night and have that the only agenda item. Alderperson Mueller suggested deciding on a resolution after a public meeting with the DOT. Alderperson Kloehn asked the businesses to write down their thoughts about how the safety issues could be resolved. Alderperson Deets said he felt a stoplight should be installed at Starlite Drive. Mr. Bellman said the local people have knowledge of driving on Hwy 14 East and the intersection with Starlite Drive is the problem. He said the DOT comes to do their study, they leave and do not drive in the traffic every day. Mayor Fowler mentioned that thousands of people are also driving through the City. He said we have already asked all these things to the DOT and have been told no but we could contact them again. He said this was presented to the City a few years ago and the City asked them at that time to look at another option and this is what they have decided on. Larry Ferguson said this is a DOT highway but it is our City and we will have to live with their decision for a long time.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:
CONSIDER MUNICIPAL LICENSES:**

Clerk Elliott said on the list provided in the handouts, the Video Game license from National Entertainment Network, Inc. at Wal-Mart is new and the rest are all renewals. He said there will be more licenses at a later date. Motion by Mueller, second by Dilley to approve the licenses as provided. Motion carried.

CONSIDER LIQUOR LICENSES:

Clerk Elliott reviewed the list of liquor license that were up for renewal. He mentioned that he has an application on his desk for a new class B Beer license for the Dragon Buffet. Motion by Mueller to approve the liquor licenses as presented. Alderperson Fruit made the second and the motion carried.

INTRODUCTION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE PROHIBITING BIKES AND SKATEBOARDS ON SIDEWALKS IN DOWNTOWN AREA.

Alderperson Deets asked everyone to read the ordinance as it is for introduction only and there is no recommendation from Public Safety yet. No action was taken.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

CONSIDER RESOLUTION FOR CARRY OVER FUNDS FROM 2010 BUDGET:

Alderperson Deets said last year there were some projects that did not get completed and Department Heads would like to finish them. He reviewed the list of items that are requested for carryover. He said Finance recommended to approve the resolution for carry over funds from the 2010 budget that amount to \$77,580.00 to be transferred. He said there are funds in State pool #4 that amount to \$43,661.81 to be reallocated along with a transfer of \$8,000.00 from the Money Market account be designated as Street Projects. Motion by Mueller, second by Kloehn to approve the resolution for carry over funds from the 2010 budget that amount to \$77,580.00 and with funds in State pool #4 that amount to \$43,661.81 along with the transfer of \$8,000.00 from the Money Market account be designated as Street Projects. Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER TREE CONSULTING PROPOSALS.

Parks & Grounds Supervisor K. Terry Sime said on the Central Avenue, Church Street and Jefferson Street projects it would be a good idea to obtain an opinion of the current conditions of trees and to look at the plans for the project to see if any trees can be saved or not. Mr. Sime said specifications were sent to 6 people and only 2 were returned. He reviewed the proposals from Hamm's ArborCare, Inc., which was the low bid, and Bluestem Forestry Consulting, Inc. He mentioned that the trees on Jefferson Street could be removed, saved and replanted because they are not very old so he did not think it would be worth the cost for a professional to evaluate the trees on Jefferson St. He said there are only 2 Ash trees that would need cutting. Mr. Sime said that Public Works recommended Hamms but Finance recommend to approve Hamm's ArborCare, Inc. proposal for item #1 Church Street, and #2 Central Avenue, at a cost not to exceed \$3,420.00. Alderperson Parker asked if any grant funds would be applied for and Mr. Sime said he would be able to write a grant application for the 2012 Jefferson Street project but we have been denied the past two years. He said the more things put into the application, the more points you receive and he didn't think the Jefferson Street project alone would be awarded. Motion by Mueller, second by Fruit to approve Hamm's ArborCare, Inc. proposal for item #1 Church Street, and #2 Central Avenue, at a cost not to exceed \$3,420.00 and to be paid for from the project funds. Motion carried 7-0.

CONSIDER HIRING CHOSEN VALLEY TESTING FOR GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION ON CHURCH STREET.

Mayor Fowler said soil borings are needed along Church Street and the cost would be split between the Water, Waste Water and Street Departments. He said this is important to know what the soil conditions are and how thick the base needs to be. He said Public Works and Finance recommended Chosen Valley Testing at a cost of \$702.00, contingent on Utility Commission approval. Motion by Mueller, second by Dilley to approve the contract with Chosen Valley Testing at a cost not to exceed \$702.00, contingent on Utility Commission approval. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS.

Mayor Fowler said he is looking for people willing to serve on the Plan Commission, Board of Appeals, Redevelopment Authority, Historic Preservation and the Cable TV Committee.

BUILDING / DEMO PERMITS:

Clerk Elliott said NHS is building two new houses on Cairns Avenue next to the former medical center parking lot.

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS:

Motion by Mueller, second by Kloehn to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

MAYOR LARRY D. FOWLER: He said the community center / senior center committee met two to three times with the consultant in the last couple weeks and they are reviewing geo-thermal heat. He said the building plans are 95% done and will be completed with a heating component. He said this will delay the start date about 1 ½ months to the end of August. He said geo thermal heat has a quick payback and saves money on heating. He said tomorrow at 7:30 A.M. the Community Business Outreach Committee will be at the Campus with a tour from 8:00 to 9:00 A.M. He said the Richland Chamber & Development Alliance had their annual meeting and have several new members with Shannon Clark returning as President. He thanked all those who have helped with their first year of transition. Mayor Fowler said he hopes everyone enjoys the dairy breakfast and the rodeo.

ALDERPERSON LESTER PARKER: He said at the most recent Highway Safety Committee meeting the DOT was on the agenda for the Hwy 14 East project and there was no new information. He asked why the City is not doing anything with the hole in the road at the former Accents location. Mayor Fowler said an inspector is scheduled to look at the situation but there is a problem with the building.

ALDERPERSON JAY BUCHANAN MUELLER: He said the Akey School Museum had an open house on June 4th with a lot of people attending. He said it is open on Sundays from 1-4 P.M. He said that Public Works and all three Utilites had a meeting on the Church Street project and he wanted to compliment them on how well they all work together to be fiscally responsible.

ALDERPERSON BILL KLOEHN: He said an ultra-light plane and an engine were stolen from the airport and the Sheriff's Department is investigating.

ALDERPERSON LORNA DILLEY: She welcomed everyone to come to the Campus tomorrow for the tour.

PARKS AND GROUNDS SUPERVISOR K. TERRY SIME: He said the soil is dry and he asked property owners to thoroughly water the trees that were recently planted once every 2-3 days. He said there have been complaints about lawns not being mowed. He said the department went out and found 29 that will get notices tomorrow. He said they have 5 days to correct it or the City will mow and charge them. Mr. Sime mentioned that the City put in two canoe ports, not the County, and there will be three more being installed yet this year. He mentioned there have been complaints and concerns that when a family wants burial plots, they are only available in the new memorial section with no trees. He said planting trees in the memorial section would be placed on the next Park Board agenda.

Mayor Fowler said the rock walls have been replaced at the cemetery and the former rocks have been reused at North Lake. He said the Parks Department did a nice job and it is a huge improvement.

POLICE CHIEF JOHN ANNEAR: He said the rodeo parade will be June 18th and the staging area is on Central Avenue. He asked for people to avoid sitting in the staging area with the new seeding on Central Avenue to avoid damage.

CITY CLERK/TREASURER JUDE ELLIOTT: He said there will be a Planning meeting on June 16th.

DEPUTY CLERK/TREASURER MELINDA JONES: She said she handed out both the current and tentative new ward map to comply with the redistricting laws so everyone could see where the changes may be. She said she would be happy to answer any questions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Fred Clary said the fiber optic cable is now in place between the City and the County. He said the County Finance Committee recommended approval of the next part of the project which includes connections that are scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

Motion by Mueller, second by Rakow to go into closed session per WI Statute 19.85 (1) (e) to consider investment of public funds, application of Fillback Ford. Motion carried 7-0.

Closed Session.

Motion by Mueller, second by Parker to reconvene into open session to vote on matters pertaining to WI Statute 19.85 (1) (e).

ADJOURN:

Motion by Mueller, second by Parker to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:45 p.m.

Mayor, Larry. D. Fowler

Attest:

City Clerk / Treasurer Jude Elliott