



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE WISCONSIN RAPIDS COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020
6:00 P.M.
VIA REMOTE VIDEOCONFERENCE

A meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Common Council was held via remote videoconferencing on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Because of the pandemic, the public was unable to attend this meeting in person; however, the public was invited to listen to the audio of the meeting. The meeting was also streamed LIVE on the City's Facebook page. Members of the public who wished to submit comments to the Council regarding an agenda item were directed to contact the Mayor. The Mayor received comments from JR Siewert, Sue and Gary Waiter, Mike Zurfluh, and Kevin White.

Present in the Council Chambers at City Hall were Mayor Blaser and Alderpersons Zurfluh, Veneman, Kellogg, Kubisiak, and Bemke. Alderpersons Cattnach and Rayome appeared via videoconference. Alderperson Koth was excused. Also present in the Council Chambers were Chief Young, Sue Schill, Tyler Mickelson, and Jennifer Gossick. Joe Terry, Kyle Kearns, Tim Desorcy, Ryan Hartman, Ryan Geifer, Chief Blevins, Jem Brown, Jeff Kuhn, Mike Lisitza, Derek Matykowski, JR Siewert, Kevin White, Sue and Gary Waiter, Mike Zurfluh, and Steve Abrahamson appeared via phone or videoconference.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Blaser called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call indicated that all alderpersons were present, except Steve Koth, who was excused:

Joe Zurfluh
Dean Veneman
Scott Kellogg
Tom Rayome (via videoconference)
Jake Cattnach (via videoconference)
Thaddeus Kubisiak
Jay Bemke

3. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer in Lieu of Invocation

Mayor Blaser requested that all present stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silent prayer

4. Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on November 17, 2020

It was moved by Kubisiak, seconded by Kellogg to dispense with a reading and accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

5. Presentation of American Public Works Award Association, Project of the Year Award recognizing excellence for the West Side Pumping Station Force Main Replacement Project

Public Works Director Joe Terry gave a presentation of the American Public Works Award Association, Project of the Year Award recognizing excellence for the West Side Pumping Station Force Main Replacement Project

6. Resolution Extending the Emergency Declaration Proclamation Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

It was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Veneman to approve a Resolution Extending the Emergency Declaration Proclamation Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic including the revisions made as presented. Motion carried, 5 ayes, 1 nay, and 1 abstention with Cattnach voting in the negative and Rayome abstaining. Resolution No. 31 (2020)

7. Introduction by Alderperson Joe Zurfluh of a Resolution to Censure Alderperson Tom Rayome regarding Alderperson Rayome's conduct at the November 17, 2020 Common Council meeting

It was moved by Veneman, seconded by Bemke to approve a Resolution to Censure Alderperson Tom Rayome regarding Alderperson Rayome's conduct at the November 17, 2020 Common Council meeting. Motion carried, 5

ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention with Rayome voting in the negative and Cattnach abstaining. Resolution No. 32 (2020)

8. Consider for approval an ordinance revising Section 8.20 – Table 1 (Schedule of Sewer Charges), contained in Chapter 8 – Sewage Regulations, as recommended by the Wastewater Treatment Commission at its meeting on December 2, 2020

It was moved by Bemke, seconded by Zurfluh to approve an ordinance revising Section 8.20 – Table 1 (Schedule of Sewer Charges), contained in Chapter 8 – Sewage Regulations, as recommended by the Wastewater Treatment Commission at its meeting on December 2, 2020. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays. Ordinance No. MC 1277

9. Second Reading of an Ordinance which would authorize the Water Works and Lighting Commission to place delinquent electric billings as special charges on the property tax roll

It was moved by Veneman, seconded by Zurfluh to postpone the second reading of the Ordinance until the April 20, 2021 Common Council meeting.

Veneman made a request to amend the motion to postpone until the March 16, 2021 Common Council meeting. Mayor Blaser asked for unanimous consent to amend the motion to March 16, 2021. Alderperson Rayome objected, so the motion was not amended.

It was moved by Veneman, seconded by Zurfluh to amend the motion to postpone the second reading of the Ordinance until the March 16, 2021 Common Council meeting. Motion carried, 4 ayes and 3 nays with Zurfluh, Rayome, and Kubisiak voting in the negative. The motion was so amended.

Motion to postpone the second reading of the Ordinance until the March 16, 2021 Common Council meeting failed, 2 ayes and 5 nays with Zurfluh, Kellogg, Rayome, Kubisiak, and Bemke voting in the negative.

It was moved by Rayome, seconded by Kellogg to approve an Ordinance which would authorize the Water Works and Lighting Commission to place delinquent electric billings as special charges on the property tax roll. Motion carried, 5 ayes and 2 nays with Veneman and Cattnach voting in the negative. Ordinance No. MC 1278

10. Consider for Adoption the Actions of the Planning Commission at its meeting held on December 7, 2020:

Date of Meeting: December 7, 2020

Report #1

Reported to Council: December 15, 2020

The Planning Commission met at 4:00 p.m. on December 7, 2020 via remote videoconferencing. Members present included Chairperson Shane Blaser, Jay Bemke, Susan Feith, Shane Burkart, and Tom Brey. Absent were Lee Thao and Daniel Hansen.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Approval of the reports from the November 16 Plan Commission meeting

Motion by Feith, second by Bemke to approve the reports from the November 16 Plan Commission meeting.

Motion carried (4-0)

2. **PLAN-20-0994; Vereit Real Estate LLP**, request for a sign exception of 25% to bulk regulations for wall/canopy signs and a freestanding sign at 2130 8th Street South (Parcel ID 34-12136)

Motion by Bemke, second by Burkart to **approve PLAN-20-0994; Vereit Real Estate LLP**, request for a sign exception of 25% to bulk regulations for wall/canopy signs and a freestanding sign at 2130 8th Street South (Parcel ID 34-12136), subject to the following conditions:

- a. The proposed freestanding sign setback shall be permitted to be reduced 25%, but not less than a setback of 3.75 feet from the front property line.
- b. The proposed wall/canopy signs shall be permitted to increase by 25% in size, but shall not exceed 33 square feet (north & south canopy) and 23.71 square feet (east & west canopy).
- c. The applicant shall obtain all necessary sign and building permits through the Community Development Department.
- d. All applicable building and zoning standards shall be met regarding the proposed signage.

Motion carried (4 – 0)

Tom Brey entered the meeting.

3. **PLAN-20-0720 – Community Development Department** – action on a request to amend the Zoning Code (Chapter 11 of the Municipal Code), to modify the secondary review requirements for uses

Motion by Bemke, second by Feith to postpone action until the January 2021 meeting for **PLAN-20-0720 – Community Development Department** – action on a request to amend the Zoning Code (Chapter 11 of the Municipal Code), to modify the secondary review requirements for uses. Motion carried (5 – 0)

4. **Adjourn**

Motion by Bemke, second by Blaser to adjourn. Motion carried (5 – 0)

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

It was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Kellogg to approve and adopt the actions of the Commission. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

11. Consider for Adoption the Actions of the Standing Committees of the Common Council, as Follows:

A. REPORT OF THE FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2020:

Steve Koth, Chairperson

Scott Kellogg, Secretary

Thad Kubisiak

Date of Meeting: December 1, 2020

Reported to Council: December 15, 2020

The Finance and Property Committee meeting was held via remote videoconferencing on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. The public was invited to listen to the audio of the meeting. The meeting was LIVE on Wisconsin Rapids Community Media (WRCM) Spectrum Channel 985 and Solarus Channel 3, online at www.wr-cm.org or via WRCM's Roku app, and was streamed LIVE on the City of Wisconsin Rapids Facebook page.

All members of the Finance and Property Committee were present except for Alderperson Koth.

Alderperson Bemke sat in for Alderperson Koth. Also in attendance were Alderperson Veneman, Mayor Blaser, Tim Desorcy, and Chief Young.

1. Call to order

Alderperson Kellogg called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

2. Consider a request from 2411 Eighth Street, Inc. d/b/a A to Z Mini Mart, Azharuddin N. Pathan, agent, for a Class "A" Beer and "Class A" liquor license for the premises located at 2411 8th Street South
It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Kubisiak to approve a Class "A" Beer and "Class A" liquor license to 2411 Eighth Street, Inc. d/b/a A to Z Mini Mart, Azharuddin N. Pathan, agent for the premises located at 2411 8th Street South. Motion carried.

3. Consider a request from Out of the Box Coffee House LLC, d/b/a Out of the Box Coffee House, Theresa Cashman, agent, for a Class "B" Beer and "Class B" liquor license for the premises located at 3820 8th Street South

It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Kubisiak to approve a Class "B" Beer and "Class B" liquor license to Out of the Box Coffee House LLC, d/b/a Out of the Box Coffee House for the premises located at 3820th Street South. Motion carried.

4. Consider a request from ecoATM, LLC, d/b/a ecoATM, Hunter Bjorkman, agent, located at 4331 8th Street South for a renewal of a Secondhand Article Dealer License.

It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Bemke to approve a Secondhand Article Dealer License to ecoATM, LLC, d/b/a ecoATM for the premise located at 4331 8th Street South. Motion carried.

5. Consider a request from E-Ways Sales LLC, d/b/a/E-Ways Sales, Jonathan Ruder, agent, located at 2660 8th Street South #105 for a renewal of a Pawnbroker, Secondhand Article Dealer and Secondhand Jewelry Dealer License.

It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Bemke to approve a renewal of a Pawnbroker, Secondhand Article Dealer and Secondhand Jewelry Dealer License to E-Ways Sales LLC, d/b/a E-Ways Sales, Jonathan Ruder, agent, for the premises located at 2660 8th Street South #105. Motion carried.

6. Consider a request from GameStop, Inc. d/b/a GameStop #3254, James A Bell, agent, located at 930 Kuhn Avenue for a renewal of a Secondhand Article Dealers license.

It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Bemke to approve a Secondhand Article Dealers license to GameStop, Inc. d/b/a GameStop #3254, James A Bell, agent for the premises located at 930 Kuhn Avenue. Motion carried.

7. Review and consider for approval options for the Fire Station No. 1 and No. 2 renovation

It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Kubisiak to approve proceeding with Station No. 1 renovation option "D" and Station No. 2 option "A" at a cost of \$2,341,577. Motion carried.

8. Audit of the bills

It was moved by Kubisiak, seconded by Bemke to approve check no. 6174 to 6522. Motion carried.

9. Set next meeting date

The next regularly scheduled Finance and Property Committee will be Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Kellogg, seconded by Bemke to adjourn. Motion carried with the meeting adjourning at 5:35 p.m.

Bemke requested that item #7 be held out. It was moved by Kellogg, seconded by Kubisiak to approve and adopt the balance of the report, holding out item #7. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Regarding item #7, it was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Kellogg to approve proceeding with Station No. 1 renovation option "D" with apparatus expansion and Station No. 2 option "A" at a cost of \$2,341,577. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

B. REPORT OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 1, 2020:

Tom Rayome

Jake Cattanaach

Dean Veneman

Date of Meeting: December 1, 2020

Reported to Council: December 15, 2020

The Public Works Committee met on Tuesday, December 1, 2020 via remote videoconference. Jake Cattanaach, Dean Veneman, and Scott Kellogg filling in for Tom Rayome were present. Others attending are on file in the Clerk's office.

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm

2. Review DPW Report

The DPW report was reviewed and is available on the City website

3. Review and consider modifying traffic control at Two Mile Ave and 16th St to an all-way stop.

Motion by Veneman, second by Cattanaach to modify traffic control at Two Mile Ave and 16th St to an all-way stop. Motion carried (3-0) **Ordinance No. MC 1279**

4. Parking changes at the following locations:

a. Saratoga St between E Jackson St and 5th St N

b. Dewey St between 6th St S and 8th St S

c. Dewey St between 5th St S and Lincoln St

d. Lee St between 6th St S and 8th St S

Motion by Kellogg, second by Veneman to approve the proposed parking changes. Motion carried (3-0) **Ordinance No. MC 1280**

5. Preliminary Resolution on Fremont St between 14th Ave N and 13th Ave N [proposed 2022 constr.]

6. Preliminary Resolution on Fremont St between 10th Ave N and 7th Ave N [proposed 2022 constr.]

7. Preliminary Resolution on 9th Ave N between McKinley St and Fremont St [proposed 2022 constr.]

Motion by Cattanaach, second by Kellogg to approve the preliminary resolutions for Fremont St between 14th Ave N and 13th Ave N, Fremont St between 10th Ave N and 7th Ave N, and 9th Ave N between McKinley St and Fremont St. Motion carried (3-0)

8. Review one-mile creek project scope

Motion by Cattanaach, second by Kellogg to place this item on the referral list. Motion carried (3-0)

9. Review referral list

The referral list was reviewed

10. Adjourn.

Motion by Kellogg, second by Cattanaach to adjourn. Motion carried (3-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

It was moved by Rayome, seconded by Veneman to approve and adopt the actions of the Committee. Cattanaach requested that item #6 and the motion for that resolution in item #7 be held out for separate vote. Mayor Blaser asked for unanimous consent that the motion be amended to hold out item #6 and the motion for that resolution in item #7 for separate vote. No objection was made, and the motion was so amended. Motion to approve and adopt the balance of the report carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Regarding item #6 and the motion for that resolution in item #7, it was moved by Rayome, seconded by Kellogg to approve the items as presented. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

C. REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2020:

Thad Kubisiak, Chairperson

Joseph Zurfluh, Secretary

Jay Bemke

Date of Meeting: December 8, 2020

Reported to Council: December 15, 2020

A meeting of the Human Resources Committee was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 4:30 p.m. via remote videoconferencing, originating from the City Hall Council Chambers. All members were present. (Kubisiak, Bemke, Zurfluh). Also present were Mayor Blaser, Scott Kellogg, Ryan Hartman. Also present remotely were Sue Schill, Joe Terry, and Tom Rayome.

1. Call to order

Chairperson Kubisiak called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

2. Discuss and consider for approval an extension or reset for 2021 of Employee Emergency Paid Leave due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic

Motion by Zurfluh, second by Bemke to reset the City's emergency paid leave hours to 80 hours (or two-week equivalent) on January 1, 2021 and to extend the period of time within which to use the City's emergency paid leave to April 1, 2021. Motion carried 3-0. A copy of the revised policy is attached

3. Discuss and consider for approval changing the reporting structure for the Airport Manager position so the position reports to the Mayor; the position currently reports to the Director of Public Works

Motion by Bemke, second by Zurfluh to change the reporting structure for the Airport Manager position from reporting to the Director of Public Works to reporting to the Mayor. Motion carried 3-0

4. Adjournment

Motion by Zurfluh, second by Bemke to adjourn. Motion carried, 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

It was moved by Kubisiak, seconded by Veneman to approve and adopt the actions of the Committee. Rayome requested that item #3 be held out for separate vote. Mayor Blaser asked for unanimous consent that the motion be amended to hold out item #3 for separate vote. No objection was made, and the motion was so amended. Motion to approve and adopt the balance of the report carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Regarding item #3, it was moved by Kubisiak, seconded by Kellogg to approve the item as presented. Motion carried, 6 ayes and 1 nay with Rayome voting in the negative.

D. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE WISCONSIN RAPIDS COMMON COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2020:

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Wisconsin Rapids Common Council was held via remote videoconferencing on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. Because of the pandemic, the public was unable to attend this meeting in person; however, the public was invited to listen to the audio of the meeting. The meeting was also streamed LIVE on the City's Facebook page. Members of the public who wished to submit comments to the Council regarding an agenda item were directed to contact the Council President Thaddeus Kubisiak. No comments were received by Alderperson Kubisiak.

Present in the Council Chambers at City Hall were Alderpersons Kubisiak, Bemke, Veneman, Kellogg, and Zurfluh. Alderpersons Cattanach and Rayome appeared via videoconference. Absent was Alderperson Koth, who was excused. Also present in the Council Chambers were Mayor Blaser, Ryan Hartman, and Tyler Mickelson. Joe Terry, Sue Schill and Dan Guck appeared via videoconference.

1. Call to Order

Due to technical difficulties, Alderperson Kubisiak called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

2. Discussion regarding sewer and water utility improvements for the proposed athletic complex at Lincoln; discuss referral to the Finance and Property Committee regarding the City's participation in those improvements

Motion by Cattanach, second by Veneman to direct the Public Works Department to work with the stakeholders in this project to provide a project scope and cost estimate for referral to the Finance and Property Committee for consideration. Motion carried, 6 ayes and 1 nay with Rayome voting in the negative.

3. Discussion and approval of measures to reduce the possible impact of Covid-19

As Alderperson Koth made this referral and was not in attendance at this meeting, no action was taken on this item.

4. Adjournment

It was moved by Bemke, seconded by Veneman to adjourn. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

It was moved by Kubisiak, seconded by Veneman to approve and adopt the actions of the Committee. Rayome requested that item #2 be held out for separate vote. Mayor Blaser asked for unanimous consent that the motion be amended to hold out item #2 for separate vote. No objection was made, and the motion was so amended. Motion on the balance of the report carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

Regarding item #2, it was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Bemke to approve the item as presented. Motion carried, 6 ayes and 1 nay with Rayome voting in the negative.

12. Reports of Other Committees, Commissions and Boards; Department Reports

- A. Housing Authority held September 2 and October 1
- B. Wastewater Treatment Commission held October 7, November 4 and December 2
- C. Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department Monthly Summary for November

- D. Wisconsin Rapids Police Department Monthly Summary for November
- E. Police and Fire Commission held November 11
- F. Water Works and Lighting Commission held November 11
- G. McMillan Memorial Library held November 18

It was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Veneman to place the reports on file. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays.

13. Referrals to Committees

No referrals were submitted.

14. Adjournment

It was moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Kubisiak to adjourn. Motion carried, 7 ayes and 0 nays. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer M. Gossick, City Clerk