



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, August 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President Wachowski at 6:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers: Jeff Dahlke, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Tracey Koach, Tim Petri, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski (NOTE: there is one vacancy on the Council at this time)

ALSO PRESENT: Dave Buss, Finance Director; Matthew Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Dave Dassey, Info Systems Assistant; Elizabeth Runge, Community Development Director/City Planner; Greg Buckley, City Manager

4. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Application for New Landscape/Tree Removal License (Deferred from August 21 meeting) - Recommended for Approval

1. Stangels Handyman Service, LLC, 3315 Parkway Blvd., Two Rivers

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve and authorize the City Clerk to issue the license

Mr. Buckley reported that he had requested that this application be referred to this meeting to allow staff to look into a reported issue with this business' activities happening at the residential property where the owner resides. Mr. Buckley and City Planner Elizabeth Runge have since driven past the property and did not observe any violations. He reported that he also had a conversation via phone with the property owner, who stated that he has obtained use of a property outside the City for placement and processing of wood from tree trimming and removals. Attorney Bruce has also provided an opinion that such licenses can be revoked if ordinance violations arise in the future.

Council President Wachowski reported that Council members received numerous communications from neighbors stating they have not had an issue with this property.

Motion by Koach, Seconded by D. LeClair.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Voting Yea: Dahlke, Koach, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

- B. Recommendation from Environmental Advisory Board, Regarding Change in Name and Objectives for That Board

Recommended Action:

Motion to direct staff to prepare an ordinance amendment, making such changes

The Environmental Advisory Board proposed a change in their Board name and the objectives of the Board. Board representatives Koach and D. LeClair explained the need for the changes.

Councilmember Koach stated sustainability is an important part of Environmental Advisory education and the Board would like to put Sustainable in their name. This change would allow the board to apply for grants related to Environmental Sustainability. Councilmember D. LeClair stated the Board started in the 1970s to help with the tree population throughout the City. The Board's objectives have reached well beyond that. The new name and objectives are a better representation of the Board.

Mr. Buckley suggested that the board's objectives also address "resiliency," as it relates to the community's ability to deal with challenges like extreme weather events and fluctuating Great Lakes water levels.

Council President Wachowski raised concerns over objectives listed in the proposal and how they might affect staff time and the city budget. He proposed rephrasing one of the bullet points to say "help provide technical assistance on strategies to achieve cost savings."

Councilmember Koach stated the Board looked at different cities to help build good objectives for the Board. She expressed the board is providing assistance through educational programs for citizens. There are not specific grants at this time that the Board is looking to apply for, but the Board wants to be prepared for future opportunities.

No action was taken on this item. The suggestions made during the discussion will be brought back to the Board to update the objectives.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Update on Planned Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements in Conjunction with STH 42 Memorial Drive and Washington Street Bridge Resurfacing Planned for 2025--Information Only

Public Works Director Matt Heckenlaible spoke on the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Project for State Highway 42/Memorial Drive from Manitowoc through the Washington Street Bridge. This project will take place in 2025 but, some work by the City is needed in 2024.

The primary activity of the DOT project is pavement repair, culvert repair, new asphalt surface and beam guard replacements. The DOT is planning to have the Spring 2025 project completed by Memorial Day of that year. The State DOT website will have updated information on the status of work being completed throughout the project.

The City is proposing to have marked crosswalks placed along STH 42 including intersections at Taylor Street, Columbus Street, Madison Street, 12/Lake Street Intersection along with possible Rectangular Rapid – Flashing Beacons (RRFB) placed at the latter three locations. DOT has agreed to install the marked crosswalks, and is supportive of RRFB installations, but will require that RRFB's be funded locally.

Mr. Heckenlaible also reported on a proposed bike/pedestrian safety improvement for the Washington Street bridge that has been advocated by the City for several years: installing a combined bike/pedestrian trail on the east side of the bridge, in place of the existing sidewalk, protected from vehicular traffic by a barrier wall. DOT has agreed to this change, to be completed at local expense and outside of the DOT resurfacing project. He recommends that this work be completed by the City in the Fall of 2024, in advance of the DOT project. Estimated cost is between \$300,000 and \$500,000. Mr. Buckley noted that the Project Plan for TID 12 includes an allowance of \$300,000 to address bike and pedestrian safety improvements in this area—he will be proposing funding for this work in the 2024 Capital Budget. Several Council members expressed support for this investment.

- B. Report on Monsanto Class Action PCB Litigation--Settlement Payment Received by City of

Two Rivers and 132 Other Wisconsin Local Governments, by 2,306 Local Governments
Nationwide--Information Only

The City received a notice in April through certified mail, stating the City had not opted out of the litigation, and therefore was receiving a settlement award in the amount of \$17,414.03. Nationwide, 137 municipalities opted out of receiving a settlement from the litigation, most of these municipalities were large cities. Many Wisconsin shoreline communities were listed as municipalities that received settlement payment—only 4 Wisconsin municipalities opted out of the class action settlement.

City Manager Greg Buckley stated that he wanted the City Council to be advised of the City being named in this class action litigation and settlement. He further stated that the settlement payment will be divided equally between the Wastewater and Stormwater utilities, if there were no objections from the City Council. No one indicated an objection to distributing the funds received in this manner.

C. Update on Code Enforcement Activities and Proposals for Ordinances Amendments

Councilmembers received an email about the longstanding issues on a Roosevelt Avenue property. The owner had received more than 3 offenses within a 12-month period and went through the nuisance property procedure. The owner did not comply with the abatement plan that was agreed upon for their property and received a fine of \$500 from Municipal Court for that non-compliance. In February 2023 the City went to Circuit Court, seeking an injunction to go onto the property and remove materials that were in violation of City ordinances. That injunction was awarded in June. According to Attorney Thuermer, a subsequent clarification approved by the Court makes clear that the City does not have to store anything but can sell items and the proceeds will go against the cost of abatement of property.

Mr. Buckley reported that a commercial property also was notified of its status as a chronic nuisance; and the owner will be meeting with the Police Department to work through an abatement plan.

The Community Service Officer is notifying property owners of tall grass in the terrace and issues with safe vision triangles. The notice was also placed in the July Newsletter and the City has received follow-up phone calls.

Mr. Buckley also reported that the Police Department is working on ordinances for hotels/motel licensing, , regulation of adult entertainment businesses, prohibiting prostitution and addressing Child Sexual Abuse.

D. Reminder: Two Rivers Family Swim Club Representatives will be at the September 18 City Council Meeting, as will representatives of the Blue Heron Condominium Association--
Information Only

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, Seconded by B. LeClair

Voting Yea: Dahlke, Koach, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Baryenbruch, City Clerk