COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
July 26, 2010

Present: Miller, Schueler, Schraeder, Werch, Hansen, Peabody, Brockman, Will
Absent: Luskey
Others: City Administrator Barg, City Attorney Wurtz, City Clerk Schommer

Will called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, there was a brief moment of silence for Gladys Hritsko who had recently passed away. Gladys had been greatly involved in the community and had served our country in the service. After the moment of silence, Pastor Randy Chall gave the invocation.

Brockman moved and Schueler seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Schueler, seconded by Miller. Motion carried 7-0. With this motion the following items were approved.

1. Request for street closures (2 events- August 6, 2010 for a concert that expected to draw a large crowd-Seward Street from Ransom and Watson Streets from 5:00-10:30 p.m., and August 7, 2010 for Maxwell Street Day, 200 Block Watson Street from 9 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.) – Ripon Main Street (Craig Tebon).
2. Request for street closure and temporary Class “B” retailer’s license – Ripon Area Chamber of Commerce (grand opening of remodeled Roadhouse- 100 Block Watson Street, all day Saturday, August 14 until 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 15th).
3. Change in name of Limited Liability Company from H & L Holdings, LLC to Silver Creek Hotel, LLC, (trade name) Ripon AmericInn.

Public input opportunity – ordinance on beer gardens and sidewalk cafes:
Several owners, agents and managers that currently hold “Class B” liquor licenses spoke opposing numerous items in the current ordinance. Robert Hilke, owner of Pastimes Pub & Grille, spoke in opposition to the closing hours for his outside beer garden. He serves pizza until closing time and thinks that patrons should be able to be in the beer garden until closing time. Representatives from America Tavern and Grille spoke in regard to barriers and height restrictions. They do not want to have a barrier that will not be aesthetically pleasing to their business. Many council members questioned the difference between beer gardens and cafés on private property as opposed to public property and what constitutes a barrier. Councilmember Brockman felt it was important not to do away with barriers, as there needs to be a separation from the establishment serving alcohol and the general public and underage people. Councilmember Schueler requested that 2C under 6.34.030 of the current ordinance be eliminated (Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(6) of this section, service at the outdoor premises shall conclude at 9:30 p.m. with the entire area vacated by 10:00 p.m., except for the owner and necessary employees for clean-up.) Schueler also requested that #5 and #6 under 6.34.03 Requirements be eliminated. (Service in the outdoor premises shall be limited to persons seated at tables or at a bar, and all service in the outdoor premises (beverage and food) shall stop no later than 10:30 p.m., with the outdoor premises promptly vacated by 11:00 p.m., except for the owner and regular employees of the licensed premises and then only for purposes of cleaning up.) Councilmember Werch requested that #7 under 6.34.03 Requirements be eliminated (The outdoor premises shall only be used for serving food and alcohol and no part of said area shall be used for recreational activities, including, but not limited to volleyball, horseshoes, darts
and softball). Werch asked why a poker tournament couldn’t be held in Pastimes beer garden. Council member Schraeder requested that the new ordinance contain language that states that an establishment can apply for a variance from the ordinance and council would look at the applications on a case by case basis. Councilmember Brockman requested that cafés serving alcohol and food is separated in the ordinance from the establishments requesting to set up tables outside their business to serve food only.

Council directed that changes be made to the present ordinance and a draft with the changes brought back to council.

**Presentation – second quarter report on 2010 workplan (Melissa Hunt, FCEDC)**

Melissa Hunt from the FCEDC made a brief presentation regarding the Ripon Community Development Specialist’s goals and action plan for 2010 on completed items and various timelines for outstanding projects. Ms. Hunt reported on the west end plan and downtown plan; worked with the CDA regarding their responsibilities; reviewed rail study; attendance at the Wednesday Morning Group meetings and communications with City Administrator Barg. After the presentation Councilmember Miller suggested that the council needs to revisit the City’s vision. She believes that Brenda Hicks-Sorenson from FCEDC, City department heads, Council and the Mayor need to meet and come up with a firm vision for developments. Councilmember Schueler asked who decides on the guidelines, CDA, Plan Commission, or Council. Ms. Hunt replied that it depends on the district, if within CDA district, then CDA, outside CDA district, then Plan Commission, if in Business Park and acquiring land, and then Council would make the decision. Administrator Barg pointed out that it is outlined in City Ordinance.

**Presentation – use of TID #1 funds for downtown projects (Craig Tebon)**

Ripon Main Street Director, Craig Tebon made a brief presentation to the Mayor and Council members regarding beautification of downtown area with monies given from TID #1 fund. $40,000 was given from TID #1 funds and $30,000 Façade Grant. Tebon reported that majority of $40,000 went toward maintenance: new Ripon Welcome Signs; replaced downtown directories; space by Village Green/Ripon Drug replaced park bench and planters; Bandstand was refurbished with the help of volunteers; beautification of downtown area, removed 3 trees that were dying and replaced with attractive sitting area. Around $12,000 left and requests are currently being prioritized, examples Christmas decorations; signage downtown (banners, etc.) Façade grant money is being used to repair downtown building fronts. One example is old Scharpf’s Office Equipment façade. Tebon reported Ripon Roadhouse, Campus Theater and building located at 319 Watson St (which received a $2500 matching façade grant); 223 Watson St and 323-325 (Bluemkes) are almost complete. Future downtown projects will be the buildings at 104 West Jackson Street, and 120 Jackson Street (which is eligible for façade grant). Councilmember Schraeder asked Tebon if any inquiries of property located at 114 Watson St, former Treasury building. Tebon reported that there were no inquiries at this time due to a number of issues (price too high, no liquor license attached to the building, heating system, not sure if there is a clean title, etc.). Councilmember Brockman asked Tebon about weeds at Scott St building and Tebon reported that Jahns Landscaping was taking care of the problem. Brockman also asked about recycling bins. Tebon reported that he had found some samples and shared them with City Administrator Barg. Council will be shown samples in the future, as recycling bins will need to be budgeted for in 2011 budget. Council member Werch asked about concert series at the Village Green. Tebon reported that attendance was up despite weather issues and that sponsorship was up as well. Councilmember Schueler asked if there was a noticeable difference downtown with stores being open Friday nights. Tebon reported he believed so, although too early to tell.
Action items

**Proposed amendment to bylaws of the Community Development Authority**
Councilmember Schueler pointed out that the CDA would have to amend their by-laws. City Attorney Wurtz stated that this item should be directed back to CDA and when they have ratified their by-laws then bring back to council.
Motion by Schraeder to amend by-laws of CDA, seconded by Brockman. Motion carried 7-0.

**Request for up to $500 toward an upcoming visit to a sister city in Germany**
Motion to approve request for up to $500 toward host gifts and other recognition items for upcoming visit to sister city in Germany by Miller, seconded by Schraeder. Motion approved 6-0. Schueler abstained.

**Appointment of one member as the Council’s economic development contact**
After much discussion, Motion by Brockman, seconded by Miller to recommend Councilmember Schueler to serve as Council’s contact with FCEDC. Motion amended by Brockman, seconded by Miller to add Council member Peabody as alternate. Motion carried 7-0.

**Submission of request for grant funds under State’s “Clean Sweep” program**
Councilmember Brockman questioned if the “Clean Sweep” would be a 2011 budget item and Administrator Barg replied yes. Councilmember Werch questioned whether or not other municipalities were contacted to try to pool to get “Clean Sweep” grant. Administrator Barg reported no and deadline to apply is July 30, 2010.
Motion by Schueler, seconded by Brockman to have staff apply for grant funds under State’s “Clean Sweep” program. Motion carried 7-0.

Discussion items

**Executive report from the recent Council listening sessions**
City Administrator Barg reported that 8-18 people were in attendance at the various listening sessions. Barg reported that many of the items regarded code enforcement. Council members Brockman and Schraeder questioned whether staff had received a copy of report. Administrator Barg had given copy of the report to the various department heads and some items were being worked on. Councilmember Brockman asked that department heads write 1-2 sentences by each item their department deals with as to their ideas on how to handle the issues and bring report and ideas back to council, so council knows how to proceed.

**Project updates & staff reports**
Administrator Barg reported on the following items: Newbury Street completion; West Oshkosh Street resurfacing; RFP for staffing study being reworked by Assistant to City Administrator Lori Rich and himself to tighten up language and scope of study in order to resend RFP; Barg and Assistant to City Administrator Lori Rich also working with Phil Cossan on permanent financing for the downtown projects. Council should see this item on its October agenda. Furniture behind Ripon Drug was taking more time than it should due to trying to find responsible party. Code Enforcement Officer Gary Failor working on this. If not settled soon, Public Works Director Travis Drake will be directing his staff to remove items.

**Mayor’s communications and appointments**
The Mayor had no communications or appointments to share with the council at this time.
**Agenda items for future Council meetings**

Councilmember Schueler requested the report on the dam be brought back to council. Schueler also requested that the rail study be brought back to council and a schedule on upcoming budget sessions. Councilmember Schraeder requested that in regards to presentations, that the council is given the information to read before the meetings and have the representative on hand if council has questions.

Adjourn to closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) “Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session”

RE: Request to change to existing developer’s agreement (Rolling Hills)
RE: Possible TIF assistance for project located within TIF District #6

Motion by Brockman, seconded by Peabody. Motion carried 7-0.

Adjourn to closed session at 8:55 p.m.

Ann Schommer
City Clerk