COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

July 13, 2010

Present:  Miller, Schueler, Brockman, Peabody, Luskey, Werch, Will
Absent:  Hansen, Schraeder
Others:  City Administrator Barg, City Attorney Wurtz, Public Works Director Drake, Police Chief Lukoski, City Clerk Schommer

Mayor Will called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Pr. Don Deike gave the invocation.

Administrator Barg pulled Discussion Item #1 – Proposed policy to give credits on utility bills for extenuating circumstances, from the agenda, citing that the item needs to be reintroduced by a Council member that voted with the majority (negative vote), and this was not done. If it is not brought back by the next meeting, there will be no policy.

Miller moved and Brockman seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented with the removal of item VII #1. Motion carried 6-0.

Public communications and comment
Michelle Perr, 321 Thorne Street, spoke strongly in response to an editorial that appeared in a local newspaper regarding Mayor Will and the Council getting along, and other events that are happening within the city.

Barb Miller spoke as a concerned resident regarding weed and grass issues on the Sandmar subdivision. She stated that Public Works should make vacant lots, abandoned lots and city-owned parcels a priority.

Resolution – recognizing and commending Jack Wendler for his 30 years of service
Motion to approve Resolution #2010-11 recognizing and commending Jack Wendler for his 30 years of service. Motion by Luskey, seconded by Peabody. Motion passed 6-0.

There was a 10-minute break for visiting and refreshments with Jack Wendler.

The meeting was called back to order by Mayor Will at 7:45 p.m.

Consent calendar
Schueler moved and Luskey seconded a motion to approve item VI #1 from the consent calendar. Motion passed 6-0. With this motion, the Council approved the following items.

1. Reports from standing committees and staff
   a. Cable TV Advisory Committee minutes – April 12th
   b. Ripon Library Board minutes – May 25th & June 29th
   c. Ripon Area Fire District minutes – June 1st
   d. Historic Preservation Commission minutes – June 7th
   e. Common Council minutes – June 8th & June 28th
   f. Plan Commission minutes – June 16th & June 28th
   g. Ripon Taxi – May
   h. Ripon Area Fire District - June
   i. Building Inspector’s report – June
Item VI. #2 under the Consent Calendar- Request for street closures for 5K road race August 14th.
Herman Leitz representing the Ripon Noon Kiwanis updated Council on two changes to the 2010 race. There will be no band this year and roadblocks will be handled differently than in 2009. The barricades will be at the intersections where the runners will be, and they will have volunteers stationed at each barricade with flags to allow traffic to proceed if no runners are present or hold traffic until runners pass. Brockman moved and Luskey seconded a motion to approve item VI #2 from the consent calendar. Motion passed 6-0.

Solid waste and recycling issues, including auditing and enforcement action
Audits of garbage picked up at residences were discontinued due to numerous complaints. Public Works Director Drake stated that since these audits were discontinued, tonnage was up 2-4 tons. After much discussion, consensus of the Council was to do a two-week media blitz informing residents what should be recycled and what is considered garbage. Auditing program will resume August 2, 2010.

Proposals to conduct thorough review of the City’s human resources issues
Council advised Administrator Barg to have staff revisit proposals and to find out why everyone sent an RFP did not submit one back to the city. After much discussion, Council instructed staff to rework RFP to tighten language to only include personnel study, not policy study and after proposals are submitted to plan monies in the 2011 budget. Brockman moved and Schueler seconded a motion to table item until staff brings back reworked RFP. Motion passed 6-0.

Project updates & staff reports
Administrator Barg informed Council that the permanent financing was not in place, but that he and Assistant to the City Administrator Rich met with Phil Cosson. Package for permanent financing will be brought to the Council after August 1, 2010.

Barg stated that the September 14, 2010 Council meeting conflicted with the Partisan Primary Election that is held on that date. After discussion, the new meeting date will be Monday, September 13, 2010.

Administrator Barg stated that he will be sending Council members and Mayor Will an e-mail regarding a 7-day trip to Germany by 5 community members, which includes former Councilmember Stoeberl and current member Schueler. The goal is to put together items to send with the delegation. Anyone that is interested in going is welcome. City funds are not being used toward this trip. In 2009, a delegation from Germany visited Ripon.

Councilmember Schueler received an “anonymous” letter from a resident in regards to garbage/furniture behind Ripon Drug. Public Works Director Drake is looking into this and will have it cleaned up.

Councilmember Luskey questioned Drake on the number of catch basins that were added on Newbury Street. Drake reported that two catch basins were added to the bottom of the hill. Councilmember Peabody requested that Drake check on the asphalt on the eastside of the 500 block on Newbury.
Mayor’s communications and appointments
Mayor Will has no appointments at this time.

Agenda items for future Council meetings
Council member Miller asked that the city look into the “Clean Sweep” program and apply for a grant. Administrator Barg stated that it is difficult to receive a grant without “multiple” municipalities being involved, but that he would look into it and bring this back to Council.

Councilmember Peabody asked that the Dam Study come back to Council.

With no further business before Council in open session, Brockman moved and Luskey seconded a motion to adjourn into closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(g) “Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written evidence concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved”

RE: Performance concerns with certain 2008 public improvement projects

Council will also review minutes from June 8, 2010 and June 28, 2010 closed sessions for accuracy.

Motion carried 6-0. Will declared the meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:25 p.m.

Ann Schommer
City Clerk