COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2010

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

Will called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. Mark West gave the invocation.

Approval of Agenda
Brockman moved and Peabody seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Public Communications and Comment
Councilmember Luskey questioned door hanger left by Action Appraisers & Consultants. No explanation on door hanger, just phone number. Staff will request Action Appraisers & Consultants revise door hangers to include “Please call”.
Councilmember Miller informed Council that a planning session was being planned for August 24, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to develop an economic development vision for the city. Notices, agenda and information will be sent soon to Council, Plan Commission members, CDA members, Public Works Director Drake, Paula Price from the Ripon Chamber office, Ripon Main Street Director Craig Tebon and the press.
Councilmember Werch addressed citizens smoking in front of establishments. He questioned problems in regards to littering, dirty ash trays, and loitering in front buildings. Chief Lukoski has verified complaints that his department has received and will remind establishments of their responsibilities about litter, etc.

Consent Calendar
Brockman requested that item l. Public Works report – July be pulled for discussion with Public Works Director Drake. Brockman moved and Luskey seconded motion to pull item l. from consent calendar.
Brockman requested a side by side comparison report of solid waste collected since monitoring of collection began. Drake will include report.

Brockman moved and Peabody seconded a motion to approve the consent calendar. Motion carried 7-0.

With this motion, the Council approved the following items.
1. Reports from standing committees and staff
   a. Cable TV Advisory Committee minutes – June 14th
   b. Ripon Area Fire District minutes – July 6th & July 20th
   c. Historic Preservation Commission minutes – July 12th
   d. Common Council minutes – July 13th (2 sets) and July 26th
   e. Community Development Authority minutes – July 26th
   f. Ripon Library Board minutes – July 27th
   g. Ripon Taxi – June
   h. Ripon Area Fire District - July
   i. Building Inspector’s report – July
   j. EMS report – July
   k. Police Department report – July
   l. Public Works report – July
   m. Senior Center report – July
   n. City Administration reports
1. Treasurer’s report – July
2. Budget report – July
3. Check register – July

**Action Items**

**Ordinance – amending Ordinance #1367 (beer gardens and sidewalk cafes)**

Much discussion was held regarding entry doorways and control issues. Luskey motioned and Brockman seconded to accept Ordinance #1367 To Amend Certain Sections of Chapter 6.34 Outdoor Service/Beer Gardens and Sidewalk Cafés for Licensed Premises as written with the following exceptions. Remove the line under 6.34.030 (3) “Any variance from these requirements will require Common Council review and approval” and revise 6.34.030(4) to read “If the outdoor premises are located in the front yard of the licensed premises, it shall be completely surrounded by an attractive wall or fence (not height restricted). Entry to the outdoor premises shall only occur through the main building of the premises only if the establishment does not fall under the 50% Restaurant Exemption Certification.” Motion carried 7-0

Ordinance to be brought back to Council as Consent Calendar agenda item.

**Discussion Items**

**Review study of dam, including suggested repairs and funding considerations**

Drake commended the Ripon Commonwealth on an excellent job reporting on the dam. Schueler inquired about the two options. Travis reported that they will both cost approximately the same amount whether you would take down and reconstruct the existing dam (keeping the appearance of the current dam) or place a separate wall right in front of the existing structure (destroying the present appearance of the dam). Drake is working on a 3rd option, getting a second opinion on a less costly repair. Many councilmember’s inquired about grants, FEMA or stimulus monies available. Barg and Drake will look into these programs and report back to council. Drake was asked by council how long DNR will give the city to make improvements. Drake received a letter from DNR in February 2009 stating that the city needed to move toward repair measures in 2011. Drake stated that we can ask about getting an extension to explore other options. Drake relayed that the DNR has changed their inspection policy to having inspections every 3 years by an outside source and that the municipalities would need to pay for the inspections. Miller inquired when Drake expects to receive an answer regarding the second opinion. An answer is expected by Fall of this year.

**Review of staff’s responses to issues raised at Council listening sessions**

Will thanked Police Chief Lukoski and Public Works Director Drake for reporting back to council in regards to listening session issues. Schueler raised the question regarding truck traffic complaint she received from concerned citizen. Drake and Lukoski are aware of complaints. It is almost impossible to control truck traffic due to truck drivers using GPS’s to navigate around city. Drake responded that neighboring community, City of Berlin, has painted poles in the downtown area yellow to indicate truck route. He didn’t believe this would fit in with Ripon’s downtown appearance. Lukoski stated he would like truck traffic diverted from downtown area because of traffic lights being hit and taken down.

**Review 2011 budget schedule; solicit Mayor and Council’s input/parameters**

Will would like not to raise taxes and to work within the budget we currently have and keep our core services intact. Barg instructed councilmember’s to contact him to share their thoughts on what they would like to be included in 2011 budget. Schueler requested update on 5 year capital projects plan, 5 year street project funding plan.

**Project updates & staff report**

**Resolution of garbage issue on 300 block of Watson Street (west side)**

Public Works Department has disposed of remaining items. Issue was originally given to Code Enforcement Officer to try to find owners of garbage. When owner could not be determined Public Works disposed of items.
Drake reported that traffic signals have been changed to LED lights; bids for Ardmore Avenue mill and overlay work; Oshkosh Street recondition; concrete joint repair and sidewalk maintenance will be opened on August 13th at 9:00 a.m. and will report back to council.

Werch inquired about the garbage audit. Drake reported that it is going okay with half the number of violations. There are only about 3-4 repeat violations, with yard waste and paper being the biggest problems. Public Works will be doing a follow up. Barg added that there was a benefit to stoppage giving residents time to understand what is allowed and what is not allowed. Media blitz also helped.

Schueler inquired about the vision statement—traffic study from 2003 and when it will be updated. Drake indicated that the cycle in every 2 years and that last update was in 2008 so DOT should be coming summer of 2010. We will find out the results of the 2010 study in 2011.

Peabody inquired about blacktop replacement on Ransom Street. Drake reported that it was complete including the Barlow Park loop and downtown area.

Assistant to City Administrator Rich and City Administrator Barg reworked staffing study RFP and went back to the 4 companies that had not returned bids to inquire why. Answers ranged from didn’t fit scope of what their companies did or did not have the time. Rich sent revised RFP to the two companies that bids were received from, RW Management Group, Inc. and Public Administration Associates, LLC, to see if the fee would change due to the narrowing of the RFP scope. Barg will bring results back to council September 13th.

Barg and Rich are working with Phil Cossan on permanent borrowing for TIF #11. They are still evaluating projects that are unfolding and since interests will remain about the same, Barg will bring permanent borrowing to council in October.

**Mayor’s communications and appointments**
The Mayor has no communications or appointments at this time.

**Agenda items for future Council meetings**
Benches in the downtown area, Ripon Main Street.

Beer Garden Ordinance brought back as a consent calendar item.

Werch reminding everyone that September 14th meeting has been changed to September 13th and will be held in Conference Room due to Council Chambers being set up for September 14th Partisan Election.

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

RE: Possible second developer’s agreement for Sandmar Village subdivision

Council will also review minutes from July 13, 2010 and July 26, 2010 closed sessions for accuracy.

Motion by Brockman seconded by Luskey to adjourn to closed session. Vote carries 7-0.

Adjourn to close session at: 8:15 p.m.

Ann Schommer
City Clerk