COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
March 9, 2010

Present: Brockman Luskey, Miller, Pape, Peabody, Schraeder, Schueler, Stoebel
Absent: None
Others: City Administrator Barg, City Attorney Wurtz, Public Works Drake, Police Chief Lukoski

Miller called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. Paul Nulton gave the invocation.

**Public communications and comment**
Schraeder moved and Brockman seconded a motion to commend all those involved in making the skating rink project a success this past winter. Motion carried 8-0.

**2009 report and proposed 2010 workplan – Melissa Hunt, FCEDC Community Specialist**
Melissa Hunt offered a summary of accomplishments of FCEDC working with the City of Ripon during 2009 and highlighted a proposed workplan for her position for 2010. The proposed workplan includes a marketing plan for the west end district, revitalizing the Community Development Authority, and further developing the new business Park. Members unanimously accepted the 2009 report and 2010 workplan.

**Consent calendar**
Schraeder moved and Peabody seconded a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented, with the exception of items 1b, 1c and 2. Motion carried 8-0.

After Barg advised that the February 2\textsuperscript{nd} fire district meeting minutes were distributed at this meeting, that the February 16\textsuperscript{th} Council meeting minutes were revised to show Peabody (not Pape) as Council’s second representative to the Russell Manor study team, and that a second ordinance related to the new water softener regulations was distributed at this meeting, Luskey moved Schraeder seconded a motion to approve items 1b, 1c, and 2 from the consent calendar. Motion carried 8-0.

With these two motions, the Council approved the following items.

1. Reports from standing committees and staff
   a. CATV minutes – January 4\textsuperscript{th}
   b. Fire District – January 5\textsuperscript{th} & February 2\textsuperscript{nd}
   c. Common Council minutes – January 12\textsuperscript{th} & 25\textsuperscript{th}, February 16\textsuperscript{th} & 22\textsuperscript{nd}
   d. Plan Commission minutes – January 20\textsuperscript{th}
   e. Ripon Public Library Board minutes – January 26\textsuperscript{th} & February 23\textsuperscript{rd}
   f. Ripon Taxi – December & January
   g. Building Inspector’s report – January & February
   h. Public Works report – January & February
   i. EMS report – January & February
   j. Police Department report – January & February
   k. Fire District report – January & February
   l. Senior Center report – January & February
   m. City Administration reports
      1. Treasurer’s report – January & February
      2. Budget report – January & February
      3. Check register – January & February
2. Ordinance – creating Chapter 18.12.130 of Ripon City Code (water softeners)  
   (Staff note: The attached ordinance would require that all new water softeners operate on a 
   “demand” basis, rather than simply cycling every so often. This should help the City’s ongoing 
   chloride source reduction program.)

3. Ordinance – amending Chapter 12.68 of the Ripon City Code (firearms)  
   (Staff note: Recently, the Council passed an ordinance on firearms in response to a State 
   Attorney General’s opinion. However, we now propose the attached amendment to allow a 
   landowner to prohibit someone from openly carrying a weapon into their building, with proper 
   signage. Staff recommends approval.)

4. Ordinance – amending Chapter 8 of the Ripon City Code (dangerous dogs)  
   (Staff note: The attached ordinance was drafted to resolve some issues with our dangerous dog 
   ordinance, clarifying and tightening some terms and language, closing some potential 
   enforcement “loopholes”. Staff recommends approval.)

5. Petition – allowing 3 dogs at 417 Stonehedge Court (Judy Gauthier)  
   (Staff note: In accordance with Chapter 8 of the City Code, Judy Gauthier has filed the attached 
   petition, seeking City approval for her to have a third dog at her residence at 417 Stonehedge 
   Court. Staff has no objections to this request.)

Resolution – authorizing issuance and sale of $1,405,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds, 
Series 2010A  
Phil Cosson, the city’s financial advisor from Ehlers, presented and highlighted the results from a bid 
opening earlier in the day to refinance the City’s existing debt. The low bid was M&I with an annualized 
interest rate of 3.03%. Schueler moved and Pape seconded a motion to approve a resolution accepting 
the low bid and authorizing the bond refinancing. Motion carried 8-0.

Loan Review Board meeting minutes (February 25th) and one loan request  
While the Loan Review Board recommended approving a $40,000 loan from Henry Conti of AmericInn 
on February 25, the applicant is unable to fulfill the board’s collateral request. Barg noted that efforts are 
going to reach agreement with the applicant on acceptable collateral to take to the Loan Review Board 
for consideration, and asking that this item be tabled. Stoeberl moved and Schueler seconded a motion to 
table the February 25th Loan Review Board minutes and the loan to Mr. Conti. Motion carried 8-0.

Request for exemption from Ordinance #1355 (sign removal) – Richard Mrazik  
Richard Mrazik, owner of the Dairy Queen site, presented and highlighted his letter asking that the City 
immediately stop enforcing its new ordinance on the removal of old business signs until more study can 
be done. He noted that the framework of his sign for the former Dairy Queen operation has considerable 
value, and this may be a selling point to a future buyer of the property. After some discussion, Schraeder 
moved and Luskey seconded a motion to deny the request, and asked Mr. Mrazik to work with Barg on 
an application for a variance to the Board of Zoning Appeals, if he wants to pursue a specific exemption 
for his property. Motion carried 8-0.

Possible changes to the City’s Bulk Waste pick-up policy  
Schraeder moved and Brockman seconded a motion to approve the changes to the bulk waste collection 
policy outlined in a memo from Public Works Director Drake presented last month. Motion carried 8-0.

Project updates and staff reports  
Barg presented a report on the status of deteriorating properties across the city. Discussion occurred on 
how active the city wants to be in getting the structures razed, especially if the City is unlikely to recoup
its costs. Ultimately, Council encouraged staff to be proactive in resolving these matters and improving the properties in question.

Barg updated Council on the status of the 2010 workplan, noting that refinancing the old debt approved earlier in this meeting and resuming Community Appearance Team meetings are important steps toward addressing workplan items.

**Mayor’s communications and appointments**
Based on concerns expressed about the composition of the new CDA, Mayor Miller asked that this item be tabled until the March 22nd meeting for more study. Peabody moved and Luskey seconded a motion to table appointment of the new CDA members until the March 22nd meeting. Motion carried 8-0.

With no further business before Council in open session, Pape moved and Luskey seconded a motion to adjourn to closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) “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: Possible purchase of property located in TIF District #6
- RE: Possible new developer’s agreement in TIF District #7

Adjourn to 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
- RE: Possible litigation involving another governmental jurisdiction

Adjourn to closed session under Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c) “Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility”
- RE: Possible change to an employee’s job title and compensation

Council will also review minutes from the January 25, 2010 closed session for accuracy.

Motion carried 8-0. Miller declared the meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Barg, City Administrator