COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
August 23, 2010

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

Will called meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Pastor Josh Sherman gave the invocation.

Schueler moved and Brockman seconded motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

Public communications and comment
Peabody contacted Garmin to see if changes could be made to GPS mapping systems so that downtown Ripon would not be listed as a truck route. Garmin will change mapping to show downtown district as non-truck traffic route. He will try to contact other GPS providers.

Proclamation – greetings to our sister city of Untergruppenbach, Germany
Peabody moved and Brockman seconded motion to approve Proclamation – greetings to our sister city of Untergruppenbach, Germany. Motion passed 6-0.

Consent calendar
Miller moved and Brockman seconded motion to approve consent calendar. Discussion held for clarification on America’s planters and rope barrier. Barg confirmed that this was an interim measure for 2010 and for 2011 America is working on a more attractive barrier. Werch wanted clarified for public that Item #2 under consent calendar- writing off uncollectible personal property tax accounts was for $884.75 not thousands of dollars. Motion passed 6-0 to approve consent calendar. With this motion, the Council approved the following items.

1. Ordinance – amending Ordinance #1367 (beer gardens/sidewalk cafes)
2. Resolution – writing off uncollectible personal property tax accounts
3. Request for street closures and beer tent – Chamber (Septemberfest)

Action items
Bids for public construction projects
Brockman moved, Miller seconded motion to accept the following bids. Motion passed 6-0.

a. Street resurfacing work – Ardmore Avenue- Northeast Asphalt $ 21,545.00
b. Street resurfacing work – West Oshkosh Street-Northeast Asphalt $123,545.00

c. Sidewalk maintenance and concrete joint repair- Fisher-Ulman $ 67,477.50

Discussion items
Proposed policy – credits for utility bills (Council President Miller)
Miller proposed policy to give a one time credit if someone requested for a utility bill that was 3 – 5 times greater than normal. This credit would only be on sewer portion of the bill. Schueler opposed to asking taxpayers to pay for isolated incidences. Will question who would initiate the credit, the city or the customer. Werch asked if we could have the customer produce a certificate from a certified plumber as to who or what was to blame. Miller moved Peabody seconded motion to have this policy put on September 13, 2010 agenda as an action item. Motion failed 4-2 with Peabody and Miller voting yes.

Ripon College’s payment in lieu of room tax
Schueler requested the city investigate whether or not Ripon College should be paying room tax like the hotels in the city, paying 6% based on gross room receipts, instead of paying lump sum in the 4th quarter. Barg contacted Ripon College President David Joyce and Joyce was going to get back to Barg with numbers. Motion by
Schueler and seconded by Peabody to table item until September 13, 2010 meeting so that President Joyce can get back to Barg with necessary information. Motion passed 6-0.

**Staff’s proposed list of capital projects and funding considerations**
Barg reported that funding projects will be tight due to increase in operating expenses, i.e., personnel costs, health costs, revenues running flat. Possible to tap excess monies in our reserve combined with some borrowing. City is currently somewhere near 90% of its borrowing capability. Question rose if Dam not repaired this year, if possible to do two phases of Ransom Street reconstruction. Drake replied that was a possibility and to remember that the dollar figures listed were only estimates. Miller inquired if “Clean Sweep” was based on Ripon getting grant, Barg replied it was. Hansen asked if the Barlow Park chimney was worth replacing, Drake stated that the roof and chimney were in dire need of repair. Peabody asked Brockman about replacing the aerial ladder in the Ripon Area Fire District. Brockman reported that vehicle had a life expectancy of 20 years (aerial ladder is 1982) and it is scheduled to have an x-ray in October. If fails x-ray it will need to be pulled out of service and would then have to rely on area Fire Departments for mutual aid. Fire District is trying to come up with plan to start pooling money, so when large expense items are needed there would be money to draw from. Brockman will have a better answer after x-ray in October on aerial ladder. Peabody inquired where the city stood on closing TIF’s to get properties back on tax roll and whether could use money from TIF’s to finance capital projects. After much discussion Barg stated that Infrastructure was main priority and that council should inform him what projects are priority to them so that city can start to figure financing options.

**Project updates & staff reports**
Barg - Staffing study will be brought back to council September 13, 2010. Permanent financing will be delayed. Rates are still low and will be for the foreseeable future probably will not be done by October. Schueler asked about distribution of room tax to Chamber of Commerce and Ripon Main Street. Barg reported that distribution was decreased to both entities in 2010 due to lower room tax revenue. They have also been advised that 2011 will probably not be increased, could possibly be decreased again.

**Mayor’s communications and appointments**
Schueler inquired as to the length of term. Barg reported that term length was not defined. Motion by Schueler and seconded by Hansen to approve the following appointments. Motion passed 6-0.

- Forestry Board (new 5-member advisory body)
  - Karl Beres (916 Thomas Street)
  - Beth Combs (Town of Ripon resident)
  - Bruce DeBoer (816 Metomen Street)
  - Elizabeth McHone (Ripon College student)
  - Skip Wittler (Town of Ripon resident)

**Agenda items for future Council meetings**
No items were brought forward for future council meetings.

**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 modify the terms of developer’s agreement (Rolling Hills)

Motion by Brockman and seconded by Werch to adjourn into closed session. Motion carried: 6-0

Adjourned to closed session at 8:17 p.m.

Ann Schommer
City Clerk