

**COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
December 10, 2013**

Present: Schraeder, Peabody, Werch, Hansen, Klein, Miller, Pape, Will

Absent: Brockman

Others: City Administrator Rich, Police Chief Lukoski, Drake, City Clerk Schommer

Will called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation – Pastor Gary Miller

**Approval of agenda**

Will informed council closed session as listed on agenda will not be held. Motion made by Hansen, second by Miller to approve amended agenda. Motion carried.

**Public communications and comment**

None

**Consent calendar**

Motion made by Peabody, second by Hansen to approve consent calendar. Motion carried. With this motion the following items were approved.

1. Informational reports from standing committees and staff
  - a. Library Board minutes – November 26<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Common Council minutes – Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Budget Nov 25
  - c. Plan Commission minutes – November 13<sup>th</sup>
  - d. Park & Recreation minutes – November 20<sup>th</sup>
  - e. Historic Preservation minutes – November 5<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Zoning Appeals – December 5<sup>th</sup>
  - g. Cable TV Advisory – October 14<sup>th</sup> November 11<sup>th</sup>
  - h. Ripon Area Fire District Report - November
  - i. Building Inspector report – November
  - j. EMS report – November
  - k. Police Department report – November
  - l. Senior Center report – November
  - m. City Administration reports
    - Treasurer's report – November
    - Budget report – November
    - Check register – November

**Action Items**

Appoint Election Inspectors, Special Registration/Voting Deputies and Municipal Board of Canvas members for the 2014/2015 Election Cycle

Motion made by Schraeder, second by Peabody to approve Resolution No. 2013-22. Appointing Various Officials for Elections Held During the Years 2014 and 2015. Motion carried.

**Discussion items**

Reconsider allowing snowmobiles on the Northwestern Trail

Hugo Rodriguez, 720 Layton, voiced concerns about the noise and safety of permitting snowmobiles on the Northwestern Trail. Mr. Rodriguez delivered a petition signed by City of Ripon residents and users of the trail requesting Council reconsider allowing snowmobiles on the trail. Mr. Rodriguez noted councils lack of due diligence by not contacting surrounding property owners that a potential change to use of the trail was being considered. Rodriguez stated letting the trail be groomed for snowmobile use will ruin the trail for snow shoeing, cross country skiing, hiking and will cause noise for the surrounding neighbors. Will explained discussion on allowing snowmobiles on the trail began 3 years ago with snowmobilers outside of Ripon stating the trails led to hotels, but not to restaurants. Will, Werch, Schraeder pointed out council has held 3 meetings and no one from the public attended those public meetings to voice concerns. Will also pointed out that the county and city lease the land the trail is on from WP&L and that the 25-

year lease will end in a few years. Will stressed the trail is a public trail and all taxpayers in the City of Ripon are paying toward the lease and maintenance of the trail. Many council members pointed out this is a one year trial and will address issue again in 2014. Council also stressed the trail is “public” and the change to allow snowmobiling on the trail was not done behind closed doors, but in a public forum. Sue Kalupa a Ripon resident asked Will to state where snowmobiling will be allowed on the trail in the city. Tammy Conlon, W13061 Locust Rd, Ripon, a member of the Silver Creek Sno-Odders told council her family are avid snowmobilers. She stated the spur trail will benefit City of Ripon with tourism dollars and stressed that all can use the trail and that the trail might not even be open the entire winter due to lack of snow conditions. Conlon hopes the council will not reverse their decision allowing snowmobiles on the trail. Howard Stibb, 820 State Street, member of Silver Creek Sno-Odders, stated the residents opposed to the change are concerned snowmobilers won’t abide by the Snowmobilers Code of Ethics, noise level and that other winter activities will not be able to be enjoyed on the trail. Stibb stated you will have 99.9% abide by the code, just like 99.9% of automobile drivers abide by laws while driving their vehicles. Stibb stated the noise level will be like someone using their lawn mowers in summer and pointed out that the home- owner’s windows will be closed as opposed to summer when they are open. Werch asked Stibb how many complaints his club has received regarding snowmobilers not abiding by laws regulating them and where they ride. Stibb stated they have not received any complaints. Dean Luker, 533 E Oshkosh Street, Ripon stated he is very much into snowmobiling and is on many snowmobiling committees in the state. Luker also stated his tax dollars go toward paying for the lease and maintenance of the trail. Luker receives numerous calls from other snowmobilers asking what trails are open for use and what resources are available. Luker stated in the past he could not recommend Ripon, but now will be able to. Jason Duffy, 804 Layton Drive, Ripon told council he found out by accident that the use for the trail had changed and he was not appreciative of the lack of communication that was provided by the city or the snowmobile clubs. Duffy stated that the city needs to communicate with their residents more when items are before council that will affect them and potentially their property values. Werch stated the residents and city should give the change a shot to see if it will work. If a complaint is filed, council could change the use back any time before the year is out. No action taken.

### **Project updates & staff reports**

#### **Recognition of employees celebrating anniversaries in December with the city**

Klein recognized the following employees celebrating anniversaries in December with the city:

Katelyn Beck, Ripon Police Department; Barbara Mashack, City Administration Dept.; Jay Towne, Water Department; Chris Liveris, Water/Wastewater Director; Teresa Duzinske, Library; Dana Berry, Wastewater Dept.

### **Mayor’s communications and appointments**

None

### **Agenda items for future Council meetings**

City Administrator performance review.

Motion made by Hansen, second by Pape to adjourn. Motion carried.

With no further business, Will declared meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Ann Schommer, City Clerk