



MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2024 AT 6:30 PM

[BIT.LY/RCCOUNCIL10-01-24](https://bit.ly/RCCouncil10-01-24)

COUNCIL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581 & VIRTUALLY

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER Meeting was called to order by Mayor Coppernoll at 6:31 PM. Members present: Ron Fruit, Karin Tepley, Tom McCarthy, Mark Chambers, Kevin Melby, Melony Walters, Steve Downs, and Ryan Cairns. Members absent: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Alderperson Chambers to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2024 meeting with corrections to the Historic Preservation Commission and Public Safety Committee reports. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried 8-0.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Alderperson Downs to approve the Council agenda with item #5 removed. Seconded by Melby. Motion carried 8-0.

CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS AND CONCERNS: Utility Manager Scott Gald reminded everyone of the annual utility customer appreciation night on October 9th and gave an update on 8th Street: the first coat of blacktop is down, with completion expected the end of the week. A final coat and manhole access are needed to complete the sewer portion. Utility staff have been working on budgets and process improvements, including IT reviews with the city. Overall, it has been a busy and productive time.

Director Jasen Glasbrenner made the Council aware of the Public Works Committee decision to remove two drinking fountains downtown. One fountain is operational but requires significant repairs. Director Glasbrenner reported the Public Works Department is currently focused on leaf cleanup and preparing for winter. He noted an upcoming end of project meeting for 8th Street to identify and remedy any unsatisfactory or remaining work. Director Glasbrenner advised, the City has access to nearly a million dollars in grant funds for airport capital improvements, which will require a future public hearing and council resolution. Additionally, there are ongoing grant-related projects, including funding considerations for the future hospital site and initiatives with Los Amigos and childcare at Rockbridge.

Library Director Stacy Pilla announced that the Library Historian is semi-retiring, prompting the need for a temporary replacement. The Library will work with the Director of Public Works to replace a furnace, make repairs to building columns, and plan for landscaping projects. The Friends of the Library will host a 55th anniversary Open House on November 2nd. On October 16th, River Valley Raptors will be at the Community Center during a no school day for the Richland School District.

City Administrator Ashley Oliphant reported that the RFP for the shared ride taxi service is open on Vendor Net until October 31st. Open enrollment for employee insurance benefits started the previous day and runs through October 25th. Many events are scheduled for the upcoming weekend; the city's calendar is particularly full and large item collection is on the 12th. Departments are also preparing budgets and will hold budget hearings with the Finance Committee prior to the budget adoption.

The new Zoning Administrator, Matt Williams, was introduced. He will be available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, enhancing accessibility and raising awareness to assist individuals in obtaining necessary permits.

Clerk Amanda Keller encouraged members of the Common Council and City residents to engage in the upcoming election scheduled for November 5th. Clerk Keller also noted the effort to organize and purge unnecessary materials from the Clerk's Office and Municipal Building Library.

MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS: Alderperson Fruit shared the upcoming weekend will be busy with the Center Colorfest, featuring events like the Canyon of Lights, the Wheel of Time, the Hornet at Homecoming, and the Wine Walk, offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy the community.

Alderperson Tepley provided clarification regarding the removal of item #5 from the agenda. During the previous Library Board meeting, it was determined that the Library would adhere to the City's financial policy and relevant state statutes concerning repairs. Specifically, repairs costing less than \$3,000 will be managed by maintenance personnel, while those exceeding \$3,000 will be classified under capital outlay, necessitating quotes in accordance with the City financial policy. The Library Board is committed to addressing these matters appropriately to include working with the Director of Public Works.

Alderperson Chambers discussed several updates from the Park and Natatorium Boards, including efforts to repair dugouts at Krouskop Park with potential donated materials, a feasibility study being completed for the gym by Symon's Recreation Center, and a guest presenter identifying ADA improvement ideas for City parks. Additionally, he advised the sign for Symon Recreation Center will be refurbished and the facility will undergo a deep cleaning by a local vendor.

Alderperson Walters noted that the Symon's Foundation recently provided Symon's Recreation Center with handicap-accessible exercise equipment, designed for wheelchair users and is adjustable for various needs. Additionally, the Personnel Committee discussed health insurance open enrollment and anticipated a cost-of-living adjustment for employees of 2.5% to 3% based on CPI. There are still open positions in the City, including temporary administrative support for Public Works and Economic Development as well as a full-time a Financial Officer (Treasurer) position, and interviews for an administrative assistant will be scheduled soon.

Mayor Coppennoll extended an invitation to the Common Council and the public to attend the upcoming Joint Ambulance Committee meeting, acknowledging the contentious dynamics of prior discussions. He underscored the significance of City representation in forthcoming dialogues regarding the Committee's relationship with the County, and he anticipated a robust question-and-answer session. Furthermore, he expressed appreciation for the efficient operations of the Fire District, which covers an area of 310 miles and is supported by 48 firefighters from a single station.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion by Alderperson Melby to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried 8-0.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion by Alderperson Cairns to pay the October 1, 2024 bills as presented. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried 8-0.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM(S)

4. **Ordinance Amending Chapter 399 of the Richland Center Code of Ordinances:** The proposed ordinance seeks to amend the City's current self-imposed restrictions on liquor license issuance. This change would grant the Common Council the authority to approve the maximum number of licenses permitted by state law, as determined by the Council's discretion. Currently, the City imposes stricter limits on Class B liquor licenses than required by state law, often requiring them to be paired with Class B Beer Licenses. This can hinder business development by limiting options for new businesses and imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens on existing businesses. Motion by Alderperson Chambers to approve Ordinance 2024-4 Amending Chapter 399.15 License Quotas. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried 8-0.

FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION (CAIRNS)

5. **Approval of Bid for Library Furnace Replacement** - Removed from the agenda by earlier action.
6. **Overhead Crane Repair at Streets Garage.** Motion by Alderperson Cairns to approve overhead crane repair at the Street's Building by Kone Cranes at a cost of \$7,842.12 utilizing unallocated contingency funds. Seconded by Melby. Motion carried 8-0.

APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Coppernoll recommended the appointment of Casey Garner to the ADA Committee. Motion by Alderperson Melby to appoint Casey Garner to the ADA Committee. Seconded by Downs. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Coppernoll offered to serve as a citizen member on the Utility Commission. Motion by Alderperson Downs to appoint Todd Coppernoll to the Utility Commission for a 5-year term. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried 8-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Tony Burke, the new owner of Town Taxi, introduced himself and spoke of his aims to enhance local public transportation with a GPS mapping app that allows customers and drivers to track vehicles in real time. He also plans to expand the fleet to include wheelchair-accessible vehicles, making Town Taxi a more efficient and community-friendly service.

CONSIDER ALTERNATE MEETING DATE IN APRIL TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH GENERAL ELECTION: Administrator Oliphant noted that the next regularly scheduled Common Council meeting would be on November 5th, which is the day of the general election. The consensus was to meet on November 12th for the regular meeting at the normal time of 6:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Alderperson Chambers to adjourn. Seconded by Walters. Motion carried 8-0 at 7:18 PM.

Meeting Minutes Recorded by Clerk Amanda Keller