

**City of Richmond  
Regular City Council Meeting  
45 Hall Ave SW**

**September 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

***COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES***

**Item #1: Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance**

**(Roll Call) Chuck-Mike-Jim-Pat**

Mayor Hemmesch called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. at Richmond City Hall.

Members noted as being present: Mayor Jim Hemmesch, Councilor Pat Evens, Councilor Mike Mathiasen, Councilor Chuck Merten  
Councilor Tim Paczkowski absent

Also present was Stacy Kalthoff; City Administrator; Jen Rausch, Deputy Clerk; Dave Blommel, SHE; Jason Blum, Police Chief, Gordie Dingman, Public Works

**Item #2: Open Public Forum** (Those interested in addressing Council whom did not previously request to be on the agenda may address Council for up to 3 minutes. If action is requested, it will be considered at a later Council Meeting.)

Cliff Johnson was present from the Cold Spring Area Historical Society. Cliff would like the public to know they changed their hours to Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am to 2:00pm and Saturdays 9:00am-2:00pm on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of the month. He stated they remodeled the basement. They also have a special room that they change to a special theme and it is now for 150 years for the Cold Spring Brewery. Mayor Hemmesch also wanted to remind the public that on September 14<sup>th</sup> the Cold Spring Maennerchor is having Oktoberfest at the ice arena in Richmond.

**Item #3: Approval of Agenda with any additions/deletion**

*Motion made by Councilor Merten to approve the agenda with the deletion of 11d, Seconded by Councilor Evens. Motion passed.*

**Item #4: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of August 7, 8, & 15, 2024**

*Motion made by Councilor Mathiasen to approve the meeting minutes from the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> meetings, Seconded by Councilor Merten. Motion passed.*

**Item #5: Approval of Bills Paid**

*Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve the bills paid, Seconded by Councilor Mathiasen. Motion passed.*

**Item #6: Consent Agenda (approved by one motion)**

- a. **Resolution 144-24:** Approval of August 2024 Journal Entries
- b. **Resolution 145-24:** Authorization of Temporary 1 day Amendment to Liquor License for Corky's, Haffley's & Jerry's to open at 8:00am on Sunday, October 8, 2024

*Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilor Mathiasen .  
Motion passed.*

**Item #7: Abdo budget**

- a. **Resolution 146-24:** Adoption of the 2025 Preliminary Tax Levy and Establishing the Public Input (Truth-in-Taxation) Hearing Date for the 2025 Budget

Annette from Abdo was on zoom to go over the 2025 preliminary budget and levy. Currently there an increase of 12.44% in the levy which is just over \$104,000. The proposed 2025 levy that was presented to the council will be set for \$946,965 if approved. It was noticed that the fire department retirement XXXX contribution did not have any amount entered for 2025. That number would be an additional \$12,000-\$13,000. Stacy paid 2022 & 2023 together therefore the number looked higher. The amount cannot go higher; can only go lower.

*Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve the 2025 levy at 12.44% and \$946,965 with the option to lower it before December, seconded by Councilor Mathiasen . Motion passed.*

**Item #8: Code of Conduct Discussion**

Mayor Hemmesch read a letter pertaining to an event that happened with a council member. Also read a paragraph from the League of Minnesota book on the duties of a council member.

**Item #9: Update on Annexation for North Side of City**

Mayor Hemmesch spoke about the meeting that he and some council members had with Munson township. They would like to go back to the townships meeting which is on September 16<sup>th</sup> and bring them some paperwork so this project keeps moving.

**Item #10: SEH Update – Dave Blommel**

Dave is needing the council to pick a date to set up a public hearing for the street project assessments. Council decided on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Will let Dave know on the venue. Dave stated that the storm sewer project will start on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and will take a week to complete. Gertken will be doing the project for a \$35,000 savings then what was originally approved. Mayor Hemmesch discussed that Dave needs to take a look at some of the streets in town that still hold water two days after it rains and fix those as well.

**Item #11: Department Reports**

- a. Police Department

Chief Blum gave this report. Blum told the council that Cold Spring council approved the five-year police contract. The budget meeting for Cold Spring is on 9/5/24 at 8:30 am. Chief Blum talks about school being back in session and to watch for kids waiting for busses. He states that all school busses now have cameras on the ends of that arm so it is easier for the officers to catch people that disobey bus rules. Councilor Evens asked Blum if the officers have to go though active shooter training for school safety. Blum stated that they have and will continue to do so.

- b. Fire Department

Mayor Hemmesch gave this report for Chief Mueller. August the fire Department have apparatus vehicle & driving testing course training. Members needed to drive and back the trucks into different spots. Part of this training was also how to help an officer out of his squad car. Part of the September training will be medical and triage of gun wounds. The new truck is expected to be here late October. Richmond was awarded a \$5000 50/50 grant. The MBFTE has awarded the city \$2770.00. There was additional money left over money from this grant so the Fire Department received \$7550.00. 5 Members went to the Paynesville air show in August.

- c. Public Works

Gordie spoke about the two different bids he had for the truck he wants to purchase. Yarmon Ford in Paynesville state bid is \$54,940 and Schweiters Chevrolet in Cold Sprin state bid is \$55,313. He has the funds set aside for this truck but will need to purchase a plow and a bed for the truck. He does not have any bids for the bed or the plow yet and council wants to see those bids so they know the full amount the truck will cost. Gordie will need to bring these bids to the workshop. Councilor Evens asked Gordie if he could check the street signs on 1<sup>st</sup> street NW as some of them are spinning to turn going north and south instead of east and west. Evens also wanted to know what Richmond's policy was on flushing the hydrants. Gordie stated it wasn't done last September since we were down a water tower but it will be done late September.

- d. PeopleService
- e. Administrator

Stacy gave this report. Stacy presented a letter to the council she typed up for Munson township with 5 properties on it that could possibly have sludge hauled onto it. Stacy stated the front would look different from now on for meetings as city staff plus Chief Blum would be sitting up front.

### **Item #12: Council Reports**

- a. EDA- Next Meeting: Moved to September 17, 2024

Councilor Evens gave an update on the last EDA meeting. He stated EDA spoke about the drone project that has been recently put off to the side. The landmark project was talked about heavily but are looking for a main contact person with MNDOT for this. Evens also stated that a "special meeting" was held on today, 9/4/24. to help pay for some tar that a business had done in her back parking lot which will now make her business handicapped accessible.

- b. Planning Commission- Next Meeting: September 26, 2024

Councilor Merten gave an update on the Planning Commission meeting that was held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The landmark project was discussed at the meeting as well the property that was recently sold to Jack Stang by the outdoor hockey rink. Merten also stated that Rod Gertken attended the meeting with a drawing of what he would like to do on property he recently purchased on Main Street. Rod Gertken would like to take down the existing house and build a tri-plex and a du-plex. Planning commission made a motion at that meeting to continue with the plans.

- c. Rocori Trail- Next Meeting: September 5, 2024

### **Item #13: Other Matters**

Mayor Hemmesch stated that budget numbers will need to be discussed at the next meeting. Councilor Evens said he was at the swappers meet over the weekend and saw old River Lake Days buttons for sale so they are worth some money.


### **Item #14: Next Council Meeting: September 19, 2024**

At the workshop Gordie will need to bring his bids for the plow and box for his truck. We will also talk about fire relief numbers. Council requested for Dave Blommel's supervisor to be here if possible.

### **Item #15: Adjournment**

Mayor Hemmesch asked for any additional items. Hearing none, Mayor Hemmesch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacy Kalthoff, City Administrator