

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

October 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Item #1: Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

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

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 Tim Paczkowski, Councilor Chuck Merten

Also present was Stacy Kalthoff; City Administrator; Jen Rausch, Deputy Clerk; Jason Blum, Police Chief; Mark Kramer, Assistant Fire Chief; Bon Hill-Simmons, Council Candidate; Eli Emerson, Coordinated Business Systems; Greg Stang, People Service

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.)

Eli Emerson from Coordinated Business Systems presented the council with a proposal for a new copy machine contract. This contract would be under a MN state contract. Eli spoke about the options the machine would have. The contract would be \$106 a month for the lease. Depending on how much is printed it may be around \$153 a month. This contract would be for four years but can be cancelled at any time with no extra charge. Council said they would discuss this at the workshop.

Bon Hill-Simmons; a City Council Candidate wanted to introduce himself to the council and everyone watching at home. He spoke about himself and why he wanted to be on the council. He also discussed what organizations he was on in the City of Cold Spring when he lived there for 24 years. He was very involved in that community and would love to be involved with our community.

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

Motion made by Councilor Paczkowski to approve the agenda, Seconded by Councilor Evens. Motion passed.

Item #4: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of September 4 & 19, 2024

Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve the meeting minutes from September 4th and September 19th, Seconded by Councilor Mathiasen. Motion passed.

Item #5: Approval of Bills Paid

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

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

- a. **Resolution 151-24:** Approval of September 2024 Journal Entries
- b. **Resolution 152-24:** Approval of Donations/Contributions for September, 2024
- c. **Resolution 153-24:** Approval of LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Sts Peter & Paul Church at Sts. Peter & Paul School on November 23, 2024.
- d. **Resolution 154-24:** Approval of LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for River Lakes Hockey Inc. at the River Lakes Civic Arena on December 16, 2024.

- e. **Resolution 155-24:** Approval of LG220 Application for Exempt Permit for Midwest Outdoors Unlimited, Richmond Chapter at Haffley's Bar, Inc., on January 28, 2025.
- f. **Resolution 156-24:** Adoption of the Stearns County All-Hazard Mitigation Plan
- g. Approval of LG555 Use of Gambling Funds from Farming Lions Club to Richmond Fire Department in the amount of \$500.00.

Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve the consent agenda, Seconded by Councilor Paczkowski. Motion passed.

Item #7: 2023 Utility Improvement Project

- a. Repairs on 1st Street S.
- b. Repairs on 2nd Street N
- c. Assessment Public Hearing on October 16, 2024 at 6:00pm at City Hall
- d. Letters coming from City Hall with more details

Mayor Hemmesch gave an update on where the repairs are at right now. They are working on repairing the streets. Discussed the upcoming public hearing that will take place at the City Hall on October 16th at 6:00 so if you have received a letter in the mail or do receive a letter you may want to attend that meeting.

Item #8: Department Reports

a. Police Department

Chief of Police, Blum had a report in the packet. He reminded the public to please report and call the police departments office line immediately, if you see anything. If the department is closed it will ring over to Stearns County. It has been a busy year for the police department so far this year with over 4,200 calls; up 10% from last year. Blum discussed a lot of "car shoppers" right now meaning people getting into vehicles overnight, stealing things and if the keys are left in the vehicle the thefts will even steal the car so he is reminding people to lock your cars at night. Mayor Hemmesch asked why Stearns County Sherriff Department have been hanging out in town more often. Blum said he would check on it as he didn't have an answer at this time. Councilor Paczkowski discussed seeing a teen on a scooter weaving down traffic at a higher speed daily that Blum would check on. Mayor Hemmesch asked if there was anything that can be done about e-bikes being on sidewalks. The only thing Blum could suggest was signage as he doesn't suggest children and bikes to be on the roadway.

b. Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief, Mark Kramer reported for Derek Mueller. The bottle-fill station is on order and scheduled to be installed in October through Alex Air which will make filling bottles safer than the way it is currently. This was all paid through donations and grants. Jake McLellen returned after a leave of absence on October 1st. The hiring committee interviewed Jim Wenner who was on the Department for 11 years prior. Jim provided great leadership and was a great asset the department. Kramer also wanted to thank Eric Koenig for his dedication to the fire department. Mayor Hemmesch wanted to add that Summit was in Richmond today to inspect all the fire extinguishers in all city buildings and all the fire trucks. The department will be going to the schools and Merry Moose on Tuesday, October 8th for Fire Prevention week.

Motion made by Councilor Evens to approve Jim Wenner as a new firefighter, rescue personnel , Seconded by Councilor Merten. Motion passed.

c. PeopleService

Greg Stang from People Service presented the report that was also in the packet. Well #4 has PFAS in it so the main goal right now is to try to find where this came from or keep it from going into other wells. There are grants available for PFAS or wastewater reduction so Greg is wondering if they should start going after some of these grants to help out with this. Flushing hydrants the week of October 7th – 11th. That same week they will have a college intern with them. Stang talked about the reed beds and what they plan on

doing with them as some of the weeds continue to come up. Julia from the U of M thought they may have to take all the sand out and replace it with new sand. Stang wants to avoid that if they can. R-Way Pumping will be coming in about 2 weeks to haul out the sludge to Chuck Schmitz. It should be the same amount as last year; around 200,000 gallons. One of the main pumps for sludge will need to be replaced. Both of the impellers on the lift stations will also need to be replaced. Councilor Merten requested a list of the bigger expenses that will be needed in the next 5 years.

d. Administrator

Stacy discussed the upcoming elections on November 5th. All training is done, elections judges are picked and signed up for election day. Talked about the justice center question that would be on the ballot. Talked about the nuisance process. Councilor Evens asked about the township meeting and the annexation. The township has not sent anything official about it to the city yet.

Item #9: Council Reports

e. EDA- Next Meeting: Moved to October 22, 2024

Councilor Paczkowski discussed the EDA meeting that was held on September 17th. Paczkowski told council EDA talked about the Gilk building site on Main Street, went over a few still drone pictures that Joe took, talked with Traci about redoing the EDA webpage and doing some marketing in the future.

f. Planning Commission- Next Meeting: October 24, 2024

No update for the Planning Commission as there was no meeting

g. Rocori Trail- Next Meeting: October 3, 2024

There was no meeting

Item #10: Other Matters

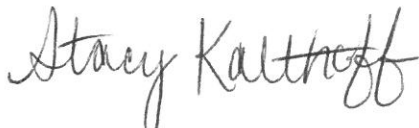
Councilor Evens stated that the American Legion brought to his attention that the flag pole light at Centennial Park is out.

Item #11: Next Council Meeting: October 17, 2024

Item #12: Adjournment

Mayor Hemmesch asked for any additional items. Hearing none, Mayor Hemmesch declared the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Stacy Kalthoff, City Administrator