

RUGBY CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2023 – 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND MICROSOFT TEAMS

Mayor LaRocque called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Council members recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Mayor LaRocque.

Council Members present: Schneibel, Lotvedt, Gannarelli, Brossart, Larson and Zachmeier.

Council Members present by TEAMS: Nelson.

Absent was Kraft.

Also present were Mayor LaRocque, Attorney Murray, Chief Bommersbach, Public Works Director Munyer, and Auditor Stewart.

The council considered the agenda. There was a motion by Lotvedt to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Brossart, all voting yes, motion carried.

The council considered the April 3, 2023, equalization meeting minutes. There was a motion by Schneibel to approve the April 3, 2023, equalization meeting minutes. Second by Lotvedt, all voting yes, motion carried.

The council considered the April 3, 2023, meeting minutes. There was a motion by Lotvedt to approve the April 3, 2023, meeting minutes. Second by Larson, all voting yes, motion carried.

The council considered the March 2023 Rugby Police Department report. Chief Bommersbach explained the department had 75 calls for service, 7 citations, 1 arrest, and 23 medical assist calls in the month of March. There was a motion by Larson to approve the March 2023 Rugby Police Department report. Second by Schneibel, all voting yes, motion carried.

Portfolio Holder Reports

Buildings: Portfolio Holder Lotvedt explained that he will be meeting with the school to discuss their contract renewal for the Armory usage. The new council chambers are awaiting the heating/cooling units to be installed. He explained that the information technology equipment that is necessary, he would like Zachmeier to work on. Zachmeier agreed that she can get the technology equipment estimate for the council to consider. Lotvedt explained he is working on an estimate for the 2024 budget for the south Armory windows.

Finance: no report.

Ordinance: Portfolio Holder Zachmeier explained that she is working on a revision of Ordinance 8.04.050, Location of Premises, regarding alcohol special event permits being allowed within 200 feet of a school or church for a future meeting. She explained that the revision is not to restrict any events from being held, but to correct the ordinance as to how the city is currently issuing

special event permits. They discussed alcohol and tobacco signage within 200 feet of a school or church and omitting that in the future.

Personnel: Portfolio Holder Gannarelli reported that the Heart of America Library had recently hired Mandie Medalen as the Executive Director.

Public Safety: nothing to report.

Public Works: Munyer explained that he has ordered the product to start crack sealing the streets. The company will not ship the product until the threat of it freezing while shipping is over. Munyer explained it is a water-based product. Munyer reported that they have gotten the street sweepers out and have started sweeping streets.

Recreation: Portfolio Holder Schneibel explained that he has met with Recreation Director Lemer and Pool Manager Berginski. Lemer will be working on obtaining sponsorships for the program soon. Berginski is still looking for lifeguards. Schneibel reported that one dugout had collapsed, and he is working on obtaining an estimate. The dugout will need to be rebuilt sometime this season. Lotvedt explained that the swimming pool lights that were ordered last year are in and Bartsch Electric will be installing them this year.

Unfinished Business

Lotvedt reported that B & J Excavating had received the elevations they needed from Interstate Engineering regarding the hospital project. He expects to have a price from them by May 1 regarding the cost of the hospital waterline project.

Nelson explained that he had spoken to the state regarding the lead and copper information, discussed at the last meeting. He will have David Bruschwein contact Lotvedt or LaRocque to discuss the information.

New Business

The council reviewed the state funded Snow Removal Assistance Policy. Stewart will complete the application and see what the city is eligible for.

LaRocque explained that last fall Karl Frigaard, JDA Executive Director, was placed on a Performance Improvement Plan. Sara Radomski, JDA Board Member, executed the PIP with Frigaard. LaRocque explained that based on the recommendation from Radomski and the documentation review by Attorney Murray, Frigaard's employment with the city was terminated today. He explained that the JDA Board will be hiring a new director in the future. The council reviewed the termination correspondence that was included in their meeting materials.

Lotvedt, JDA Board Member, explained that he sat in on a couple of the meetings Radomski had with Frigaard. He commended her on executing the PIP and her work with Frigaard. Lotvedt reminded the council that the city is fiscally responsible for the Job Development Authority.

Lotvedt made a motion to confirm the mayor's decision of Karl Frigaard's termination and support the termination based on the employment improvement plan that was completed.

Gannarelli questioned why the council needs to do this. Murray explained that it supports the mayor's decision to terminate the employee. She explained that the JDA Board bent over backwards to allow Frigaard to improve his performance. Murray cited examples of Frigaard's performance concerns. Gannarelli explained the mayor has the authority to terminate and questioned why the council needs to confirm the decision. Murray explained that it is good for the council to support the mayor's decision in the form of a motion.

LaRocque called for a second to Lotvedt's motion. Schneibel seconded the motion. LaRocque called for a vote, majority voting yes, motion carried.

The council reviewed and considered the application for a Local Permit or Restricted Event Permit for Little Flower Catholic Church for bingo. Murray indicated the application was in order for consideration. There was a motion by Schneibel to approve the Local Permit or Restricted Event Permit for Little Flower Catholic Church. Second by Larson, all voting yes, motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2023, at 7:00p.m.

Schneibel explained that the Rural Fire Board will meet on April 25 at 7:00pm, at the fire station, for their annual meeting and the council is invited to attend.

There being no further business to transact or come before the council at this time, there was a motion by Nelson to adjourn the meeting. Second by Lotvedt, all voting yes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

*These are unofficial minutes, subject to edits, and have not been approved by the city council.