

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
July 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Council President Chad Speight at 7:35 p.m.

Present: Alderpersons Doug Wood, Mary O'Connor, Andrew Kitslaar, and Brian Holmquist

Excused: Mayor Robert Miller and Alderperson Jim Busse

Also Present: City Administrator April Little, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, City Planner/Economic Development Director Sonja Reichertz, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve the Minutes of the July 5, 2016 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

The following individuals appeared before the Council and spoke against parking changes:

Doug DeRosa, 4504 Gordon Avenue
Kristie Schilling, 4502 Gordon Avenue
Joe Klinzing, 4512 Gordon Avenue

PUBLIC HEARING

There is no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve the following, was carried:

1. New Applications for 2016/2017 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Debra R. Welch, Speedway – Royal Avenue
2. Renewal Applications for 2016/2017 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Michelle L. Kern, East Side Club
 - b. Samantha M. Kemnitz, Pizza Oven
 - c. Eliza M. Zwettler, Pizza Oven
3. Renewal Application for 2016/2018 Operator License:
 - a. Guy P. Devitt, Waypoint Public House (previously approved for one year in error)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Director Stephany distributed a map of the area affected by Ordinance 7-16-680 Amending the Official Traffic Map of the City of Monona for Establishment of Alternate Side Parking. Litter from high school students and sight-line issues were discussed. The goal is to improve public services. Emails and written comments were received in response to letters mailed to 90 residents and business owners. Four were in favor at the June 1 Public Works Committee meeting. Six attended on July 11; four were against the changes, one was for, and one was neutral. The high school Principal was concerned about different parking rules between roads and students crossing Monona Drive.

Alder Holmquist reported the Public Safety Commission also reviewed this with a focus on safety concerns. This needs to be a very different plan; comparisons to past history can't be made. The high school parking lot has a permit required to stop students from driving around and around looking for a spot. The Police Department needs to do more parking enforcement. Business use is not a usual criterion for street parking but the City has looked at other business parking needs and has made changes. Alder O'Connor stated there are open spaces in the high school parking lot. Public Works Director Stephany reported seniors are allowed to come and go so spaces may be open a portion of the day. The gate on Cold Spring Avenue is still in use. There are homes by the tennis courts owned by Madison, but Madison won't allow parking there. Alder Kitslaar suggested incentives for school students and staff to use alternative transportation. Public Works Director Stephany stated that is the school's option.

Public Works Director Stephany reported high school staff members have not responded or attended the meetings; only one email was received. Council President Speight reported the Committee looked at equity between streets. Some are open and some have strict rules. This is not a perfect solution and will be revisited after trying the changes for one year. Public Works Director Stephany stated the Department is willing to provide a flashing light crosswalk installation and maintenance at Lofty Avenue but the school is not interested in cost sharing. Alder Kitslaar urges him to try again to engage the school and members agree working together is optimal. Alder O'Connor suggested contacting the Superintendent to possibly address this at the budget level. Public Works Director Stephany stated he will reach out to the school.

Finance Director Houtakker provided a Power Point presentation regarding Resolution 16-7-2109 Accepting a Public Service Commission Water Rate Increase. This is needed because of the City's debt coverage requirement, the largest customer has left the City, and because over \$4 million has been spent on infrastructure. The PSC provided two proposals; one is to continue the same conservation rate structure with residential customers saving more the less they use and commercial customers paying less the more they use. The second proposal charges a flat rate for commercial, industrial, and larger multi-family complexes. The last increase was in 2011 and the highest it can be raised is 15% (3% per year).

Monona is the only City in the state that uses a mil rate structure of improvement values (not land) times \$1,000. Proposals and effects of the changes were reviewed; he will have a comparison all on one page for the next meeting. Alder Wood noted that public fire charges, not scheduled to be increased, used to be on the property tax bill, which benefitted residents. Finance Director Houtakker reported the PSC has declared an inclining conservation rate structure for commercial properties is discriminatory, as businesses are so different from each other and larger businesses would be penalized.

Debt, 2015 usage data, types of users, and meters used were reviewed. There needs to be a public hearing and a report back to the PSC by September or the report would have to be re-done using current data. The Council could propose an alternate method, lower the 15%, split it over 2 years, or there could be a "simplified" or automatic increase every 1 ½ years instead of waiting 5 years. Changes would require PSC review.

REPORTS

City Planner/Economic Development Director Reichertz provided a Strategic Plan Update. Goals accomplished were the Comprehensive Plan update, new way finding system, economic development webpage, and streamlining/standardization of development review. Review of in-progress items, projects, and goals not started was provided. New priorities are to establish a Tourism Commission and update the sign code to streamline the regulations and permitting process.

Members announced upcoming meeting dates and provided additional information.

Alder O'Connor reported the Transit Commission will discuss the contract proposals for 5-year bus service.

Alder Wood reported the Ad Hoc Emergency Dispatch Committee continues to meet and met with staff at the City of Verona for information on Dane County dispatch use.

Alder Kitslaar reported the Library parking lot will be re-done. The Public Works Committee is addressing vandalism with camera installation to stop the burning of portable toilets. There is a survey regarding allowing dogs in parks on the City's website.

Alder Holmquist reported there are public information meetings on Tuesday and Thursday at the Community Center at 6:30 p.m. regarding upcoming road work on McKenna Road and other locations.

City Clerk Andrusz reported the Dane County Clerk discovered a problem with ballot reading after absentee ballots were mailed out. New ballots were received but more than 150 will have to be re-made at the polls on Election Day.

City Administrator Little reported brush from the recent storm will be picked up this week. There have been many economic development meetings so she hopes for an announcement soon. Member were asked if they want the entire 666 page recodification document and 100 page analysis, or just a post of sections as they are complete. Policy changes would come to the Council for approval. Changes won't be visible but will be in footnotes or noted throughout. There will be charges for changes after this complete effort, so now is the time to make changes. Alder Holmquist requests digital copies and the entire editorial piece; sections can be printed as needed or wanted. Members agree. Completed sections will be presented at the next meeting. There is a transportation survey on the City's website.

Council President Speight reported the Sustainability Committee will meet one hour early at 5:30 p.m. The next Council meeting, August 1, is his birthday so he will provide a treat. There is a public hearing on August 8 in the Library Municipal Room regarding allowing dogs in parks.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve the following, was carried:

1. To the Public Works Committee (effective immediately – May 2018):
 - a. Tom Stolper
 - b. Tim Turino
 - c. Leslie Busse
 - d. Steve Franklin
 - e. William Podell

2. To the Community Media Committee:
 - a. Lindsay Wood Davis (effective immediately – May 2018)
 - b. Dan Olson, Monona Grove School District Member, (effective immediately – May 2017)
 - c. Greg Little (effective immediately – May 2019)
 - d. Valerie Hein Hamstra (effective immediately – May 2019)
3. To the Public Safety Commission:
 - a. Bart Garey (effective immediately – May 2019)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Holmquist to adjourn, was carried. (9:07 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk