

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 19, 2016

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor Miller at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Robert Miller, Alderpersons Mary O'Connor, Andrew Kitslaar, Brian Holmquist, Jim Busse, and Chad Speight

Excused: Alderperson Doug Wood

Also Present: City Administrator April Little, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, City Planner/Economic Development Director Sonja Reichertz, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Kitslaar noted a correction on Page 5: "Dane" Ekloff should be corrected to "Dan". Alder Speight noted he was listed twice in the "Present" section.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve the Minutes of the September 6, 2016 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Tricia and Tom Gundlach, 5517 Pheasant Hill Road appeared before the Council and presented Police Chief Walter Ostrenga with a plaque recognizing and thanking the Police Department for their support and assistance with the Dairyland Walkers Walk Box program, followed by information about the club.

PUBLIC HEARING

There is no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Recreation Director Anderson reported the Park & Recreation Board discussed Alder Wood's recommendations and amended the Dogs in Parks Ordinance, including removal of the sunset provision to make the law permanent. Violations and other issues will be studied for future amendment if needed. The 50 foot restriction was reduced to 20 feet, up from Alder Wood's 10 foot recommendation. Dogs will not be allowed in fenced athletic fields, tennis courts, or designated beaches. Alder Kitslaar reported dogs are allowed off leash when in water at other parks with water access. Alder Speight stated the intent was to create reasonable restrictions that are largely self-enforcing. Police Chief Ostrenga stated that Officers will be educated and if a dog is seen off-leash the law will be enforced as time allows. Mayor Miller stated he wants common sense enforcement.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Ordinance 8-16-681 An Ordinance Permitting Dogs in City Parks, was carried.

Fire Chief Sullivan reported Option 2 of the Dispatch Study was recommended by the Public Safety Commission and the Finance & Personnel Committee. Since the last meeting he has met with City Administrator Little and City Attorney Bill Cole and it was decided not to have an MOU with the Dane County Dispatch Center; no other community has this. City Administrator Little stated not having an MOU allows month to month use with the flexibility to go back to the City's own dispatch. Fire Chief Sullivan stated he is comfortable with Dane County's protocol and any issues would be addressed by the Fire Chiefs Association. He, along with City Administrator Little and Assistant Chief Dan Ekloff will meet with Dane County to discuss the process. Mayor Miller requests he and the Council be informed when the changeover occurs. City Administrator Little stated a Resolution with Option 2 will be brought to the next meeting for consideration; it was delayed because of the late MOU exclusion.

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Speight to table Results and Recommendations from Emergency Services Dispatch Study until the next meeting, was carried.

City Administrator Little reported the Landmarks Commission requested an increase in members and the Committee on Sustainability requested a decrease and the addition of ex officio member language "...or their designees..." in the Composition section. City Planner Reichertz reported landmarks review is in the Zoning code.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve Ordinance 9-16-682 Amending Chapter 2, Section 4 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Committee Membership, was carried.

City Planner Reichertz reported there is now a Resolution and documentation regarding the following item. A commercial developer approached the City to purchase vacant land near South Towne of unknown actual size, though it's approximately .7 acres, and unclear ownership. The developer wants assurance that if they take the time and cost to research these issues further they get first chance to buy the parcel. This doesn't obligate the City to sell the land or sell it to this developer. The fee is refundable.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve Resolution 16-9-2117 Approving a Right of First Refusal Agreement with RealtyLink Development. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Resolution 16-9-2118 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Relating to a Shared Sanitary Sewer Serving the Industrial Drive Area in Madison and Monona. The City had no record of this interceptor main that was built in 1958. The City of Madison joined the line in the 1980's. Typically when two communities share a main, Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) would take it over. Madison will take the lead on repairs, with Monona contributing 70% of the cost, and then the main will be given to MMSD. Madison knows Monona doesn't have the funds for this work until 2017. Repair will be by "pipe bursting"; the existing pipe is burst and filled with new pipe and will then connect to existing hydrants.

City Administrator Little provided information on Ordinance 9-16-683 Amending Chapter 3, Section 5 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding Hotel-Motel Room Tax. This was revised by the City Attorney to follow changes in state law. The City was grandfathered to keep a larger portion of room tax for the General Fund but now it must be used for tourism with the intent to encourage overnight stays. By

January 2017 the City needs a Tourism Commission in place. Payments will start low in 2017 at \$2,000 but will increase yearly to over \$100,000 by 2021. Alder Speight stated that if Air B & Bs are allowed room tax should be collected. They add additional options for visitors and allow potential residents to see what Monona has to offer. City Planner Reichertz stated they would be in the Plan Commission's sphere. Any stay under 30 days is considered transient so they are currently prohibited but could be allowed with the room tax payment. Mayor Miller reported they are legal in Madison with a permit.

City Administrator Little reported Ordinance 9-16-684 Creating Chapter 2, Section 4-27 of the Code of Ordinances Establishing a Tourism Commission mimics the statutes and creates the required Commission. One member has to be from the hotel/motel industry and one may be a Council member. Mayor Miller stated Alder Kitslaar has volunteered and he's waiting to hear from Country Inn & Suites personnel. Other members will be from the Monona East Side Business Alliance (possibly Thyse Printing), the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, and a citizen member. He asks that City Attorney Cole attend the next meeting to clarify usage of the funds and wants to know how Monona benefits from paying these funds. Alder Kitslaar wants to clarify that the hotel/motel staff member is from a Monona business. City Staff members were discussed; Mayor Miller is considering Finance Director Houtakker for the post. Alder Busse suggested, and members agreed, that a Park & Recreation staff member be added.

REPORTS

Public Works Director Stephany provided a Strategic Plan Report. Streamlining the permitting process has been accomplished with contractors accessing materials online. He does a tour and survey to determine needs for the ongoing street maintenance schedule. The gap in street repairs was due to having funding diverted to Monona Drive; this is now used for local roads. Grants are received for many major projects. The public is informed of scheduled work and other issues through the City's newsletter and website. Staff pursues educational opportunities whenever possible.

The City is a member of the Clean Lakes Alliance. Alder Kitslaar stated the Committee on Sustainability may take part in educating residents on leaf clean-up for phosphorous reduction and Alder Busse stated the Committee had a goal for measurable results of education. Alder O'Connor stated grass clippings blown into the street should be included in the education and prohibiting that should be added into the Ordinances. Public Works Director Stephany reported that during meter maintenance work staff talks face to face with property owners. Mayor Miller stated he has noticed the difference in the City now that there's no code enforcement. There are lots of brush piles out much too early.

Public Works Director Stephany reported public trees are constantly monitored, removed, added, and pruned. Property owners with open terrace space are approached and asked if they'd like a tree planted. The Stormwater Plan is a living document that is constantly monitored. The Well #2 reservoir overflow needs modification when road reconstruction is done. Vehicles are rated annually for condition. Alder Speight stated fleet fuel economy be added to the Strategic Plan. He also suggested adding a walk and bike friendly component with a focus on getting kids to school safely. The McKenna Road project should be carefully considered for sidewalks. Alder Busse stated part of the Public Works street process is to look at sidewalk potential at redevelopment time. Public Works Director Stephany stated bikes and bike lanes will be part of Project Coordinator Bruun's report.

Alder Holmquist suggested sustainability should be part of each department's process. Mayor Miller reported Walter Jankowski will track the results of the UniverCity efforts to integrate sustainability in all areas. Alder O'Connor stated sustainability efforts should be part of Department Heads' annual reports. City Administrator Little stated she is meeting with Project Coordinator Bruun to review this.

Mayor Miller reported he has regular contact with Public Works Director Stephany who runs a great department and stays on top of everything. Sidewalks are being maintained. He received an email complaining of overgrowth into the street along Winnequah Road and assures listeners this will be addressed. He asks members to keep an eye out for property condition issues and Public Works Director Stephany asks members to email him about any issues they see. Alder Kitslaar stated while walking on Wallace Avenue he was approached by neighbors thanking the Council for the new parking restrictions. Alder Speight stated his son reported high school students are happy with the changes, too. Alder O'Connor reported the Public Works crew did a great, careful job – even digging by hand – at the Stone Bridge Park excavation.

Members announced upcoming committee meeting dates and times.

Alder O'Connor reported longtime resident Joe Chern passed away on Friday at the age of 93. Mayor Miller reported former resident, Police Officer, and Volunteer Firefighter Bob Parks passed away and was moved by the attendance of Officers at his funeral. Mayor Miller and members express their condolences to the Chern and Parks families.

City Clerk Andrusz reported she and Receptionist Alene Houser mailed out 187 Absentee ballots this morning. In-person Absentee voting will be available in City Hall October 3 through November 4, Monday through Friday excluding holidays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

City Administrator Little reported Code Enforcement Officer interviews will take place next week. The UniverCity project is underway after the kick-off event at Aldo Leopold Nature Center. She accompanied Recreation Director Anderson on CVMIC park inspections for ADA compliance and may bring forth a policy. Schluter Park play equipment will be moved onto the grass.

Mayor Miller reported the UniverCity official kick-off included attendance by an impressive number of University of Wisconsin officials. The City is receiving great press and he gets calls from other communities asking about the program. He apologizes for the inadvertent omission of Herald-Independent Editor Kevin Passon (in attendance tonight) from the invitation list. There were two recent ribbon-cuttings: the Air Force recruitment office at Pier 37, which combines many offices, and the wonderful store Reptile Rapture.

APPOINTMENTS

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

Election Inspectors, January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017:

- a. Kris Lehker
- b. Judy Runk

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder Holmquist to adjourn, was carried. (9:00 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk