

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council, via Zoom, was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor, Alderpersons Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, Kristie Goforth, and Doug Wood

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Planner Doug Plowman, Fire Chief Jeremy McMullen, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPEARANCES

Mayor O'Connor read A Proclamation Recognizing Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Sally Buffat, Monona Public Library Business & Facilities Coordinator, appeared before the Council and spoke in appreciation for the Council's and City's efforts to keep staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic and for providing paid leave and assured job security. In addition, she expressed appreciation for the Black Lives Matter efforts, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day becoming an official holiday, the 1% salary increase, employee flu shots, and the Library HVAC upgrades. She reported the Library has been very busy while the building has been closed, including curbside pick-up and virtual programming.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Goforth noted "Winnequah School" should be added in her report about National Registry inclusion.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to approve the Minutes of the December 7, 2020 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Planner Plowman reported the following is for the division of lots to facilitate the sale of one lot. The Public Works Committee and Plan Commission reviewed this and required 42 conditions, all of which were met or addressed.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 20-12-2454 Approving a Certified Survey Map (CSM) for Lots 2 and 4 of CSM 10267 at 1717 W. Broadway Avenue, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

City Planner Plowman provided information on Resolution 21-1-2458 Authorizing Staff to Execute Professional Service Contracts for National Register Nominations. The Landmarks Committee interviewed four consultants; two were chosen. There are three properties to be nominated; two are residences and the other is the former Kohls store that is now the Habitat Restore. The consultants are confident they can meet the funding deadline, which has already been extended. He could request an extension on the nomination deadline due to COVID-19.

Alder Goforth began Discussion Regarding Committee Meeting Recording. Virtual meetings allow more of the community to be engaged. The trend is toward hybrid meetings; she wants this to continue even after meetings return to in-person. The Community Media Committee discussed this and were supportive. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities will provide an informational webinar. City Administrator Gadow reported currently only the Finance & Personnel Committee, City Council, and Plan Commission are recorded and live-streamed. Other committees could be recorded and uploaded to the Cloud to be uploaded to YouTube the next day. He will research technologies and requests that staff and committee Chairs ask their members for input. Alder Moore stated that with just pressing a “record” button, this could continue once meetings are back to being held in-person. Because of Media Department staff costs, other staff could be trained to do the uploading. She also wants the conference table at the back of City Hall recorded as well; meetings are frequently held there when the conference room is occupied.

Alder Grupe stated consent forms should be available for staff and visitors. Alder Kuhr is concerned about doing this now and then not being able to sustain it; residents will be suspicious. Some members won't be comfortable being recorded and broadcast and it may stifle conversations. Accessibility should be maintained for all residents and not all residents have Internet access. Alder Wood stated some committees, like the License Review Committee, discuss personal issues with questions about things like alcohol use. His concern is having this type of dialog recorded for anyone to access. Mayor O'Connor stated this is a good time to try this and see what kind of response is received from the community. She understands a hybrid meeting with a camera in the conference room, but questions how two different medias, in-person and Zoom, are recorded; she asks Director of Community Media Will Nimmow to look into that. Alder Thomas stated her concern is whether snippets of recordings can be taken out of context with inappropriate use against someone.

REPORTS

Members announced meeting dates and times and provided the following:

Alder Goforth reported the School District declined to move ahead with National Registry inclusion for Nichols and Winnequah Schools so the Landmarks Commission will consider using leftover grant funds for the Panther Mound.

Alder Wood reported the MPO will meet on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. It will reach out to all member municipalities regarding cost sharing the MPO budget to make it fair for all. Monona and some others are voluntarily contributing but most of the cost is paid by Madison.

Alder Moore reported there will be a Plan Commission hearing regarding a new use for the Shopko site. There is a lot of community interest in this and she encourage residents to provide comment.

Alder Grupe reported nomination forms for the Spring Election are due to the Clerk by 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. She urges residents to learn more about the candidates and about running for office.

Fire Chief McMullen reported COVID-19 vaccinations have started for several members of the Department. Eight of the nine full-time staff decided to get vaccinated along with all LTEs and himself. No adverse reactions have been reported. Next week he is working on getting the vaccine for other staff, especially those with lots of public facing. Shots are administered at the Alliant Center. Mayor O'Connor reported Fire Chief McMullen is helping with the food donation drive; he reported over 1,000 pounds has been collected from the Library and City Hall in more than one collection; this is a very giving City! The drive goes through January 17 and may continue after that. He has no information in response to Alder Moore's query on an explosion reported outside of City limits.

City Clerk Andrusz reported she has completed 13 years as Monona City Clerk. There will most likely be a Spring Primary on February 16; she will present a Resolution combining polling places into the Community Center for the Council's consideration at the next meeting. The usual two polling places will be utilized for the busier Spring Election on April 6. There are two candidates for Mayor and five for Alderperson; one additional candidate still has to turn in nomination papers by tomorrow.

City Administrator Gadow reported the Police Chief search consultant's announcement for a 45-day application window will be open very soon. There will be a community survey regarding the Police Chief position to provide input for the Police & Fire Commission.

Mayor O'Connor reported she participated in the WPS event where giant face masks were installed on entry signs to thank first responders and remind everyone to continue to wear face masks. The next Council meeting will be on a Tuesday, January 19, due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore, to adjourn was carried. (7:42 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk