

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
April 19, 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 Kathy Thomas, Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, Kristie Goforth, and Jennifer Kuhr

Excused: Alderperson Doug Wood

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Acting Police Chief Sara Deuman, East Side Club Treasurer Robyn Klinge, Fire Chief Jerry McMullen, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Clerk Andrusz noted an amendment from Alder Wood. At the top of Page 4, the motion regarding the Ad Hoc Workgroup should be amended as follows: "...Equity Issues until after the April 20, 2021 Organizational Meeting.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore to approve the Minutes of the April 5, 2021 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Mayor O'Connor read a Proclamation Declaring the Month of May as Historic Preservation and Archaeology Month.

Alder Goforth appeared before the Council and spoke for informational purposes regarding the difficult year the nation has faced, her personal struggles with the Spring Election, and her planned actions going forward.

PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Director Stephany reported that on April 7, the Public Works Committee recommended approval of the low bid for the chip seal project. There were no other changes to this action.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-4-2476 Award of Contract for 2021 Street Chip Seal Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Acting Police Chief Deuman reported two hybrid vehicles were approved in the Capital Budget but the model was redesigned and now current equipment doesn't fit. New equipment and requested additional

lighting has taken the purchase over budget. Alder Grupe expressed appreciation for the Department pursuing energy efficient vehicles.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-4-2478 Purchase Approval of Two Police Vehicles. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Acting Police Chief Deuman reported the following action is to amend the budget to pay for the higher cost of the previous action. She has a spreadsheet available reporting the additional funds needed.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 21-4-2479 Amending the Capital Budget for the Purchase of Police Vehicles. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Goforth to suspend the rules and take action on the May 1, 2021 Opening Hour Variance for the East Side Club Tiki Bar, 3735 Monona Drive, Monona, Wisconsin 53714, was carried.

City Administrator Gadow explained this was a one-time, one-hour earlier opening hour for the outdoor area, from noon to 11:00 a.m., for Lake Monona 20K run participants to gather after the race. The East Side Club is one of three places participants can go to ensure safe outdoor social distancing. He provided language for a motion. Ms. Klinge from the East Side Club was introduced and was available for any questions. Alder Kuhr questioned whether there were any complaints or issues at the East Side Club. City Clerk Andrusz responded there hasn't been in recent years. The Club has made efforts to improve operations and organization. Alder Grupe reported the East Side Club has made donations to the Monona Grove Education Association and Monona Senior Center, as well as City events and celebrations, and she supports this variance.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve a One Hour Opening Hour Variance (From 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.) for May 1, 2021 for the East Side Club Tiki Bar Based Upon License Review Committee Recommendation, was carried.

City Clerk Andrusz provided information on Amendments to License Conditions for the East Side Club, 3735 Monona Drive, Monona, Wisconsin 53714. The Club would like the additional hour requested above to be permanent. They are hosting an increasing number of bicycle and run groups and events. In addition, outdoor weddings have increased, sometimes more than one per day, and they want to start by noon. The earlier hour would be helpful. The License Review Committee has no issues with this request and agreed an earlier start time at the beginning of the day is less problematic than a request for an additional hour at the end of the night. Most past issues were in the evening. It does have to go to the Plan Commission, most likely at the May 10 meeting, as there are conditions on their permits for use. This could be approved by the Council conditionally on Plan Commission approval. City Administrator Gadow stated there will be a Resolution on the next Council Agenda.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2480 Correcting Resolution 21-3-2466 Award of Contract for Stone Bridge Park Improvement Project, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany reported this was approved by the Public Works Committee on March 15th but it included the bid alternative for Community Center sidewalk work. The Recreation Director

didn't want that included and it was to be removed, but the Council didn't make that amendment when approving the bid. This action will correct that and reduce the award of contract by \$22,845.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-4-2480 Correcting Resolution 21-3-2466 Award of Contract for Stone Bridge Park Improvement Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2481 Providing for the Sale of \$3,560,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2021A, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported the next three items will allow Financial Consultant Jeff Belongia to start negotiations with bond holders and all amounts might be reduced. This first action is borrowing for the 2021 Capital Budget for \$2,574,000 for General Obligation and \$1,286,000 for Stormwater.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 21-4-2481 Providing for the Sale of \$3,560,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2021A. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2482 Providing for the Sale of \$8,600,000 Note Anticipation Notes, Series 2021B, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported this is for the full price of the San Damiano purchase. If the \$2 million Dane County grant is received, the first payment will be \$2 million in 2022. If the grant is not received or is not accepted this will have to be refinanced. It is a 5-year BAN which will then be refinanced for 20 years. Alder Thomas requested the cost per average household of the full \$8.6 million and for the \$6.6 million. Alder Moore questioned whether this amount includes the \$100,000 earnest money. Finance Director Houtakker responded this will be amended for the next meeting to reflect that.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-4-2482 Providing for the Sale of \$8,600,000 Note Anticipation Notes, Series 2021B. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2483 Providing for the Sale of \$1,800,00 Water System and Sewer Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021C, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported this is for the approved 2020 Capital Budget for the new water meters and for the 2021 water and sewer approved Capital Budget. Public Service Commission approval had to be obtained before the meters could be purchased; if not approved that portion of the borrowing would not have occurred.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve Resolution 21-4-2483 Providing for the Sale of \$1,800,00 Water System and Sewer Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021C. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2486 Purchase Approval of One Speed Trailer / Message Board, was carried.

Acting Police Chief Deuman reported this Capital Budget item collects traffic data and provide reports, displays speed, and can be used for City events, like the Festival. The same vendor as the current equipment was the low bid so that will simplify training. There are numerous citizen requests for deployment so having a second unit will allow more of those requests to be fulfilled. Alder Grupe agreed there is a lot of resident interest and stated the messages are very important; she suggests COVID-19 protocol messages be displayed. Alder Goforth questioned the length of time a trailer is usually deployed and whether clocking bicycle speeds skews the reports. Last fall kids on her street had fun seeing their speeds registered. Acting Police Chief Deuman responded they are usually in place for a week. Residents can call Community Resource Office Nathan Reynolds on the Police non-emergency line, 608-222-0463, or email nreynolds@ci.monona.wi.us, to request deployment. Bicycle speeds would be outliers and would be kicked out of the reporting.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-4-2486 Purchase Approval of One Speed Trailer / Message Board, was carried.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Goforth to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2485 Establishing an Official Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Alders Kuhr and Moore voted against the motion. The motion was carried.

Alder Goforth stated this was a timely action with the Police Chief search currently underway. Alder Grupe agreed and stated the City should be thoughtful with that hire. Current racial relation tensions create the urgency to state the City's commitment and aspirations for the future. She provided the followed amendments, to which the second agreed:

- "...ability – ~~to foster~~ and to fostering a sense..."
- "...great place to visit and to call home."

Alder Moore stated she supports this statement but wants it to be conditional on the ad hoc committee's approval, not from one or two people or the government. Alder Grupe responded it could be changed by the committee. Alder Thomas stated all members can agree with the statement; this is better than doing nothing and is a good reminder. It seems awkward to not get a committee recommendation, as is normal practice, but there is no committee now and she would like action. Alder Goforth agrees and this will help the committee get started. Alder Kuhr stated that while she agrees with the statement, urgent items are usually taken out of order; there should be two readings to allow public comment; it does affect residents. This was just received on Friday, which doesn't give constituents enough time. If it is adopted, she wants to make it clear this is only a start. Alder Moore stated the work group could be instructed to have an open public comment period. City Administrator Gadow provided an additional section after the statement section.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve the following amendment, was carried:

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above statement may be amended or further modified by an Ad Hoc Working Group on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, or similar group, should one be formed by the City Council."

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve Resolution 21-4-2485 Establishing an Official Statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as amended, was carried.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Goforth to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-4-2484 Support for a Strong State and Local Partnership (State Shared Services Funding), was carried.

City Administrator Gadow reported this should have been on the last meeting's Agenda. The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is asking for as many municipalities as possible to support this effort to increase funding for the state shared revenue program. The same Resolution is being considered in many other municipalities.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-4-2484 Support for a Strong State and Local Partnership (State Shared Services Funding), was carried.

REPORTS

Alder Grupe reported the Monona citywide e-cycle event is in Ahuska Park from 8:00 a.m. to noon this Saturday. It's a socially-distanced drive-thru event. The Transit Commission finalized the bus company RFP and a survey will be in the May eNewsletter for current and new ridership.

Alder Moore reported a proposal was submitted to the Plan Commission for the Monona Garden Family Restaurant site. There will be a community listening session regarding the proposal on the MESBA website.

Alder Goforth reported the Community Media Department will put out the next eNewsletter on April 21. They are still seeking a volunteer WVMO music director. The Resolution to upload Zoom meetings to YouTube was discussed by the Committee; 13 registered in favor and 3 against. It was tabled to the next meeting to allow review of the Resolution. Staff confirmed they can upload without additional resources. May is Historic Preservation month. City Planner Doug Plowman is preparing a GIS map for a walking tour of International Style homes for the Landmarks Commission. Habitat Restore's National Register application, being prepared by UW Milwaukee, is 75% complete. The application for the Otto Schroeder house, being prepared by consultant Tim Heggland, is almost complete as well. The Friends of San Damiano will attend the Commission meeting on May 12 regarding the house. Former member Matt Aro provided information on a new policy implemented by the Wisconsin State Historical Society that had unintended consequences. When the Mead & Hunt study stated that there could be an historic district established in Frost Woods, any home in those boundaries are now not eligible for tax credits. She and City Planner Plowman are looking into this and will provide updates.

Alder Kuhr reported the Library will be closed on April 20th to prepare for its opening with limited services and no chairs on April 21st. Patrons must pre-register for computer use. She thanks MESBA for organizing the Esther Beach area clean-up on Friday; she and her children enjoyed participating along with the rest of the 75 people who registered to help out.

Fire Chief McMullen reported the Department hosted an event celebrating a cardiac arrest survivor that included Kilgust employees, the Police Officers who were first responders, Dane County EMS, and the Department crew. Community Media staff Will Nimmow and Samantha Griffin captured a great video that included the gentleman's proposal to his longtime girlfriend in front of the fire truck. He thanks Harry Hawkins from the Nehemiah Center for talking to him about the volunteer hiring process and how to market the Department in a more diverse way. The Department is very busy and everyone does a fabulous job!

Acting Police Chief Deuman reported that as the weather improves there has been increased call volume and accidents, some caused by the Beltline road closures.

Finance Director Houtakker reported the PSC rate case was approved with a 5% increase. The City will go from quarterly to monthly bills and from cubic feet to gallons measured effective in July. This all relates to the water meter upgrade. Information will be provided to residents soon from multiple sources.

City Administrator Gadow reported on an email the City Council received regarding Police Officer hiring. Background investigations of candidates are still ongoing and the Department is aware of the information received.

Mayor O'Connor reported the Organizational Meeting is tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom. She will send out Alderperson committee appointments tomorrow. The Medicine Shoppe is providing a medicine drop-off event on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Kuhr, to adjourn was carried. (8:06 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk