

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 4, 2020

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council, via Zoom, was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor, Alderpersons Doug Wood, Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas (arrived late), Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, and Kristie Schilling

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, City Planner Doug Plowman, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Parks & Recreation Director Jake Anderson, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2020 City Council meeting and April 21, 2020 Organizational meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi reported on County-level processes in place due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus. The Emergency Operations Center was activated in response and weekly updates continue. The Alliant Energy Center is being used for the Farmer's Market and the Food Bank, and is ready to go in the event it is needed as an alternate care facility or "Field Hospital". The County has refrigerated semi-trailers for Second Harvest to store food to stock shelves. 360 individuals from vulnerable populations are being housed in hotels; senior and homeless shelters couldn't accommodate social distancing without decreasing their populations. Funding for this runs out on January 1 and the County will work on a transition. The Public Health Department has added staff to do testing, contact tracing, and help those who need to isolate.

There is a partnership with the small business community and Dane Buy Local; funding was increased to a total of \$10.8 million. If there is a need for a grant, contact DaneBuyLocal.com. If application was previously made and denied, they should apply again. The property tax collection date will be deferred from July 31 to October 1. Mayor O'Connor stated the City will bring that Resolution forward at the next meeting. Executive Parisi stated he will extend the statewide emergency declaration for 60 days so FEMA expense can continue to be documented. If the Safer At Home order is stuck down, the County's mirrors the state's and work will continue with partners in other counties to do what can be done together.

There are no nursing home COVID-19 cases, but it is difficult for patients that no visitors are allowed. The jail population has been reduced to under 500. All staff and inmates have been tested. Five inmates tested positive and were traced to previous cases; one staff member tested positive.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Application for 2019/2021 Operator License:
 - a. Amanda L. Sheldon, Tully's II
2. Approval of Renewal Applications for 2020/2022 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Patrick A. McKillips, Red Robin
 - b. Jennifer L. Dvorak, Snicks Sportman's Bar
 - c. Stephanie A. Pyke, Snicks Sportman's Bar
 - d. Lindsey S. Reithmeyer, Snicks Sportman's Bar

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Planner Plowman reported changes were made to the following Agreement as suggested by the City Attorney. The Landmarks Commission and the Wisconsin Historical Society agreed.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 20-4-2403 Approving a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Wisconsin Historical Society and the City of Monona for the Completion of a Historic Preservation Project, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 20-5-2405 Providing for the Sale of \$2,900,000 Water System and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2020B, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported this will allow Financial Consultant Jeff Belongia to begin negotiations with bond holders. Meter upgrades were in the Capital Budget but the Public Safety Commission hasn't approved them yet. If approved, that will be on a future borrowing. That and savings on McKenna Road and other projects allowed adding refinancing of a 5-year BAN because of the current low interest rate.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 20-5-2405 Providing for the Sale of \$2,900,000 Water System and Sewer System Revenue Bonds, Series 2020B. 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 20-5-2404 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Grant – 2020 Speed Grant Task Force, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported this grant is for up to \$5,000 for June through September. The 25% cost share will be paid for with overtime wages and fringe benefits. Mandatory ticket writing is not required and will be done for high speed infractions only. The funds are not needed for operations so there is no loss if not received.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 20-5-2404 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Grant – 2020 Speed Grant Task Force. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Thomas to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 20-3-2398 Approving Facility Use Agreement with Monona Farmers' Market, was carried.

Recreation Director Anderson reported this is a 5-year extension of the current Agreement with the addition of allowing the City to put in extra safety measures and restrictions. The starting date for the Market is being reviewed. He recommends waiting until May 31 to meet social distancing restrictions and because the restrooms would then be open to the public and would need to be continually sanitized. Alder Schilling reported the Market wants to open on May 17th. If the opening is delayed the vendors lose out on a month of sales. Discussion followed.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 20-3-2398 Approving Facility Use Agreement with Monona Farmers' Market, was carried. Alder Schilling voted against the motion.

City Administrator Gadow began Discussion and Update on Staffing, Budgetary and City Operations Contingency Plans for COVID-19. Both the 2021 Operating and Capital budgets will be significantly impacted. Staff will work on different, very tight, scenarios. Finance Director Houtakker reported water service disconnections, interest, and penalties are not allowed now. He prefers formal Council action if the choice is made to continue that when the requirement is lifted. Currently there is a 10% penalty if an unpaid fee has to go on the tax roll; waiving the penalty will be discussed with the PSC. Usually there are 2% to 3%, but now there are 10%; most are businesses. The City can pass a resolution to not put interest and penalties on late property tax payments. Waiting until October 1 for the final tax installment will create a cash flow issue, but this year's budget can handle it.

Recreation Director Anderson reported six of seven full-time employees have been working a mix of in-office, at parks, and remotely. Staff appreciates their continued salary during this crisis. Remote events have started, like trivia nights, and he will look into exercise classes. He is in constant communication with the County and Public Health Department on park and recreation facility closures and processes. CDC guidance is needed and he is following their recommendations. He envisions a slow release of openings when the Safer At Home order is lifted. He is working with the Wisconsin Park & Recreation Association for guidance. Events and rentals are cancelled. Programming and child care is a challenge. He is not sure of the swimming pool opening yet; that is in Phase 3 of the state's opening plan which would be too late to open at all. It takes 3 to 4 weeks to be ready so no actions have been taken to fill the pool or get ready; he will report at the next meeting. The City would not lose money if the pool didn't open. Volunteers are welcome to help clean up the parks. Social distancing will be maintained; bring your own gloves, tools, and bags. Garlic mustard is being pulled now. He will continue to work on virtual programming; it is challenging to get people to social distance once they can be outside and when parks are open. Signage doesn't last either due to weather or theft.

City Administrator Gadow stated he hopes this will be the last extension of the Contingency Plan and that all staff will be on duty by June. The Plan can be re-evaluated at any time. The vast majority of staff are back working either in-office or remotely.

REPORTS

Alder Moore thanks the Sustainability Committee for their work on the virtual Earth Week and Director of Community Media Will Nimmow for producing 5 PSAs for WMVO broadcast. There is a new recycling flyer on the City's website. Project Coordinator Brad Bruun produced a GIS map of where to recycle items that can't go into bins. The Tree Challenge will support local restaurants; a donation of \$100 or more for a native species City or private property tree earns a \$25 local restaurant gift card. The

goal is an increase of 50 trees throughout the City. She congratulates Sarah Smith from the Sustainability Committee on being sworn in as Dane County Supervisor and Alderperson Kristie Schilling on her election.

Alder Kuhr thanks the Fire Department for their work while the search for a Chief is ongoing.

Alder Grupe announced it is Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Week and thanks City Clerk Andrusz and Deputy Clerk Alene Houser for their work for the City. The City is not officially part of the effort for “No Mow May” to help pollinators, but she suggests this as a future event. Alder Moore reported one of the PSAs mentioned above suggests less mowing for fuel savings.

Alder Wood reported the Madison Area Transportation Planning Board meets on Tuesday night. In 2022-2023 there will be a new interchange near Mill Pond Road and County Highway AB, which is a very dangerous intersection.

Alder Schilling reported the landmark property review continues. Project Coordinator Brad Bruun is working on a GIS map for a self-guided historical property tour. Mayor O’Connor and Recreation Director Anderson reported there is a historic property walking map available for check-out at the Police Department. Monona seniors thank Monona Lift driver Abdellah Haia-Ouali for his service and kindness. She thanks Dean Bowles for his service on the School Board.

City Administrator Gadow reported Monona’s self-reporting participation in Census 2020 is 72.5%, which is fairly good, but should be increased. The deadline is August 15. He has a PSA on WVMU urging participation.

Mayor O’Connor reported the Library’s curbside pick-up service has started and is going very well.

APPOINTMENTS

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

1. Chris Henderson to the Public Safety Committee (effective immediately–April 19, 2021).
2. Adrienne Faerber to the Transit Commission (effective immediately–April 18, 2022).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood, to adjourn was carried. (8:20 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk