

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 2, 2021

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

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

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Fire Chief Jeremy McMullen (via Zoom), Public Works Director Dan Stephany (via Zoom), Police Chief Brian Chaney Austin (via Zoom), and City Clerk Joan Andrusz (via Zoom)

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor O'Connor noted two amendments to the second paragraph under New Business.

A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2021 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES, PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Appearances, Public Hearing, or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fire Chief McMullen reported the following MOU is required by the DNR to apply for grant funds for reimbursement of 50% of the cost of equipment and materials used for mutual aid and fire suppression. The applicant has to be an actual, working fire department to apply.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 21-7-2503 Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Monona and the DNR for Mutual Aid and Fire Suppression Services, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-8-2404 Approval to Submit 2020 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) Review and Recommendations, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany reported this is the annual DNR report card for 2020 operations and maintenance, and financial management and to assure that the Department has continuing Council support. The Department received an "A" grade. He provided information on future planning, Capital Budget items, and continuing installation of sewer lining to address infiltration and inflow. There are approximately 39 miles of sanitary sewer lines in the City and about 7% are cleaned each year, with 36% inspected.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-8-2404 Approval to Submit 2020 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) Review and Recommendations, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Resolution 21-8-2405 Award of Contract for Sanitary Sewer Main Lining Project. This 2021 Capital Budget project will be reviewed by the Public Works Committee on August 4 with Council approval sought on August 16. After a survey was done, 12 sections of sewer need repair; 6 items were chosen for the bid for lining. On July 22 the bids were open with the low bid, Visu Sewer, chosen. The City has a positive history with this contractor.

Alder Kuhr questioned whether the \$39,000 leftover funds will carry over into 2022 and how that funding can be flagged for this purpose so needed work gets done. City Administrator Gadow responded leftover funds usually go into the Fund Balance but can be specifically allocated. Alder Thomas reported that at year-end, the Council can allocate to specific projects. Public Works Director Stephany reported the work needs to be complete by November 12, so the final balance will be known. City Administrator Gadow stated he will note this so it can be part of budget discussions.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Ordinance 8-21-742 Amending Chapter 395-2 of the Code of Ordinances to Require an Affidavit for Right-of-Way Work. Alder Wood, along with Alders Kuhr and Thomas, brought this to his attention. This was driven by the explosion caused by a contractor that happened in Sun Prairie. He reviewed the language proposed to be added, which was reviewed by the City Attorney. The required affidavit must provide proof the contractor is allowed to transact business in Wisconsin, not disbarred by any federal or state agency, follows state and OSHA safety requirements, and includes a copy of the written plan to meet the requirements, and is in compliance with the testing set forth in the statutes, before they are allowed to work in the City. This will be reviewed by the Public Works Committee on August 4 with Council approval sought on August 16.

This does not cover a homeowner who has taken out a right-of-way permit themselves. Alder Thomas questioned whether an affidavit would be required each and every time a contractor works in the City. Public Works Director Stephany responded he will work with City Administrator Gadow and the City Attorney on that; an annual submission may suffice. For example, MG&E does a lot of work in the City. Alder Grupe questioned whether this should be expanded to included homeowners. Public Works Director Stephany responded that if they hire a contractor, then it is needed. But right now, if a homeowner does the work themselves, they do not. Alder Goforth thanks Public Works Director Stephany and the Alders involved for this important work.

REPORTS

Mayor O'Connor acknowledged the unexpected passing of former Monona resident Walter Jankowski. He was a very talented facilitator and trainer and was extensively involved in many Monona efforts, including the Library and City Strategic Plans and Library Director searches, and she had been speaking with him about hiring him for two new projects. He was a much-loved member of her Arrowhead Park neighborhood group for 30 years, even after he moved. He was an unforgettable personality and will be greatly missed. She asks everyone to keep Walter's family in your thoughts in the weeks to come.

Alder Grupe began Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts, reporting that along with Alder Goforth and City Administrator Gadow's discussions about mound protection, she is working with the Parks & Recreation Board and Sustainability Committee about care of the Outlet Mound on Ridgewood Road. She is gathering information from Lakeshore Preserve, UW, and the Historical Society about best practices for caring for what is found and what the City already has. Mayor O'Connor reported the City is in the process of a San Damiano archeologic survey. No conclusive evidence has been found that mounds are there, but some possible areas are marked asking people to stay off them. Alder Goforth reported the DEI Committee met for the first time last week, sharing stories and getting to know one another. It is a fantastic, diverse group of residents, and Jayson Chung is a great leader. Mayor O'Connor agrees that it is a great group that is staffed by City Administrator Gadow along with Nehemiah Center staff.

Members announced meeting dates, times, and cancellations.

Alder Grupe reported tomorrow night is another summer Concert in Winnequah Park, with food carts at 5:30 p.m. and music in the Gazebo led by Carl Davick at 6:30 p.m. The National Night Out is August 10 and features music by Wheelhouse.

Alder Goforth requested an update on Stone Bridge Park. Public Works Director Stephany reported the storm trap portion was delayed because the poly wrap needed was part of a nationwide material shortage. The structure will be installed on Tuesday and Wednesday and will be interesting to watch. He reviewed the rest of the timeline for the project. Alder Goforth reminded everyone the Monona Bait and Ice Cream Shop and Monona Motors are still open and ready to serve during the speed hump construction on Winnequah Road. Mayor O'Connor reported she asked City Administrator Gadow to add "business open" signs to the construction area; Public Works Director Stephany reported that will be worked on tomorrow. Alder Goforth reported she is hosting a "meet and greet" at the East Side Club for Dane County Sheriff candidate Calvin Barrett Wednesday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m. The public is welcome.

Public Works Director Stephany reported the water tower painting will be completed very soon. Pirate Island Bridge work will begin soon. The Sylvan Lane portions of the Gateway Green project is near completion. Mill and overlay street work is on schedule.

Police Chief Chaney Austin reported a press release has been filed regarding the two newly hired officers, Julie Ribeiro and Emma Gunsolus. They will be sworn in on August 12 at 9:00 a.m. and will appear at Public Safety Committee and City Council meetings to get used to public speaking. He is starting a "Stroll with the Chief" campaign to meet with people to encourage active, healthy lifestyles and learn about the sights and sounds in Monona, sites that are popular and those less well known, and the nooks, crannies, and history of the City. He recently walked "The Islands", as they are known, and spoke with members of the Ho-Chunk Nation. He will highlight historic landmarks and asks for suggestions.

Fire Chief McMullen reported the lane open for Pirate Island bridge construction is too narrow to allow firefighter equipment to cross. To remedy that, the Department has placed a storage locker on site so only people have to cross over. He has 9 volunteer applications to review. He will join Police Chief Chaney Austin on some of his "strolls".

City Administrator Gadow reported mask policies are being reviewed regarding the Delta variant COVID-19 strain. Some staff will be masked, in particular at the Senior Center and Community Center. He is monitoring the situation and will make changes as things change.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve the Appointment of Dan Kramarz to the License Review Committee (effective immediately–April 2023), was carried:

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Wood, to adjourn was carried. (7:37 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk