

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
August 16, 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, Alderpersons Kathy Thomas, Kristie Goforth, Molly Grupe (via Zoom), Nancy Moore (via Zoom), Doug Wood, and Jennifer Kuhr

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Attorney William Cole (via Zoom), Police Chief Brian Austin Chaney, Police Officer Recruits Emma Gunsolus and Julie Ribeiro, Public Works Director Dan Stephany (via Zoom), Friends of San Damiano President Andrew Kitslaar, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve the Minutes of the August 2, 2021 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Police Chief Brian Austin Chaney provided an Introduction of Police Officer Recruits Emma Gunsolus and Julie Ribeiro, sharing background information on each on their first day of Police Academy training from which they will graduate on December 17. Officer Ribeiro thanked everyone for allowing her to serve in this capacity. Officer Gunsolus thanks everyone at the City for being so welcoming and for allowing this new hiring process. Mayor O'Connor welcomes both Officers. Members expressed appreciation for there now being more women in the Police Department.

PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Director Stephany reported that at its August 4 meeting the Public Works Committee approved VISU Sewer for the following contract. The project is to be completed by November 12.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve Resolution 21-8-2405 Award of Contract for Sanitary Sewer Main Lining Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Public Works Director Stephany reported that at its August 4 meeting the Public Works Committee approved the following Ordinance. It was clarified with City Attorney Cole that a contractor needs to provide a new Affidavit for each new project.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve Ordinance 8-21-742 Amending Chapter 395-2 of the Code of Ordinances to Require an Affidavit for Right-of-Way Work, was carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Goforth to suspend the rules and take action on the Temporary Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage Retailer’s License for Knights of Columbus Council 4879, President Paul Sheperd, 1611 North Bristol Street, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, 53711, for the Period of September 4, 2021, was carried.

Alder Wood reported the Rockin’ Brews Marathon, run in the City for 4 years under different names by the same company, has a new sponsor so needed License Review Committee and Council approval. The plan includes fencing where beer samples are consumed. The 1,500 runners are spread out so there is not a large concentration of people all at once. The Parks & Recreation Department has approved this event. The organizers won’t be putting out “no parking” signs as was done in the past; they will work with the Police Department on approval of placement of cones on the streets.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Temporary Class “B” Fermented Malt Beverage Retailer’s License for Knights of Columbus Council 4879, President Paul Sheperd, 1611 North Bristol Street, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, 53711, for the Period of September 4, 2021, was carried.

Mayor O’Connor provided information on Ordinance 8-21-743 Amending Section 18-10 of the Code of Ordinances Regarding the Community Media Committee. She discussed this with Director of Community Media Will Nimmow and Committee Chair Alder Thomas. It is easier to get a quorum with fewer members. There are currently 9, which is more than usual on committees, but it was thought that there was going to be a radio sub-committee. There have been 2 vacancies for 1½ years that haven’t been filled due to COVID-19. The membership will be 6 citizens and 1 School Board member. Alder Grupe asked if the Committee is in agreement. Mayor O’Connor responded this type of change is typically not discussed at committees.

City Administrator Gadow provided information on Resolution 21-8-2506 Consent to Assignment of Renewable Energy Credit Service Agreement. In 2013 the City entered into a Renewable Energy Credit Service Agreement with Falcon Energy Systems, which included installation of solar panels on the roofs of 4 City facilities: City Hall, the Library, the Public Works Garage, and Well #3. In 2019 tax credits expired so it was not financially advantageous for Falcon Energy to continue, so they wanted the City to purchase the panels or assign maintenance to a third party.

Legacy Solar Cooperative of Wisconsin was interested as COVID-19 hit. They are associated with Falcon, have done work in the City, and want to expand their work in this field. They would take over the current contract. The City will decide on a long-term plan within 5 years. It makes more sense to lease rather than purchase. City Attorney Cole reported the terms of the contract stay the same but this is a new person, so the City needs assurance they are financially able to meet all financial obligations. Falcon was vetted. Legacy’s intentions are good, but they have no assets; they need to maintain the systems and have the ability to remove the panels. The estimated removal cost is \$38,000, with a \$13,000 salvage value, so the cash deposit and the bond is in this residual amount of \$12,500 each. Legacy has represented they will maintain the system and he has no problem with the Council approving this.

Mayor O’Connor stated Curt Reinhold from Legacy has been involved from the start of the solar panel project and is familiar with the system. Alder Moore reported Legacy is a reputable company. At its last meeting the Sustainability Committee approved development of a real roadmap to 100% clean energy; solar panels will be a part of that effort.

## REPORTS

Alder Grupe began Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts, reporting that the Transit Commission conditionally approved First Student as the transit provider with an amendment to encourage that DEI training be required for employees and service providers. The Commission wants to explore options for special event transportation for special needs individuals. The Nehemiah Center's Black History course is open for public, Council, and City staff participation. She would like the City to consider having future RFP's, not bound by low bid state law, consider in the qualifications Black-owned, or women or other minority-owned businesses. City Administrator Gadow reported he is working on staff participation in the Black History course in the fall. Council members can participate on their own; a special session would entail a cost and be a quorum issue. Alder Moore stated the class is on Monday nights so is impossible for Council members. Scheduling for another night requires 12 participants. Nehemiah is also offering a new series, "White and Wondering", that meets Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.; sign-up is available on the Center's website. Mayor O'Connor reported she has sat in on a couple of those sessions and it was a good experience.

Members announced meeting dates, times, and cancellations.

Alder Kuhr stated she is pleased the two new officers have joined the Department, and was happy to tell her daughters that the new officers were women.

Alder Goforth reported the Landmarks Commission was given a one-year extension to apply for the National Registry. There is a late residential applicant and a potential business applicant as well.

Alder Moore reported the Sustainability Committee has a new member, Ken Walz, has expertise on the type of work needed for the "roadmap" mentioned earlier. She is also glad to see women in the Police Department.

Alder Grupe reported the Senior Citizens' Committee will tour the Frank Allis house and receive San Damiano information. The Transit Commission worked on First Student RFP amendment suggestions, as reported earlier. The re-scheduled National Night Out is tomorrow night with music by Wheelhouse and she invites all to stop by the Sustainability Committee table for information on the Committee's activities.

City Clerk Andrusz reported that next week she will be out of the office attending the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association Conference in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Mayor O'Connor reported the first Capital Budget Committee of the Whole will be Tuesday, September 21. Some of the budget meetings may start early before a previously scheduled Council meeting. The next regular Council meeting is the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 7. She will be absent so Council President Thomas will chair that meeting.

## APPOINTMENTS

Friends of San Damiano President Kitslaar appeared before the Council to provide information on the appointees to the San Damiano Steering Committee, Representing the Friends of San Damiano. Ms. Beard is a member of the Ho Chunk Nation and serves on the MESBA Board. Ms. Gage is President of the Monona Grove School District. These two appointees are not Monona residents but will make valuable contributions as this will be a regional destination. Mr. Block is the Wisconsin History Society President with extensive experience in historical properties. Alder Moore has decades of experience in the conservation arena.

Mayor O'Connor provided information on the appointees to the San Damiano Steering Committee, Representing the City of Monona. Ms. Gorman is on the Clean Lakes Alliance Board and worked on the Warner Beach project. Ms. Holmquist is on the Landmarks Commission and is an architect. Ms. Slack is on the Parks & Recreation Board and is a businesswoman and realtor. Alder Wood chairs the Parks & Recreation Board.

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

1. To the San Damiano Steering Committee, Representing the Friends of San Damiano:
  - a. President Andrew Kitslaar (Co-Chair)
  - b. Kyla Beard
  - c. Wes Mosman Block
  - d. Loreen Gage
  - e. Alder Nancy Moore
  
2. To the San Damiano Steering Committee, Representing the City of Monona:
  - a. Mayor Mary O'Connor (Co-Chair)
  - b. Marilee Gorman
  - c. Rebecca Holmquist
  - d. Kelly Slack
  - e. Alder Douglas Wood

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Goforth, to adjourn was carried. (7:36 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz  
City Clerk