

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 8, 2020

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 (arrived late), Kristie Goforth, Doug Wood, and Jennifer Kuhr

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Attorney William Cole, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Financial Consultant Jim Miller, Incoming Fire Chief Jeremy McMullen, Acting Fire Chief Dan Eklof, TIF Consultant Gary Becker, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve the Minutes of the August 17, 2020 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Ronesha Strozier, Monona resident, appeared before the Council and spoke regarding parking issues, especially on Valorie Lane and Wallace Avenue.

John Quale, 4605 Monona Drive appeared before the Council and spoke regarding Snicks Sportsman's Bar's temporary premise extension application.

PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Director Stephany reported the following parking restriction Ordinance was approved by the Public Works Committee on March 2 and letters were sent to affected residents. He received three contacts that included one for restrictions and one against. He answered Ms. Strozier's questions, including information that a snow emergency would clear vehicles off the streets. Finance Director Houtakker reported parking fines go into the General Fund and towing charges are paid to the towing company.

Public Works Director Stephany reported current parking makes it difficult for snow plowing, leaf collection, and street sweeping. Members discussed the difficulty in contacting apartment dwellers and their limited parking availability. Members discussed asking Gunderson Funeral Home and Immaculate Heart of Mary Church to allow parking in their lots during snow emergencies. Alder Thomas suggested landlords could take responsibility for that contact. Alder Kuhr raised a point of order that snow emergencies are not the agenda topic and should be discussed at another meeting.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Ordinance 3-20-728 Establishing Parking Restrictions at Various Locations, was carried. Alder Goforth voted against the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 20-9-2431 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$4,725,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020C, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported this will refinance TIF 6 to pay off TIF 5 and refinances a BAN 4-year note for the Riverfront and some of TIF 4. It is taxable but at incredible rates. Mr. Miller reported the true interest cost for this 10-year refinancing is 1.63%, which is astoundingly low. This will take care of some balloon payments.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 20-9-2431 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$4,725,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2020C. 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 20-9-2433 Approving an Employment Agreement for the Position of Fire Chief/EMS Director, was carried.

City Administrator Gadow reviewed the process of Police & Fire Commission approval of Jeremy “Jerry” McMullen as the new Fire Chief. He will start on October 1, contingent upon a final background check. Mr. McMullen introduced himself. He lives in Deerfield and has had a 20-year career in fire and EMS. It is difficult to leave Madison after 18 years but Monona offered good opportunities and a great department. Mayor O’Connor and members thank Acting Chief Eklof for providing leadership past his retirement. She, along with members, welcome incoming Chief McMullen.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 20-9-2433 Approving an Employment Agreement for the Position of Fire Chief/EMS Director, was carried.

City Administrator Gadow provided information on Resolution 20-9-2434 Amending the Boundary of Tax Increment District No. 5. Seven under-performing parcels will be removed from TIF 5 (Garden Circle) to allow closure sooner. Resolution 20-9-2435 Approving an Allocation Amendment of Tax Increment District No. 6 (the health clinics) and Resolution 20-9-2436 Approving an Allocation Amendment of Tax Increment District No. 8 (Treysta on the Water) are to make them donors to TIFs 4, 5, and 9. Mr. Becker reviewed the history of TIF 5 which became Heritage Monona. It is at the halfway point and adjustments can be made to remove parcels that have not been redeveloped and have lost value. Removing them resets the value at a lower rate and allows transfer of TIF 6 and 8 funds. If it is not paid off it would have to be paid with the General Fund; transfer allows the taxing districts to share the cost rather than taxpayers. Village Lanes could be in another TIF District if a proposal was received.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Wood to suspend the rules and take action on the Application for 2020 Temporary Extension of Premises and Temporary Patio Permit for Snick’s Sportsman’s Bar, LLC, d/b/a Snick’s Sportsman's Bar, 4605 Monona Drive, was carried.

Alder Wood reported the patio is already approved; this action is for the premise extension. City Clerk Andrusz stated the business has been closed since July 22 and this will allow them to serve a limited number of customers. City Administrator Gadow stated this is much like previous applications.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to approve the Application for 2020 Temporary Extension of Premises and Temporary Patio Permit for Snick’s Sportsman’s Bar, LLC, d/b/a Snick’s Sportsman's Bar, 4605 Monona Drive, was carried.

Mayor O'Connor provided information on Ordinance 9-20-734 Establishing New Parking Restrictions on Tonyawatha Trail and on Winnequah Trail. No parking in this area was established temporarily in April because of bicycle and pedestrian traffic issues; she now wants a permanent change. Public Works Director Stephany reported this was discussed by the Public Works Committee on September 2. Alders Goforth and Wood questioned whether a particular address is included. Public Works Director Stephany stated it is already against the law to park at the top of a "T", but it is not signed or enforced. He will work on this for the next meeting. City Attorney Cole encouraged signage if it is to be enforced.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Moore to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 20-9-2432 Award of Bid for the Capital City Bike Trail Connection Project, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany stated bicycles can be on the sidewalk per statute. At its September 2 meeting the Public Works Committee approved the low bid of the two received. The City will be charged for the railroad costs. He wants to finish the project by November 1 when asphalt plants close for the season. If it can't be completed by winter that part will not be done until spring. Alder Kuhr reported the railroad entity has really delayed this because it is a small project; it has been very frustrating.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 20-9-2432 Award of Bid for the Capital City Bike Trail Connection Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to Convene in Closed Session under Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85(1)(e), Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (San Damiano). On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Upon reconvening in Open Session:

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Thomas to authorize City staff to purchase the San Damiano property for a purchase price of \$8.6 million per the terms of the counter offer. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

Members announced meeting dates and times and provided the following:

Alder Wood reported the Parks & Recreation Board held a very successful special meeting regarding the Stone Bridge Park concept plan. There were 27 attendees and substantial changes were made to the Plan. The next meeting is postponed until September 17.

Alder Goforth reported the Landmarks Commission will meet in October regarding its part of the Stone Bridge Park Plan. The \$40 Madison wheel tax was on her DMV license plate renewal in error. Residents can call 608-264-7447 to get that corrected if it's on their renewals.

City Clerk Andrusz reported Election Inspectors helped prepare envelopes and will help mail out close to 3,000 absentee ballots by September 17. The Wisconsin Elections Commission just sent out letters to all voters who did not have an absentee ballot request on file by June 30. Because the City has received hundreds of requests since then, that has generated numerous telephone calls from confused voters.

Mayor O'Connor reported Committee of the Whole Capital Budget meetings are September 24 and 29 and Operating Budget meetings are October 20 and 21; all meetings start at 6:00 p.m. She met with Department Heads on the Capital Budget; books will be distributed the week before the meetings. She, City Administrator Gadow, and Alder Grupe met with the Nehemiah Center; work will begin with City staff interviews and a listening session in October. She talked with the Rising Group; interviewing is ongoing and research on officer training has been received. She agrees the Stone Bridge Park meeting was very productive and the high attendance was wonderful.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Terri Whealen, Election Inspector (effective immediately–December 31, 2021), was carried:

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood, to adjourn was carried. (8:43 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk