

MONONA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
REVIEW OF 2020-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM  
AND 2020 CAPITAL BORROWING  
September 16, 2019

The meeting of the Monona City Council Committee of the Whole was called to order by Council President Kitslaar at 6:04 p.m.

Present: Council President Andrew Kitslaar and Alderpersons Kathy Thomas, Jennifer Kuhr, Doug Wood, and Molly Grupe

Excused: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor and Alderperson Nancy Moore

Also Present: Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Senior Center Director Diane Mikelbank, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, Parks & Recreation Director Jake Anderson, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2020-2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND 2020 CAPITAL BORROWING

Council President Kitslaar stated a budget review will be given when Mayor O'Connor returns. Finance Director Houtakker introduced the budget. Alder Wood questioned whether the numerous items moved to the Operating Budget were moved to reduce borrowing or because they should have always been there. Finance Director Houtakker responded they are a combination of both. A Capital item should have at least a 5-year useful life. Alder Thomas expressed concern about items going back and forth between budgets. If expenses increase it will affect what can be done for services, salaries, etc. Alder Wood requests the narrative description of what was taken out.

Senior Center Director Mikelbank reported the 2013 copy machine has no maintenance plan and needs to be replaced. The Senior Citizens' Committee recommended a color copier. Gordon Flesch provided a good deal but Operating expenses will go up with the per page charge. The Friends group does their copying at City Hall and pays for copies there. When done at the Center their payments will offset costs. Finance Director Houtakker reported the Donation account is used for sustainability purchases. The scanner is being moved to the IT budget.

Fire Chief Sullivan reported the only item left in the Fire Capital Budget is personal protection equipment. The thermal imaging camera was moved to Operating, but should be in Capital because one is needed every 10 years.

Finance Director Houtakker reviewed EMS Fund Balance use with the new rate increase. Fire Chief Sullivan reviewed Capital Budget items including a defibrillator, equipment bags, batteries, and tires.

Recreation Director Anderson reported in the Parks budget that Stonebridge Park design includes phosphorus reduction. This project is eligible for the Reach 64 stormwater grant which the Public Works Committee will discuss. The Woodland Park trail project is in the budget. Jon and Peggy Travers continue to volunteer. Park flood damage repair was reduced by Mayor O'Connor. In-house work couldn't be done due to the winter and spring weather. Bare minimum work would be turf restoration. Finance Director Houtakker reported staff is still working with FEMA so the City may get funds for shoreline work. Recreation Director Anderson reported Ahuska Park parking lot and tennis court lights need replacement; bicycle parking and a waiting area will be added. Park tree removal and replacement

has increased due to the emerald ash borer. There are not as many replacements; these require additional maintenance. Oak wilt is also an issue; treatment options will be researched. The safety factor is the priority. Three final park sign replacements will complete that City-wide project.

Council President Andrew Kitslaar reported Mayor O'Connor wants a comprehensive park plan before the Winnequah Park parking lot on Healy Lane is replaced. Recreation Director Anderson stated he wants the electric vehicle added back into the budget. It is needed for moving staff and supplies between locations. Finance Director Houtakker stated park work done in-house without hiring outside staff is considered an Operating expense. Alder Wood questioned the Riverfront Park art RFQ delay. He is concerned the park will be open for two years without art. Council President Kitslaar reported Mayor O'Connor wanted to see how the park is used. Dane County may have a grant or there may be other fund raising possibilities. City Administrator Gadow reported a Dane County Arts grant could be awarded and there could be a budget amendment for matching funds. Alder Thomas stated a sponsor should be found for the art project. The recently dedicated Whitehorse project was largely funded from other sources.

Recreation Director Anderson reported in the Community Center budget that staff and the Park and Recreation Board want building security upgrades because of the change in use for children's programs. Random people come into the building. A bubbler will be added to the Main Hall. Alder Wood stated there is concern about limiting or closing off public access to a public building, an unintended consequence of the Afterschool Program. Other ways should be looked at other than getting "buzzed in". Recreation Director Anderson reported the building would only be closed during the program time. The elevator is always assessable. Alder Kuhr stated people are becoming accustomed to security measures in this day and age. Recreation Director Anderson reported the women's restroom upgrade project is the counter top, sink, and lighting. If it is to be kept for 15 years, the Community Center needs a plan for investing in building upgrades to allow staff to plan and prioritize improvements over the short- and long-term.

Recreation Director Anderson reported in the Pool budget the locker room floor replacement has been held off for one year. It needs a slip-resistant epoxy coating. The pump room door needs replacement and pump repair and replacement is needed for coverage in case of failure. Deck furniture replacement is done on a schedule.

Finance Director Houtakker stated Mayor O'Connor's number one priority is to keep costs down to pay for the new Public Safety building. She will talk about this at the next meeting. There is a placeholder in the budget for land purchase.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to close the Committee of the Whole, was carried. (6:53 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz  
City Clerk