

MONONA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
REVIEW OF 2022–2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM
AND 2022 CAPITAL BORROWING
September 20, 2021

The meeting of the Monona City Council Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor O’Connor at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O’Connor and Alderpersons Doug Wood, Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Kristie Goforth, and Molly Grupe

Excused: Alderperson Nancy Moore

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Senior Center Director Diane Mikelbank, Director of Administrative Services Leah Kimmell, Library Director Ryan Claringbole, Director of Community Media Will Nimmow, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL

COUNCIL REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2022–2026 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND 2022 CAPITAL BORROWING

Finance Director Houtakker provided a Power Point presentation of the City’s finances, reviewing goals while keeping future projects in mind during the process. General Obligation debt outstanding is \$48,255,000. Borrowing is allowed up to 5% of equalized value which is \$1,538,704,800. The City is under the debt capacity; unused margin of indebtedness is \$28,025,240. In 2024, \$20,000,000 is slotted in for a Public Safety building. The goal is a 40 year pay-off using other types of non-General Obligation funds to keep costs off the tax levy. City Administrator Gadow reported a USDA program public facility loan can go out that far rather than the standard 20 to 30 years.

Finance Director Houtakker reviewed major items including Library HVAC, Public Safety building design, and South Winnequah Road street work. Mayor O’Connor made changes, including adding Pagoda funds and South Winnequah Road sidewalks and removing funds for brush and dump trucks, rescue boat, and due to a lack of support, Pirate Island dredging. Future projects were reviewed. Landfill clean-up, if needed for a new Community Center/Swimming Pool, wasn’t included but would be very costly.

Alder Thomas expressed concern that the City is borrowing more than it is paying off. Finance Director Houtakker reported Public Works projects are the majority of the cost. Mayor O’Connor stated she put in a figure for Winnequah Road and will let the Council decide. The Landmarks Commission wanted another opinion on Pagoda removal; funding has been added for design but the amount needed is unknown.

Finance Director Houtakker provided information throughout Department Heads presentations.

Senior Center Director Mikelbank is requesting funding to replace the touch screen for the electronic attendance device; the original was purchased in 2010. An off-site scanner and new key tags are needed. Center space needs, current uses, and proposed renovations were discussed. A “wellness room” with a water source is desired, along with reconfiguring the shared office space. Alder Grupe thanks Senior Center Director Mikelbank for her careful budgeting. The Monona Grove shop class vestibule is a great

project. Senior Center Director Mikelbank reported there is a meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. to discuss it and then a cost estimate will be provided. Alder Thomas suggested the Friends could possibly provide funds.

Director of Administrative Services Kimmell reported 15 computers will be replaced on the annual schedule along with a server. Camera updates and equipment have been removed from the Dispatch account and are now under the IT account. There is a contingency budget for them because they are outside and subject to breakage and vandalism. COVID-19 funds were used for laptops to allow remote working and Zoom meetings; there is another storage server needed for those. The City Hall conference room needs upgrades to use it for hybrid meetings.

Library Director Claringbole reported the upper level restrooms need to be remodeled and brought up to ADA standards. A dumpster covering is needed to make it safer when people unlawfully use it to access the roof; the dumpster will be moved so it can't be used this way.

Director of Community Media Nimmow described the video production computer needed at the high school for audio and video editing, graphic design, and office work. The video camera update will add a third replacement. The video streaming update is used for remote events, like football games or when the Council meets at a different location. Wireless microphones can be used for events and interviews both inside and outside. Information was provided on future large items.

Director of Community Media Nimmow responded to member's questions. He can't get cable channel viewer statistics from Charter; getting that from other providers would involve a cost. He is doing well with broadcasting on YouTube; there are 1,300 subscribers. He can look into branching out to other options like Hulu, Roku, or Apple TV, but it would take staff time and costs need review. The equipment on the Capital Budget list doesn't involve City funds but the school provides a \$5,000 equipment stipend that he uses. The school rebuilding didn't include equipment. Video production includes software; 4 subscriptions to the Adobe suite using educational pricing were purchased by the school. He tried to use it elsewhere but it needed to be on the school network.

Finance Director Houtakker confirmed that long-term borrowing can be done to pay for equipment that lasts over 10 years.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to close the Committee of the Whole, was carried. (6:55 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk