

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 5, 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 Doug Wood, Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, and Kristie Goforth

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Attorney William Cole, Director of Administrative Services Leah Kimmell, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Operations Lieutenant Curt Wiegel, Parks & Recreation Director Jake Anderson, City Planner Doug Plowman, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Project Manager Brad Bruun, Library Director Ryan Claringbole, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary O'Connor noted a correction in her Report on page 4: "...interested in contributing to this project should approach her, or the ~~City Council~~ City Administrator, or..."

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2020 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

Mary O'Connor noted a correction on page 2: ~~Mayor O'Connor removed the Story Walk that was part of Bridge Road Park that wasn't done during COVID-19.~~

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve the Minutes of the September 24, 2020 City Council Committee of the Whole meeting as amended, was carried.

Mary O'Connor noted corrections on page 2. In the second paragraph: "...replacement schedule for cameras be created..." In the third paragraph: "...Bridge Age Aid Grant..."

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the September 29, 2020 City Council Committee of the Whole meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES, PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Appearances, Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Chief Ostrenga read the language comparing "probable cause" versus "reasonable suspicion" and stated he is comfortable with the changes taken from previous federal language. Alder Wood stated for probable cause officers have to be more knowledgeable or certain that a crime has been committed.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 20-9-2438 Approving Police General Order 6.02 Vehicle Pursuits, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported there are no changes to the following from the last meeting; intervention has been added as was discussed.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 20-9-2440 Approving Police General Order 1.04 Code of Conduct, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported there are no changes to the following from the last meeting.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 20-9-2439 Approving Police General Order 5.01 Use of Force, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported City Attorney Cole added “Less Than Lethal Weapons” throughout the following document and that will be in the final version.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 20-9-2442 Approving Police General Order 5.02 Use of Less Than Lethal Weapons, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported there are no changes to the following from the last meeting, and stated that these are living documents. Changes may be made after input from the Riseling Group, CVMIC, and other reviews. But he did want to incorporate the “8 Can’t Wait” guidelines as a starting point.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 20-9-2441 Approving Police General Order 5.03 Deadly Force, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion began on Amendments to Resolution 20-10-2444 Approving the 2021-2025 Capital Improvements Program and 2021 Capital Borrowing.

Amendment 21-01: To reduce the 2021 Capital Budget by \$7,000 by removing an unneeded electric vehicle charging station at City Hall. Mayor O’Connor noted this is just a correction.

Amendment 21-02: To reduce the 2021 Capital Budget by \$309,000 by reducing the Stone Bridge Park project to only the stormwater basin, Pagoda repair, bench, sign, and bike rack. Recreation Director Anderson reported the stormwater portion of the project will substantially re-shape the park. The Parks & Recreation Board, Landmarks Commission, and the public have provided a lot of input. The minimalist design will make the park more ADA compliant. The proposed \$20,000 will pay for the top of the Pagoda only. City Planner Plowman reported the Commission’s direction was to engage a consultant and this was the ball park estimate; the RFP may provide a better estimate of costs and is subject to bids.

Recreation Director Anderson stated all lakefront parks are valuable; the Board would have gone forward with this project even with San Damiano being planned. Alder Wood agrees; the Board did know and did want to go forward; this was approved. Mayor O’Connor reported work on this has been long term with a focus on stormwater and Pagoda repairs. Alder Moore stated the large limestone rocks are not useful for paddle craft landing and do not make sense. There are rocks at Grand Crossing Park, but that is a different set-up. Because of the large investment in other parks she wants the Board to revisit this. Alder Kuhr stated repairing the Pagoda roof only and not the bank behind it will waste funds because that will allow vandalism to continue. Alder Thomas stated waterfront is a very important and valuable resource; even if small, there can’t be too many water access parks.

Alder Goforth stated she doesn’t see this plan as a great improvement of usage and neighbors have told her they don’t see vandals. The sloped pathway grade will be icy in winter. She urges an incremental

approach until San Damiano costs are known. Recreation Director Anderson described the stormwater work and explained that ash tree removals are needed to allow equipment access. Alder Grupe stated that while she is mindful of San Damiano and the effect of COVID-19 on the budget, she doesn't want to compromise on accessibility. The Board could revisit the limestone issue. Alder Kuhr stated it was vandals that ruined the top of the Pagoda. Adding kayak access is done at other parks. The City doesn't have San Damiano yet; work is needed on what the City has. Alder Wood explained the limestone is at a lower level with the lowest below water, and provides seating for visitors. It is a long way from the road to launch a kayak, but that is a minor part of the project.

Recreation Director Anderson stated the design is not final and still needs modification; the type of shoreline rocks is to be determined. Alder Moore requests the plan for lighting be revisited; that is not along pathways in other parks. Recreation Director Anderson reviewed the design rendering. Lighting is currently there around the Pagoda. He learned from Wyldhaven Park and other projects that lighting should have been done to benefit visitors and deter vandals.

Alder Goforth stated she is not confident the park will be well-maintained; it is not now. Historically park projects have gone over-budget and it is unknown what will be found. Residents tell her Wyldhaven Park's shore now makes it more difficult to access the water. She asks if the stormwater treatment could be rotated 90 degrees. Public Works Director Stephanie responded he will be talking with the engineer and will ask. However, the design may be set and this would cause many changes. Three grants will be applied for to cover 80% of the stormwater portion so that cost will stay down. Project Manager Brunn stated turning the box will affect the large oak tree they are trying to save. The path would have to be longer or the tree removed. This was changed from the preliminary plan. Recreation Director Anderson reported it is a conservative estimate for the park portion, but it is hard to predict the bid climate in a few months. It is not a complicated project and will include the Community Center kitchen entrance ramp.

Alder Moore stated San Damiano is already a priority but she is not suggesting other parks get slighted. Alder Wood stated suggesting the project would go 30% over budget is insulting to staff who do a good job estimating costs. Alder Goforth stated Stone Bridge Park should be a small, meditative space and doesn't need large updates. Alder Kuhr responded that smacks of exclusionism, like the residents near Wyldhaven Park who wanted to keep the park to themselves; now they enjoy it. Mayor O'Connor reported people changed their minds about that when they saw the improvements. The Council has to keep in mind there are many projects with a lot of planning and work already done; they need to be kept up despite San Damiano.

Amendment 21-03: To reduce the 2021 Capital Budget by \$20,000 for engineering of speed humps at various locations and keeping \$15,000 for engineering at Schluter Park at the Bait Shop. Alder Kuhr stated it is not ideal timing for the other speed humps. It is in the 2019 Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan but community support is needed. The data isn't good because of reduced driving due to the pandemic. Resident input hasn't been collected on some of these locations; there will be more noise; there needs to be support staff and resources provided to work on this. The Plan was put on the shelf; when it was approved she thought it was a living document. Alder Thomas stated there should be funds for the engineering along with the work. Putting in speed humps should be done openly and needs community outreach. Mayor O'Connor stated the work will be done 2022.

Amendment 21-04: To increase the 2021 Capital Budget by \$12,000 for the Library Building Envelope Study. \$6,000 of the funds will come from the savings from the previous Amendment and from the Library Fund Balance. Alder Kuhr reported \$40,000 was in the budget for this to include the Community Center and City Hall, but was moved back a year. The Library is requesting their part be done now for planning for major projects like the roof, lower level, and HVAC. This is a small, prudent investment that will avoid costs of deferred maintenance. Project Manager Brunn reported this is a specialty contractor and the engineer uses these assessments to do projects. Staff would have to do the work twice

if buildings are split between years. He warns that issues found could be significant; the study assesses a building's ability to allow HVAC to work efficiently. After the assessment, projects would be prioritized regarding engineering, and then work would be done project by project based on the budget. The City doesn't have to do all the recommended projects but can choose which ones will be done. In 5 to 8 years a decision will be needed on the solar arrays; this study will inform and prepare for that.

Mayor O'Connor stated she has no idea what the City is committing to; she just learned of this process 3 weeks ago. Windows and other upgrades were done to gain energy efficiency. Alder Moore stated the Library building hasn't been neglected. It is known that the Community Center is in bad shape, but facilities haven't been ignored. There is no point in doing this study if the work won't be done. Alder Thomas stated the Public Safety building will affect the Community Center and City Hall but not the Library; work should start there.

Library Director Claringbole reported the roof is not in the current plan but he wants to know what's going on with the facilities. There was a recent substantial roof leak. HVAC was upgraded but there are still issues. Both causes are unknown. Part of the building is extremely old. The study is valuable for planning ahead and funding. Finance Director Houtakker stated the Library controls its own Fund Balance and questions whether they will pay their portion. Library Director Claringbole responded they would; they want to help with part or possibly all of it. The Fund Balance policy is 10% of the Operating Budget. It is now over that but he won't know the final balance until year end. Alder Kuhr stated the Fund Balance is there but the Library doesn't want to spend this and find out major repairs are needed; they don't want to make that commitment.

Amendment 21-05: To increase the 2021 Capital Budget by \$15,000 to reinstate the Schluter/Waterman Park design proposed by the Parks & Recreation Director and Board. Alder Wood reported this is being driven by visits to the site, the popularity of the Biergarten events, and the desire to make Waterman Park more useful. Alder Grupe reported the Waterman Park fields should be evened out and seating added. Recreation Director Anderson reported the cove work done in 2016 was damaged by the 2018 floods; part of the project is to stabilize the cove slope. This needs work soon as lots of fishing is done there. In addition, he'd like overflow capacity at Waterman Park for events and pedestrian access eased. This is conceptual planning, not design.

Recreation Director Anderson answered questions about other park's planned work. Decisions are made annually based on priorities and budget. Projects are always pushed back. Finance Director Houtakker reported some have been delayed because of the Public Safety building. Debt service is going up; he is trying to balance the tax levy and that project. Alder Thomas stated she understood the goal was to keep Capital Budget borrowing down, and suggests completing plans that are in place before starting new projects. Even smaller work will add up at San Damiano. Recreation Director Anderson stated no major work will be done there until 2023; other smaller park work can be done before then.

Project Manager Bruun reported FEMA will reimburse for damage at the Schluter Park shoreline and beach due to floods. The engineer's quote for a partial fix was \$26,000 and \$126,000 for a full fix with limestone fishing piers. A substantial amount of shoreline was lost. The application includes other parks as well. Finance Director Houtakker reported the City got an extension but he thinks it's for less than a year. Funds are set aside in the Capital Budget. Only a small portion is for Schluter Park. Recreation Director Anderson reported work is in the budget but due to weather some staff-led restoration projects couldn't be done. Work was done at other parks for FEMA reimbursement. Alder Wood stated the Board thought this could be done quickly now before San Damiano becomes Recreation Director Anderson's priority.

Amendment 21-06: To increase the 2021 Capital Budget by \$38,000 to design and construct a raised crosswalk connecting Schluter and Waterman Parks and a "McKenna-style" speed hump, which works

better for Public Safety vehicles, at the Outlook Street and Winnequah Road intersection. Alder Grupe reported this is similar to and replaces Amendment 21-03 and takes out funding for work at other locations. Engineering and work can be done with 2021 funding. The current solar-powered Rapid Flash Beacon planned will remain. Removal of the nearby crosswalk will be debated later. Alder Thomas stated engineers should decide on placement. Alder Kuhr reported addressing this area is in Tier 1 of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan. Alder Goforth stated she doesn't think it will be used; people will take the shortest route. Alder Grupe stated there is a pedestrian back-up at the Bait Shop into the roadway. She isn't sure the Rapid Flash Beacon should be placed there; the Bait Shop may not always be there.

Amendment 21-07: To decrease the 2021 Capital Budget by \$10,000 to reduce funding for speed hump engineering at various locations. Funding is left in for speed tables on Winnequah Road near Outlook Street, Winnequah Road near Waterman Park, and two on Bridge Road between Frost Woods and Winnequah Roads. Alder Wood stated the first two would bracket the Bait Shop. The other two are on the highest trafficked internal street. Alder Kuhr stated guidelines state they should be 500 feet apart and there is not enough road length for the first two on Bridge Road. Traffic will divert to Winnequah Road, creating more problems there; Alder Thomas agrees. Alder Moore supports the two on Winnequah Road; traffic speed from the north is way more of an issue.

Amendment 21-08: To increase the 2021 Capital Budget by \$10,000 for the Public Works tree replacement program. Public Works Director Stephany stated the budget is now \$40,000 but \$29,000 has been spent so far this year and more ash trees need removal next year. The last round of trees this year will get to that project goal. A DNR forestry grant is not included. Mayor O'Connor reported the \$11,000 leftover can be carried over. Finance Director Houtakker reported borrowing could be reduced by \$14,000. Project Manager Bruun reviewed what was included in the grant. A full gamut of items need to be done to apply for the grant at year end.

Alder Thomas stated the Amendment isn't needed if the \$14,000 grant is received plus the \$11,000 carryover. Public Works Director Stephany agreed if Finance Director Houtakker knows it is to be used and doesn't re-allocate it. He reviewed the work that can be done. Project Manager Bruun stated 60% of the grant is for removals and that will be used. As many funds as possible should be in the ash tree program because they become dangerous. This is an annual reimbursement if the required work is done. The City will be better off in the future if the forestry program is supported. Finance Director Houtakker stated it is up to the City Council to put the full reimbursement into the budget and not borrow for the \$14,000. Alder Moore stated there is a lot of tree work being done throughout the City; she will withdraw the Amendment, but doesn't want the account reduced. Alder Wood asks staff to put together a memo regarding the grant and other funds for the Council's information.

Mayor O'Connor reminds members to get amendments in by a week from Thursday or they can be presented the night of the next meeting.

REPORTS

Members announced meeting dates, times, and cancellations and provided the following:

Alder Grupe reported the Parks & Recreation Board has been rescheduled to October 15. The first Nehemiah Center listening session will be on October 13 at 7:00 p.m. Registration is required; information is on the City's website. City Administrator Gadow explained that staff is required to register as well.

Alder Goforth thanks the Lake Monona Sailing Club and the people who have provided input and talked with her about the Stone Bridge Park. The Landmarks Commission will do a walk-through of the park at

their October 14 meeting. The Media Committee is happy to announce that full-time staff member Samantha Griffin starts on October 12.

Alder Moore thanks Police Chief Ostrenga, his staff, and the Public Safety Committee for their extensive policy work. She reported that Dane County and Dr. Alex Gee announced today they have secured property for a Center for Black Excellence and Culture. The Nehemiah Center was part of that effort.

City Administrator Gadow reported he will talk with Police Chief Ostrenga on any change in Halloween plans. Most municipalities are setting hours and providing CDC guidelines, like setting the candy bowl on the front porch rather than handing it out. Today Fire Chief Jerry McMullen was sworn in; he is getting to know the Department and already has ideas for the near future.

Mayor O'Connor reported she, Finance Director Houtakker, and City Administrator Gadow started Operating Budget meetings with staff. When those are complete, she will go over the ideas with Finance Director Houtakker and formulate a budget. Leaf pick-up will start soon after street sweeping is complete. She reminds residents to keep leaves out of the street to keep phosphorous out of the lake.

APPOINTMENTS

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

1. Craig Froelich – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
2. Jillene Khan – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
3. Claire Lempke – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
4. Philip Grupe – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
5. Thomas Quandt – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
6. Gregory Quandt – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
7. Brad Schantz – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
8. Steve Gasser – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
9. Sue Murphy – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
10. Mary Huelsbeck – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
11. Kimberly Suoja – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
12. Tana Feiner – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
13. Kirsten Fricke – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
14. Matthew Garrett – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
15. Christopher Vincent – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
16. Josh Torre – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
17. Suzanne Scheuerman – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
18. James Scheuerman – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
19. Joanna Anderson – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
20. Pageen Small – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021
21. Stephani Gehred-O'Connell – Election Inspector, effective immediately – December 31, 2021

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Grupe, to adjourn was carried. (9:33 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk