

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 1, 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 Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Kristie Goforth, Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, and Doug Wood

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Fire Chief Jerry McMullen, Elizabeth Nelson from the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Police Chief Brian Chaney Austin, Public Works Director Dan Stephany (via Zoom), Josh Straka from Strand Associates (via Zoom), Parks & Recreation Director Jake Anderson (via Zoom), Senior Center Director Diane Mikelbank (via Zoom), Community Media Director Will Nimmow, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to approve the Minutes of the September 20 and September 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole and October 4 and October 20, 2021 City Council meetings, was carried.

APPEARANCES

- Ron Binzley, 713 Moygara Road and Nikki Studt, 6003 Winnequah Road each registered against Winnequah Road Improvement Options 2, 3, and 4.
- David Witte, 5802 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council and spoke against the short notice for tonight's Committee of the Whole meeting and Winnequah Road Improvement Option 3.
- Mike Meulemans, 5800 Winnequah Road and David Lehrer, 5801 Winnequah Road each appeared before the Council and spoke against Winnequah Road sidewalks.
- Tim Casper, 5711 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council and spoke for informational purposes regarding Winnequah Road Improvements and offered to help in the process.
- Katherine Carew, 4905 Rothman Place and Ben Redding, 6215 Midwood Avenue each appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of Winnequah Road sidewalks.
- Kurt Studt, 6003 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of Winnequah Road Improvement Option 1 and against Options 2, 3, and 4.
- Chad Speight, 3905 Monona Drive appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of Winnequah Road Improvement Options 3 and 4.
- Julie Byrnes, 6103 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council, via Zoom, and spoke in favor of Winnequah Road sidewalks with a focus on child safety.

Mayor O'Connor read the names and addresses of the following individuals who registered their opinions regarding Winnequah Road Improvements via email:

Against sidewalks on Winnequah Road:

David Witte, 5802 Winnequah Road
Kellie Unke and Mike Paulus, 6111 Winnequah Road
David and Sharon Lehrer, 5801 Winnequah Road

Mike Meulemans, 5800 Winnequah Road
Mary and John Rowe, 5803 Winnequah Road
Craig Aswegan, 6008 Winnequah Road

In favor of sidewalks on Winnequah Road:

Adam Miller, 709 Moygara Road
Andrew Gaston, Winnequah Road

Christine Zenger, 907 Progressive Lane
Pamela Kitslaar, 700 Graham Avenue

In favor of Winnequah Road Improvements Option 3:

Julie Byrnes, 6103 Winnequah Road
Caitlin Iverson, 403 Midland Lane
Benjamin Lyman and William Schaefer, MPO staff

Dana Goodman, 407 LaBelle Lane
Peter McKeever, 6302 Southern Circle
Larry Reed, Monona resident

In favor of Winnequah Road Improvements Option 3 or 4:

Sam Bohrod, 5405 Midmoor Road
Andrew Kitslaar, 4514 Midmoor Road

Douglas Pahl, 4418 Oak Court

In favor of Winnequah Road Improvements Option 4:

Mary and John Rowe, 5803 Winnequah Road
Adam Miller, 709 Moygara Road
Ivo Rozendaal, 106 Henuah Circle

George Lightbourn, 5900 Winnequah Road
Dana Goodman, 407 LaBelle Lane
Julie Byrnes, 6103 Winnequah Road

Against Winnequah Road Improvements Option 4:

Mary Anne Reed, 5602 Winnequah Road

Katherine Carew, 4905 Rothman Place

In favor of the multi-use path and against speed humps on Winnequah Road:

Dan, Monona resident
Kevin Metcalfe, 412 Midland Lane and 1119 Pocahontas Drive

Nick Novak

- Tonya Hamilton-Nisbet, in favor of removing the Winnequah Road bump-outs and continued study.
- Jan Fox, 5805 Winnequah Road in favor of removing the Winnequah Road bump-outs.
- Sharon Polallis, Maywood Road with questions about Winnequah Road Improvements Option 3.
- David Lehrer, 5801 Winnequah Road with questions about the proper use of TIF.

- Dana Goodman, 407 LaBelle Lane regarding the importance of accessibility.
- Tim Casper, 5711 Winnequah Road in support of making Winnequah Road a one-way street.
- Matt Gehling, 6110 Winnequah Road in favor of sidewalks and no parking on Winnequah Road.
- Michael Harryman, 6008 Midwood Avenue in support of making Winnequah Road a one-way street with no parking.

Fire Chief McMullen provided an Introduction of Fire Lieutenants Brett Haydin and John Lockwood, reporting that both were out of town and could not be present. Both are Monona residents and were promoted to this position.

Fire Chief McMullen provided a Presentation of Results of Monona Fire Department's Fill-the-Boot Campaign for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, presenting Ms. Nelson with a check for over \$11,000. This was collected over a 2-day period thanks to the generosity of the community. Ms. Nelson stated this support helps the MDA so much and she thanks Mayor O'Connor for allowing firefighters to do this. Mayor O'Connor thanks the firefighters for their efforts.

PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Chief Chaney Austin reported the following Resolution provides clarification and some autonomy for the Department. He listed the policies to be reviewed which now includes the K-9 policy as requested by Alder Goforth.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve Resolution 21-10-2516 Clarification of Police Department Policies Review Procedures, was carried.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr to remove from the table Resolution 21-10-2514 Approving the 2022–2026 Capital Improvements Program and 2022 Capital Borrowing, was carried.

Mayor O'Connor introduced each of the following Amendments to Resolution 21-10-2514 Approving the 2022–2026 Capital Improvements Program and 2022 Capital Borrowing:

Amendment 22-01: To reduce the 2022 Capital Budget by \$1,193,750 to scale back the south Winnequah Road project to just remove the bump-outs and add shared-road signage with more planning and public engagement before moving forward. The motion on the amendment fails due to a lack of a second. Alder Thomas stated she would like to remove sidewalks from Option 3 but leave in funds for improvements. City Administrator Gadow responded a new amendment can be brought forth.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Amendment 22-02: To increase the 2022 Capital Budget by \$30,000 to apply a polymer coating on the Bridge Road bridge deck with funding from unspent 2020 Capital Budget funds with a friendly amendment by Alder Grupe to 2021 Capital Budget funds, was carried.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Amendment 22-03: To increase the 2022 Capital Budget by \$10,000 to include both the Fireman's Park bicycle pad and rack using General Obligation bonds, was carried.

Alder Moore noted the following Amendment account name should be Community Center Design Plans.

Amendment 22-04: To decrease the 2022 Capital Budget by \$35,000 to reduce funding for the Community Center Design Plans for Remodel. Alder Wood stated the decrease should be reduced to \$30,000 to leave \$20,000 to be more in line with what Recreation Director Anderson reported is needed for study. Alder Moore stated this seems high for just planning for such a small project. City Administrator Gadow reported the goal is a heated, enclosed entry space. An air curtain system that blows warm air versus an enclosure will be explored and could be done sooner. A later amendment may be needed. Senior Center Director Mikelbank reported duct work would be included to provide heat for her office.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Amendment 22-04: To decrease the 2022 Capital Budget by \$30,000 to reduce funding for the Community Center Design Plans for Remodel, was carried.

Amendment 22-05: Has a neutral effect on the 2022 Capital Budget; changes funding for the sidewalk portion of the South Winnequah Road modifications, \$430,000, from general funding to TIF funding. Alder Thomas reported she understands that anything that transports people is TIF eligible and this is within a ½-mile of the TIF boundary. She amends the amendment language prior to approval.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Amendment 22-05: To change \$430,000 of the funding for south Winnequah Road multi-modal improvements from General Funding to TIF funding, was carried.

Amendment 22-06: To increase the 2022 Capital Budget by \$2,000 to conduct an inspection and cost estimation for the potential relocation of the WVMO radio station to the City-owned house next to City Hall, and relocation of the Municipal Court Clerk office to the WVMO offices for privacy and accessibility purposes. City Administrator Gadow reported that since the last discussion staff found a way to construct cubicle space for the Building Inspector at the back of the Administration wing to allow relocation of the Court Clerk into that office. The cost to renovate the house needs more investigation. A Public Works staff member with remodeling expertise reviewed it and reported the door, driveway, and bathroom need to be brought up to ADA standards. There is mold and moisture in the basement and air quality and air conditioning need improvements. Lead and asbestos are unknown but may need to be addressed.

City Administrator Gadow stated the technical aspect of the WVMO equipment move is also a factor to consider. Alder Thomas reported she isn't sure the Community Media Committee has the resources for that work. Alder Goforth questioned whether the Court Clerk can serve clients professionally in the City Hall space. City Administrator Gadow responded it is a separate office with a door. Front counter space will be reconfigured to allow payment acceptance. Future office space as a result of the Public Safety building was discussed; a future amendment can be presented for modifications of the current space. A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Amendment 22-06: To increase the 2022 Capital Budget by \$2,000 to conduct an inspection and cost estimation for the potential relocation of the WVMO radio station to the City-owned house next to City Hall, and relocation of the Municipal Court Clerk office to the WVMO offices for privacy and accessibility purposes was withdrawn.

Alder Thomas brought forth new Amendment 22-07, with language modifications as suggested by Alder Grupe: To continue to work on multi-modal improvements on Winnequah Road with funds of \$1,379,750 to include a commitment to relocation of pedestrians off of the roadway. Finance Director Houtakker agrees funding should be secured; borrowing prices will go out and all Capital Budget projects will be on hold because of cash flow issues. Two separate borrowings could be done but would require two financial opinions. The final amount could be adjusted at the time of borrowing. City Administrator Gadow stated Options 1 through 4 should be stricken to make clear these are not under consideration and none are being funded. Alder Thomas stated if there are new ideas or if more funds are needed there can be an amendment. The “Triangle Area” will generate \$1.5 million next year and she will be back to take funds out of TIF. Mayor O’Connor stated there will need to be a plan soon to get the project going in January.

Alder Wood provided corrections to earlier statements. The community survey had a lot of support for sidewalks in the strategic plan and there were no rewards provided for bicyclists to respond. He is concerned about asking for more designs. Option 3 is complete and fulfills all needs. Alder Moore stated she wants to take the time to get it right and go through the Public Works Committee. Answers are still needed and there are still design issues. The current road was so poorly designed the engineer at the time wouldn’t sign off on it; she wants to listen to the engineers. If it takes more money, so be it. Maintenance, speeding, and high traffic need to be addressed. Trees, trash, and leaf collection placement are important but not more than safety. That is the larger responsibility. Providing for more walking will reduce vehicle carbon emissions.

Mr. Straka reported it would take a month to have further review by the Public Works Committee. Removing the bump-outs only would cost \$900,000 and then he’d need to re-do the whole project. Public Works Director Stephany stated he wants \$25,000 added for engineering if more design work is needed; that much has been spent already so far. Alder Wood stated he doesn’t want to start over, but Options 3 and 4 and converting to one-way needs further study. Alder Thomas stated the walls are the biggest problem and removal should be considered. Options 3 and 4 need improvements. Alder Kuhr stated she still likes Option 4 the best but has concerns and wants more review. Alder Goforth thanks Alder Wood for getting the MPO’s opinion and she hopes they will continue to be consulted. Members discussed study data.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve Amendment 22-07: To continue to work on multi-modal improvements on Winnequah Road with funds of \$1,379,750 to include a commitment to relocation of pedestrians off of the roadway, was carried. Alder Grupe voted against the motion.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-10-2514 Approving the 2022–2026 Capital Improvements Program and 2022 Capital Borrowing as amended. On a roll call vote, the motion carries. Alder Grupe voted against the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-11-2517 To Adopt Ward Plan, Combine Municipal Wards for Voting Purposes and Designate Polling Places, was carried.

City Clerk Andrusz reported this action is required every 10 years after the U.S. Census is completed and provided information on the mapping process and re-districting delays due to COVID-19. Fortunately, there were no changes in voting wards and Monona remained contiguous in terms of representation. Once approved, this Resolution is required to be sent to the Dane County Clerk by November 15.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-11-2517 To Adopt Ward Plan, Combine Municipal Wards for Voting Purposes and Designate Polling Places, was carried.

Mayor O'Connor introduced each of the following amendments to Resolution 21-11-2518 Adopting the 2022 Operating Budget and Establishing a Tax Levy:

Amendment 22-01: To increase the 2022 Operating Budget by \$758 for Contracted Senior Services. This amount was determined by adding 2.5% to the 2021 amount, treating it as a wage increase not a non-personnel cost, which were limited to 1% increases. Senior Center Director Mikelbank reported the New Bridge Director told her there is high turnover in Case Managers because they can get more pay at other jobs; any amount will help with staff retention. Alder Grupe thanks Alder Wood for his co-sponsorship on this Amendment. She knows Senior Center Director Mikelbank works very hard and doesn't ask for what she needs because she knows the whole City needs funds. Staff retention issues should be monitored.

Alder Kuhr questioned why New Bridge doesn't tell the City what their costs are as other contractors do. She works with non-profits often and they tell their clients what they need. Senior Center Director Mikelbank responded they also serve other areas so they ask for funding from them as well. Non-profits raise funds for shortages. She sometimes gets billed more and that gets paid. The budget is a plan to cover anticipated costs. Alder Thomas stated senior service providers across the county help each other out. Alder Goforth stated non-profits often have funding gaps.

Amendment 22-02: To increase the 2022 Operating Budget by \$2,500 for the Safe Community program and to increase Court Fine Revenues by \$2,500 to cover this increase. Alder Thomas reported there is concern about safety and the Police Department needs more funds. This is a non-profit with 300 agencies. This won't increase the tax levy; it will be paid by fines and forfeitures. Police Chief Chaney Austin reported Safe Community has been in operation for 20 years and partners with Madison and other area municipalities. They are the providers of the "Slow Down" yard signs and the pedestrian flag system at intersections, which works very well on Monona Drive at Olbrich Park. Their mission is to make community safety, elderly falls, and suicide prevention part of their work. The Public Safety Committee has approved this. Alder Wood stated funding this with court fines seems like more tickets will be written to raise those funds. Alder Thomas responded that this is to correct an under-estimation and is an effort to increase the Police Department budget.

Alder Thomas thanks her colleagues for defending transit funding. Senior citizens rely on the Lift Service and some of them moved to Monona because of it.

REPORTS

City Administrator Gadow provided an Update/Discussion on Public Safety Building Feasibility Study Request for Proposal (RFP) Process. The site south of City Hall was reviewed. An RFP was sent out. The eight responses ranged from \$14,500 to \$128,600. They were reviewed with staff and the recommendation is to go with FGM Architects of Milwaukee at a cost of \$19,800. A budget amendment will be needed. Mayor O'Connor reported everyone agreed this was the best choice. Some applicants came in person, including this one.

Alder Grupe began Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts, reporting on the Sentencing Project's conclusion that Black persons are incarcerated in Wisconsin at a much higher rate than whites and read highlights from an NPR article. It is important that Police Chief Chaney Austin is referring people to the Restorative Justice program. Alder Goforth reported this is the first day of

Native American Heritage Month and read a statement explaining the history of the designation. Alder Moore thanks City Administrator Gadow for notifying members about the free bias training opportunity. Alder Thomas urges members to watch the Colin Kaepernick special on NPB.

Alder Moore reported on Monday the Plan Commission will review the GIP of the new Broadway development at the former Chief's property. They want to meet the deadlines on the project to move it forward.

Alder Goforth reported there were two applications for tourism funds; the MESBA guide and the Lake Loop map were funded at \$2,500 each. The Landmarks Commission will research the historic walls on Winnequah Road. The BMO Harris development will be reviewed by the Plan Commission on November 22.

Alder Thomas reported there are two vacancies on the Public Works Committee; members are needed. Mayor O'Connor reported she has had no response to multiple placement of advertisements.

Police Chief Chaney Austin stated it is shameful for the state to have the incarceration numbers it has. People of Color and law enforcement both need to do better. Work on Restorative Justice includes YWCA and Briarpatch. A judge wants to expand the program to 12 to 16 year olds; it now serves ages 17 to 25. The goal is to extend it to those who need it most. He will get public input on that at the November 2 and 9 Open Houses; the 9th is a Senior Day event. Multi-Media Content Producer Brennon Hechimovich's video facility tour will be on YouTube soon. A Department Chaplain program for the Police and Fire Departments will start soon. School zone traffic enforcement is the Department's focus. Illegal student parking will result in tickets. The new Academy officers have firearms qualifications tomorrow; he asks all to wish them well. There will be a Dispatch vacancy in February that he wants to fill and train in January. Send applicants to the Police Department. It will be a swing shift and training will be provided. Other qualifications were reviewed.

Fire Chief McMullen reported 6 new volunteers start tomorrow night and 6 more applications were received today. The Department will have a new Medical Director. The Chili Fest went well and raised funds for the Firefighters Association. Diversity training is part of his conferences and he will have staff take that training as well. He invites members to the station Tuesday night for Assistant Fire Chief Dan Eklof's chili and to meet staff. On the 13th and 14th there will be two child vaccination clinics, one at Winnequah School. Alder Goforth reported the station will be a Free Bikes for Kids donation site this week.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to adjourn was carried. (9:47 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk