

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

January 17, 2012

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor Miller at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor Robert Miller, Aldermen Jim Busse, Jeffrey Wiswell, Doug Wood, Dennis Kugle, Chad Speight, and Scott Munson

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Ken Swanson from Strand Associates, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, City Planner Paul Kachelmeier, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alderman Munson, seconded by Alderman Wood to approve the City Council minutes of December 19, 2011, was carried.

APPEARANCES

The following individuals appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of adjusting Non-Represented Employees' salaries and WRS contributions:

- Curtis Wiegel, 5211 Schluter Road
- Jake Anderson, 1011 Nichols Road
- Ryan Losby, 5211 Schluter Road
- Diane Mikelbank, 1011 Nichols Road

The following individuals registered in favor of adjusting Non-Represented Employees' salaries and WRS contributions:

- Andrew Hagen, 4400 Monona Drive
- Mark Modaff, 851 Femrite Drive
- Karen Wendt, 1000 Nichols Road
- Erick Plumb, 1000 Nichols Road
- Joan Andrusz, 5211 Schluter Road
- Toni Streckert, 1000 Nichols Road
- Walter Ostrenga, 5211 Schluter Road
- Dan Stephany, 5211 Schluter Road
- Paul Kachelmeier, 5211 Schluter Road
- Marc Houtakker, 5211 Schluter Road
- Leah Kimmell, 5211 Schluter Road
- Patrick Marsh, 5211 Schluter Road

The following individuals registered in favor of reimbursing the WRS contribution for Represented Public Works and Library employees:

- Ronda Pettey-Kucher, 1000 Nichols Road
- Robert Smithson, 1000 Nichols Road
- Rob Klecker, 1000 Nichols Road

- Patrick Marsh, 5211 Schluter Road

Walter Ostrenga, 5211 Schluter Road, registered in favor of transferring funds from the Capital to the Operating budget for the purchase of three police cars and one ambulance.

Mayor Miller read a Proclamation Recognizing the Service of Monona School Crossing Guard Roy E. Armbrecht.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Public Works Director Stephany reported the Public Works Committee recommended the Council approve the plan for contracted consulting engineer services. The RFP would be issued to six firms. The Public Works Committee would interview and make recommendation to the Council for up to three firms for two to three year contracts. Public Works projects would then be done by one of these firms.

Alderman Kugle reported the chosen firms would have a broad base of expertise. Only civil infrastructure work would be done, not design or architecture. The option is still there to go outside of these firms if needed. Alderman Wiswell provided history of this issue's process.

A motion by Alderman Kugle, seconded by Alderman Wiswell to approve Resolution 11-12-1821 Approval to Issue a Request for Proposals for Contracted Consulting Engineer Services, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Miller advised members that there are two items on the agenda that would use the health insurance savings and there are not enough funds to do both.

Alderman Speight provided information on Resolution 12-01-1825 Amending the Operating Budget to Adjust Non-Represented Employees' Salaries and Contribution to the Wisconsin Retirement System. This would address the almost universally low salaries of non-represented employees as compared to their professional peers, and that exceptional staff should be compensated at least above average for their dedication and talent. Alderman Munson stated there is no better time to do this. City Administrator Marsh reported two employees have current employment agreements that define their salaries. These could be changed, but would be addressed separately.

Members discussed whether more information was needed such as experience, education, and duties. A pool of funds for up to 3% increases based on merit was recently provided. Alderman Munson stated the report's sample was significant and large enough to even out any variations. Alderman Wood reported employee salaries have historically been at average or below. Mayor Miller stated he would defer the decision of how much each position would receive to the City Administrator, who has day to day experience, and would offer his opinion on the City Administrator's decision.

The WRS contribution was discussed. Members requested a report of which area municipal employees are being paid back and at what percentage.

Alderman Busse began discussion of Resolution 12-01-1824 Amending the 2012 Operating Budget and 2012 Capital Budget, Transferring the Purchase of Three (3) Police Cars and One (1) Ambulance from the Capital Budget to the Operating Budget. The intent is to reduce Capital Budget borrowing and save taxpayers money. Large items were chosen for ease of accomplishing this objective. A vehicle that was cut from the budget would be added back in. The total health insurance savings is \$286,994 but the water and sewer entity is regulated by the PSC and those funds are not available. The total available is \$236,955.

Members discussed that smaller items could be purchased, or a combination of salaries and a reduced number of vehicles. Alderman Wiswell discussed the ambulance purchase is also a revenue enhancer. Alderman Wood does not support using all the funds and stated the ambulance should be a Capital Budget item as it will last at least ten years and citizens will be able to use it over its lifetime so should contribute toward the cost.

Mayor Miller hopes for balance so he won't have to break a tie on the use of these funds. He does not want to jeopardize the healthy reserve fund. At a recent presentation, the Wells Fargo Chief Economist reported tough economic times are still ahead. Alderman Speight stated reducing income to employees results in an economic downturn. Alderman Kugle stated getting bids provided this savings and it should be used wisely.

A motion by Alderman Wiswell, seconded by Alderman Busse to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 12-01-1828 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance WISCOM Radio Grant, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported he attended training in December and wishes to apply for a grant that encourages WISCOM system use. \$4 million in funds are available to fully fund radios, installation, and programming, and allows contact throughout Wisconsin. The paperwork is due January 31, 2012 and equipment must be installed by April 30, 2012. The service is free through June 30, 2015, after which a \$50 per radio fee may be charged, and the department is not locked in to continue using the service.

A motion by Alderman Wiswell, seconded by Alderman Speight to approve Resolution 12-01-1828 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance WISCOM Radio Grant, was carried.

A motion by Alderman Kugle, seconded by Alderman Wood to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 12-01-1827 Approving an Amendment to the Contract with Strand Associates for Monona Drive Phase 3, was carried.

City Administrator Marsh reported the Cities of Monona and Madison and the Ad Hoc Monona Drive Committee asked for additional work in the Phase III Monona Drive project to include the Nichols and Pflaum Road intersection and necessary environmental work at a previous filling station location. Safety of sightlines and age of the roadway, last improved in 2002, were determining factors in this amendment.

Public Works Director Stephany displayed a drawing of the area showing sightline and bike lane improvements. Mayor Miller reported he was recently received a letter from a pedestrian who was hit in this area while walking a dog. Alderman Wood reported this section was removed from the Phase I plans due to budget constraints with the intent to add it to Phase III

Mr. Swanson stated this ties the whole corridor together and utility connection would be made across the gap in the project's sections. The former gas station at Midwest Fine Jewelry was a small operation and was discovered when soil borings were done. There was no record of an underground storage tank. There is private responsibility to address any possible contamination.

A motion by Alderman Busse, seconded by Alderman Kugle to approve Resolution 12-01-1827 Approving an Amendment to the Contract with Strand Associates for Monona Drive Phase 3. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alderman Busse, seconded by Alderman Wood to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 12-01-1823 Consent to Assignment of Development Agreement Concerning UW Health Clinic, was carried. Alderman Wiswell voted against the motion.

City Administrator Marsh reported the Livesey Company, which leases out the building, has decided to sell to a New York corporation. The Development Agreement requires Council approval for a sale. A personal guarantee has been received from Mr. Livesey and his father to re-build if anything happens to the building before the TIF expires, which is in 27 years. The City Attorney recommended three conditions as outlined in the Resolution are met before approval. The parties involved want to complete this process soon. Mayor Miller confirmed with the City Attorney that there is no risk to the City.

A motion by Alderman Busse, seconded by Alderman Wood to approve Resolution 12-01-1823 Consent to Assignment of Development Agreement Concerning UW Health Clinic. On a roll call vote, the motion carries. Alderman Wiswell voted against the motion.

Alderman Wood began discussion on Resolution 12-01-1826 Authorizing Reimbursement of Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Contribution to Represented Public Works and Library Employees for the Duration of their Current Contracts. A special Finance & Personnel Committee meeting was held to review the advice of the City's Labor Attorney. WRS contributions can't be paid by the City even though the labor agreements were approved before Act 10 because the agreements weren't in effect until after Act 10 became law. The contracts may not have been ratified if this was part of them. The intent is to honor the contracts. It is not illegal to make this reimbursement. There is a current lawsuit with the State vs. bargaining units.

City Administrator Marsh reported this issue was discovered after a grievance was filed regarding the stoppage of union dues deductions. The total cost is \$28,600. The majority involved are Public Works employees, along with three part-time Library employees. Alderman Kugle stated this was budgeted for in 2012 so there is money to do this, but not for 2013. Alderman Wood stated it would be the 2013 Council's decision on how to address this issue.

Alderman Busse stated while Library union negotiations are done by the City, they are ratified by the Library Board. This may be a Library Board issue as they control that budget. City Administrator Marsh will research this. Alderman Wood requests members receive the legal opinion that was reviewed by the Finance & Personnel Committee.

A motion by Alderman Speight, seconded by Alderman Wood to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 12-01-1829 Authorizing Right-of-Way Acquisition for Phase 3 Monona Drive Improvements, was carried.

City Administrator Marsh reported the State required the Council to authorize the process of land acquisition. This Resolution would allow him and the Strand Associates agent to begin the process for Phase III. Although the State has not approved this yet, approval tonight will gain two weeks of

acquisition time, and history has proven time is very valuable to this process. City Clerk Andrusz read the following amendment to the Resolution:

“Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved, that the Monona Common Council authorizes the City Administrator to execute the appropriate documentation upon approval the State of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.”

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Alderman Busse requests a Belle Isle update for the next Council packet. Public Works Director Stephany reported yesterday BT Squared sent out bids for dredging work to at least six firms. There will be a public information meeting and two mailings to affected residents.

REPORTS

City Planner Kachelmeier reported Raywood Development began construction on two homes in the Femrite Drive project. The Salad Creations exterior is complete and they will open in the spring when interior work is complete. Erehwon Outfitters will be replaced by Wood Crafter, and may move to SouthTowne along with Northern Tool. The McDonald's on Monona Drive will do an extensive remodel in 2013 during Phase III work.

Public Works Director Stephany reported the Monona Drive streetlights damaged by a car will be operating tomorrow. If a resident damages their trash cart, it can be replaced from very limited stock at a cost of \$52. Veolia will replace any they damage. The dumpster is still at the skate park for old, empty cans, or empty cans may be placed at the curb for pick up. Christmas tree pick up is this week.

City Administrator Marsh reported the snowshoe event planned for Saturday in Woodland Park may be postponed. The ACT power lines will be helicoptered into place along the Beltline on January 29, or the 28th if bad weather is predicted. The Police Department will be working overtime to direct Beltline traffic to Broadway the whole day. Residents are reminded to keep vehicles off the streets if there is two inches of snow. The City's newsletter deadline is February 6; contact staff if there is anything to be added.

Mayor Miller reminds members and staff to discuss re-organization of committees with committee members. Residents are reminded that committees need members and to contact City Hall to volunteer.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Speight to approve the following Appointment, was carried:

1. Jim Pflasterer to the License Review Committee, replacing Jim Hoelzel, until May 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alderman Wiswell, seconded by Alderman Busse, to adjourn, was carried. (9:28 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk