

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 6, 2012

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor Miller at 7:31 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, City Attorney William Cole, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alderman Wiswell, seconded by Alderman Wood to approve the City Council minutes of January 17, 2012, with a typographical error correction, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Walter Ostrenga, 5211 Schluter Road appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of adjusting Non-Represented Employees' salaries and WRS contributions, transferring the purchase of three squad cars and one ambulance from the Capital to the Operating Budget, and reimbursement of the WRS contribution to represented Public Works employees.

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

- Paul Kachelmeier, 5211 Schluter Road
- Scott Sullivan, 5211 Schluter Road
- Diane Mikelbank, 1011 Nichols Road
- Andrew Hagen, 4400 Monona Drive
- Dan Stephany, 5211 Schluter Road
- Mark Modaff, 851 Femrite Drive
- Joan Andrusz, 5211 Schluter Road
- Patrick Marsh, 5211 Schluter Road
- Jake Anderson, 1011 Nichols Road
- Marc Houtakker, 5211 Schluter Road

Patrick Marsh, 5211 Schluter Road registered in favor of reimbursing the WRS contribution for represented Public Works employees.

Jim Lampe, 1402 Neponset Trail appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of the special assessment schedule for Lagoon dredging.

The following individuals registered in favor of the Monona Moola program:

- Kim Schuttemeier, 2001 Meadow Drive, Stoughton
- Norb Rebholz, 719 Jupiter Drive, Madison

The following individuals appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of the Monona Moola program:

- April Carlisle, 700 Horndon Drive #302, Madison
- Terri Groves, 6215 Winnequah Road
- John Klinzing, 4711 Midmoor Road

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

The following items were moved forward in the agenda to accommodate those present.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Miller reported the Monona Drive Phase I reconstruction project started with ninety businesses and ended with ninety-one. There are funds for Resolution 12-02-1832 Funding the Marketing Campaign (Monona Moola) for Monona Drive Phase II in the CDA budget and their approval will be sought as a courtesy. The amount will remain \$5,000. The Chamber of Commerce would like to know if this has been approved before construction begins.

Public Works Director Stephany distributed a packet from the Public Works Committee regarding Resolution 12-02-1831 Establishing a Special Assessment Schedule for the Belle Isle Dredging Project. There is a minimum of 50 feet and a maximum of 100 feet of lake frontage established, with corner lots taken into consideration. The current Ordinance is based on actual frontage. 70% of costs will be property owners and 30% the City's. Several bids have been received for this project.

Members explained that ten lots with large frontage were evened out for cost fairness as lake use, pier, and boat access is still equal no matter the lot size. Ownership of two adjacent lots was discussed. City Attorney Cole stated the formula used should be without political influence and it and the reasons it's used should be made clear in the Ordinance. The intent should be clear in the event of court review.

Mayor Miller discussed Ordinance 1-12-635 Amending Section 2-4-23 of the Monona Code of Ordinances Regarding the Committee on Family Attraction, Retention, and City Promotion. A Chamber of Commerce member would serve on this Committee to enhance that working relationship. One Alder would chair with an alternate Alder as a back-up in case of absence so the Committee could still meet. There would also be a reduction in the number of citizen members as openings occur.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alderman Busse stated his intent in moving funding for three police vehicles and an ambulance from the Capital to the Operating Budget was to reduce Capital borrowing. Members discussed alternate ways this was proposed and reviewed the Finance Director's fund balance report.

Alderman Wood proposed using half the health insurance savings to reduce bonding towards the Monona Drive Phase II contract, including using water funds. These costs are known. A portion of the remainder would be used for salary increases and Library funding, and hold \$50,000 for other use. This would reduce

borrowing and gain flexibility. Alderman Speight stated this was a wise use of the funds as Monona Drive is an unusually large, unique project and other capital purchases are more typical.

Alderman Busse stated \$33,000 was set aside for up to 3% salary increases at the City Administrator's discretion. He wants a pool of \$35,000 to reward good workers or for seasonal help increases. WRS payments were reimbursed in 2011 and he doesn't want to repeat this. City Administrator Marsh clarified two Operating Budget line items for staff: \$33,500 was for an average of 3% pay increases and \$15,000 was the Mayor's merit award fund.

A motion by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Busse to table 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, until the next agenda item is decided so the fund balance will be known, was carried.

Alderman Speight reported that even though these are tough economic times, there is an issue of equity in salaries with area municipalities. The City has a very good staff that should be compensated accordingly. While it is typical for employees to pay in for their retirement, the sudden shift of WRS contributions results in a zero percent increase even with a pay raise. The windfall that relates to employee benefits should be paid to staff.

Alderman Munson stated Act 10 was adopted to deal with budget shortfalls. Monona has the resources so this isn't needed. Alderman Wood stated the City's salaries have historically been at or below the mid-range. There won't be another chance to correct this if it isn't done now. The whole 5.9% WRS won't be compensated, only 3.9%, which will be in line with other departments in a one-time payment.

Alderman Wiswell stated the Fire Department had to pay 10% for health insurance before other departments did, which created hard feelings until all departments were equal. The City has been frugal so no lay-offs were required or numerous furlough days. Many people are looking for jobs. The swimming pool summer staff did not get increases while other pools paid more. He can't support this well-meaning proposal.

Alderman Wood stated it is good public policy to catch up on salaries, and there is a windfall to do this and the WRS contributions. Alderman Speight stated the swimming pool scenario illustrates what would happen if pay remains low: employees will leave for higher paying positions. The City needs to be able to attract and keep good managers who oversee the City's processes.

Alderman Kugle supports salary adjustments, but doesn't think it's fair for citizens to pay in full for employee's retirement. Alderman Wiswell's motion to amend the Resolution to remove the WRS payment and reduce the salary amount to \$25,000 was not seconded. Alderman Speight stated he is willing to remove the WRS but then raise the salary amount to \$60,000 to cover the WRS deduction. His motion to that affect was not seconded.

A motion by Alderman Busse, seconded by Alderman Kugle to amend Resolution 12-01-1825 Amending the Operating Budget to Adjust Non-Represented Employees' Salaries and Contribution to the Wisconsin Retirement System removing references to WRS and leave the salary increase at \$40,000 to be distributed at the City Administrator's discretion. On a roll call vote, the vote was tied. The motion fails. Aldermen Wood, Speight, and Munson voted against the motion.

Alderman Speight stated there was already a 3% increase, which is a common increase that other municipality's staff also received. The goal is to bring salaries up to the median. Some will still be below the median. The 5.9% WRS deduction is a new cost to employees, so a 6% raise would result in a .1% net increase and salaries would remain well below average.

Alderman Wood stated the City Administrator doesn't have to spend the entire \$40,000. Employees have accepted low pay because the WRS contribution was not part of their salary. Alderman Munson stated the City is not just competing with other municipalities, but also with the private sector.

Alderman Busse stated it's bad for future negotiations to add back the WRS contribution and doesn't think the Council should set salaries.

A motion by Alderman Speight, seconded by Alderman Munson to approve Resolution 12-01-1825 Amending the Operating Budget to Adjust Non-Represented Employees' Salaries and Contribution to the Wisconsin Retirement System. On a roll call vote, the vote was tied. The motion fails. Aldermen Kugle, Busse, and Wiswell voted against the motion.

A motion to remove from the table 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, was carried.

Alderman Wood presented his amendment as follows:

- The second "Whereas" section and the "Now, Therefore" section are deleted.
- Additions:
 - "Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Common Council of the City of Monona, Dane County, Wisconsin, hereby authorizes the transfer of \$124,060 from the General Fund, Community Recreation Services Fund, Ambulance Fund, Storm Sewer Utility, and Sanitary Sewer Utility to reduce the amount of bonding for Monona Drive Phase II construction."
 - "Now, Therefore, Be It Further Resolved that the Common Council of the City of Monona, Dane County, Wisconsin, hereby authorized the transfer of \$19,740 from the Water Utility to reduce the amount of water bonds issued for water utility work on Monona Drive Phase II construction."
- The title would require amendment to strike the references to vehicles and refer to the amendments presented.

Alderman Munson stated the total of this amendment is \$143,800 which leaves \$125,000 of the health insurance savings unallocated for future discussion.

A motion by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Munson to approve 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 as amended. On a roll call vote, the motion carries. Alderman Wiswell voted against the motion.

Alderman Wood reported there are funds budgeted for Public Works employee's WRS contribution as it was assumed this wouldn't be required to be paid by employees for 2012 at least because contracts were in place. This is not funded for 2013, so that Council would not be bound by tonight's decision.

Alderman Speight supports this because contracts were signed before Act 10 became law. He questions why union dues are not being deducted and states the City should implement Act 10 equally. Alderman Busse stated employees can have union dues deducted from their checking accounts. The Council's focus is how resident's tax money is spent. City Administrator Marsh stated he's been advised by the City Attorney not to discuss the Public Works union re-certification.

A motion by Alderman Wood, seconded by Alderman Wiswell to approve Resolution 12-01-1826 Authorizing Reimbursement of Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Contribution to Represented Public Works Employees for the Duration of Their Current Contract. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Miller began discussion of Resolution 12-02-1830 Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Madison Metropolitan Sewer District for Adaptive Management for the Yahara Watershed. MMSD wants to create a short-term management strategy to deal with phosphorus run-off into lakes from farms and cities. The City of Madison is already participating. Monona's obligation is relatively low. All municipalities along the watershed are being asked to participate. Alderman Kugle questioned why a 3-year pilot program makes reference to 2030 in General Condition #7; if other municipalities could be involved; and do all parties have to agree? Mayor Miller will obtain clarification for the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

REPORTS

Fire Chief Sullivan reported with sadness the passing of William Engel, an active member of the Police & Fire Commission for 26 years along with other community service. Members expressed condolences to Mr. Engel's family.

Alderman Wiswell reported on the passing of Jim Stanley, the former owner of Roselawn Cemetery.

City Clerk Andrusz reported the ballot for the February 21 Spring Primary contains one office, Circuit Court Judge, Branch 11.

Mayor Miller stated he does not want to leave City staff with the message that they are not appreciated.

Alderman Kugle read a statement regretfully withdrawing his candidacy due to the need for more time for family and home improvement projects along with a commitment to help his son's new business. Alderman Kugle's name will remain on the ballot and he will make periodic announcements of his non-candidacy.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alderman Busse, seconded by Alderman Kugle to approve the following Appointments, was carried:

1. M.A. Lichtfeld to the Distinguished Service Award Committee (effective immediately until May, 2014).
2. Scott Kelly to the Community Development Authority (effective immediately until June, 2013).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alderman Busse, seconded by Alderman Wood, to adjourn, was carried. (9:30 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk