

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
December 2, 2013

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor Miller at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Mayor Robert Miller, Alderpersons Kathy Thomas, Jim Busse, Doug Wood, Mary O'Connor, and Brian Holmquist

Excused: Alderperson Chad Speight

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, City Attorney William Cole, Library Director Erick Plumb, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Project Coordinator Janine Glaeser, Financial Consultant Jeff Belongia, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve the Minutes from November 18, 2013, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Mayor Miller read a proclamation Recognizing the Monona Grove High School Football Team on their 2013 WIAA Division 3 State Championship and presented Coach Mike Stassi the Key to the City. Coach Stassi made remarks and had the team members and captains introduce themselves.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Miller declared the Public Hearing To Receive Public Input Regarding the Proposed 2014 Operating Budget open.

The following individuals registered in favor of the Library-related budget amendments:

Sally Buffat, 4912 Wallace Avenue	Christine Whelley, 5000 Midmoor Road
Amy Babula, 1209 East Main Street, Stoughton	Todd Stebbins, 5005 McKenna Road
Ronda Pettey-Kucher, 25 Oak Park Way, Fitchburg	Chris Zenger, 907 Progressive Lane
Andy Nath, 4424 Oak Court	Christine Marsh, 5309 Flamingo Road
Julianne Judkles, 3830 Dennett Drive, Madison	Toni Streckert, 2112 Jefferson Street,
Madison	
Karen Wendt, 1218 South Thompson Drive, Madison	

The following individuals were unable to attend but registered in favor of the Library-related budget amendments via email:

Ben Redding, 6019 Queens Way	Sara Kiiru, 300 Cardinal Crescent
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Mayor Miller declared the Public Hearing closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve the 2013/2014 "Class C" Wine and Class "B" Fermented Malt Beverage License Applications For Shrestha Family LLC Owned by Madan Shrestha, d/b/a Swad Indian Restaurant, 6007 Monona Drive #A, Monona, Wisconsin, 53716, Owner/Agent Madan K. Shrestha, 754 Odana Lane, Madison, Wisconsin, 53711, was carried.

Discussion began regarding Resolution 13-11-1945 Adopting the 2014 Operating Budget and Establishing a Tax Levy with the following amendments presented:

The following amendment had no budget effect.

14-01: A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to amend the Operating Budget by correcting allocation of \$3,590 for Police Overtime and Planner Professional Development, was carried.

Alders O'Connor and Holmquist explained the following amendment will allocate \$5,000 for planning and metrics and \$5,000 for educational projects, materials, and supplies. This was approved by the Sustainability Committee but wasn't given to the City Administrator in time for the budget draft.

14-02: A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder O'Connor to amend the Operating Budget by \$5,000 to increase Sustainability Initiatives, was carried.

Library Director Plumb reported the fund balance couldn't be used so to keep costs down he proposed a 1.5% staff salary increase. Members discussed the desire to have all non-represented staff receive increases from the same pool of funds for 2.5% raises. City Administrator Marsh stated Amendment 14-07 provides a \$0.50 increase for those permanent staff currently paid under \$20 per hour, instead of the 2.5% increase.

14-03: A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Wood to amend the Operating Budget by \$3,160 to increase non-represented Library staff salaries to 2.5%, was carried.

14-04: A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Wood to amend the Operating Budget to increase Library book expenditures by \$3,000 for various age groups, was carried.

Alder O'Connor stated the following amendment increases the proposed 9-month Recreation Department office assistant to a year-round permanent part-time position so better candidates could be found without time spent re-training every year. This would free staff to work on planning and increasing revenue. Mayor Miller stated an audit will be done to gauge success of programs and a 9-month position was agreed upon so this reporting could be accomplished, with no discussion of a full-year position. Alder Thomas stated good candidates could be found for a 9-month position with contingency funds used if there is proof more time is needed. Members agree once a position is added it is hard to reduce.

Recreation Director Anderson displayed a spread sheet showing a department work plan listing which staff is responsible for various activities and events. He will pursue partnerships with area businesses and health agencies for programming, and is considering a childhood obesity program. Afternoon staff is

needed to respond to telephone calls and walk-ins. Time is needed for marketing, working with instructors, and determining why a program works or doesn't work. Alder Holmquist stated office and clerical duties interfere with the director's role of evaluating programs. Success should not be tied to revenues only. Alder Busse stated there was a recent addition of a full-time staff position which was supposed to cover the office, and questions this request for another part-time position. Recreation Director Anderson reported there has been tremendous growth in the past three years in terms of additional programs and increased demands.

14-05: A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Holmquist to amend the Operating Budget by \$3,500 to allow for a permanent part-time Recreation Department office assistant, was carried. Alder Busse voted against the motion.

Alder O'Connor reported area municipal salaries for a position comparable to the Recreation/Aquatic Supervisor are 20% higher and the position has more responsibilities. To maintain quality staff, this position should come closer to the City's goal of paying the median salary.

Mayor Miller and members expressed concern this is not the Council's decision. Department Heads should evaluate staff and make recommendation to the City Administrator. Council members are not privy to all salary decision-making information. Salaries are based on a position not an individual, and an individual should not be treated differently than other staff. Bonuses are available.

City Administrator Marsh stated non-represented salaries were recently adjusted to correct obvious inconsistencies. However, an inexperienced staff member is hired at a lower salary than their predecessors and then move into the mid-level range as manager confidence in their performance grows.

14-06: A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Wood to amend the Operating Budget by \$3,500 to increase the Recreation/Aquatic Supervisor salary, did not pass. Alder O'Connor voted in favor of the motion.

14-07: A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to amend the Operating Budget by \$1,483, amended to \$1,733 to include Dispatchers, to increase wages for non-represented employees making less than \$20 per hour by \$0.50, was carried.

A final budget amendment was distributed. Alder Busse reported all departments budgeted for decreased energy costs based on proposed savings achieved from the solar project. Mayor Miller stated there is still no agreement with MG&E to allow the City to use the panels. More insurability than is required against harm to their grid was requested and the City complied. City Attorney Cole explained that by law an interconnection agreement with MG&E is needed so surplus power can go to onto the grid. MG&E is asking for information that is not energy related. They need to sign the agreement or list how the City is not meeting the Administrative Code so the City can answer any and all questions. If they don't respond the next step is to go to the PSC and compel them to sign the agreement. Mayor Miller stated MG&E supports "green" energy and wants to participate. The agreement should be ready by January 1 but the Council should be ready to use the contingency fund if there is a delay. The project is totally at the risk of the provider so the City will have no costs if it doesn't work out. Project Coordinator Glaeser reported projected savings are 10% or \$30,000 and Finance Director Houtakker stated REC credits are included in the figures.

14-08: A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Thomas to amend the Operating Budget by \$3,500 to decrease the Library's Gas and Electric expenditure for savings from the new solar system, was carried.

Mayor Miller thanks members and staff for their work on the budget. A pie chart will be displayed in the City Hall lobby so residents will see how taxes are allocated: City – 25%, County – 12%, MATC – 7%, and the School District – 56%. Finance Director Houtakker announced the City’s budget is \$5,663,554 with a mil rate of \$6.120629. This will be an increase of \$11 for the average \$240,000 home. Tax bills won’t be received from the County until next week and will be mailed then.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder O’Connor to approve Resolution 13-11-1945 Adopting the 2014 Operating Budget and Establishing a Tax Levy as amended. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder O’Connor to accept the tax levy of \$5,663,554, was carried.

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

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Holmquist to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 13-12-1949 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$650,000 Taxable General Obligation Promissory Notes, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported this is for the Fairway Glen developer’s agreement. Mr. Belongia reported the City’s Standard & Poor’s credit rating has been upgraded to AA+. Alder Thomas requests a report comparing area community ratings. A pricing summary was distributed and reviewed. Total interest cost is 2.682% with somewhat level payments. Debt shows as “weak” in the credit profile but is handled well and no changes are required.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Busse to approve Resolution 13-12-1949 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$650,000 Taxable General Obligation Promissory Notes. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Wood to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 13-12-1950 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$9,910,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, was carried.

Mr. Belongia reported this is an outstanding note for Garden Circle with two years left and callable on October 1, 2013. It has been refinanced twice to lower interest rates. His advice now is refinancing it to long term debt because interest rates will have increased when it is time to pay the balance. Total interest cost is 4.382%. This can be a recipient district. It has to be paid off by 2028, will work within the debt structure, and is callable. Monona was the first community to dispose of their government bonds.

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 13-12-1950 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$9,910,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, amended to \$10,000,000. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Miller reported insurance increase information has been provided by the City Attorney as requested.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve Resolution 13-11-1944 Approving a Contract Renewal with City Attorney William S. Cole, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alder Wood provided information on Resolution 13-12-1951 Adopting Future Compensation Increases for the Mayor and City Council Members of the City of Monona. The City's rates are well below the area average with no increase since 1995. Per Statute an increase can't be considered after December 1 and current office holders wouldn't be able to benefit until they are up for re-election. This change will affect the 2015 and 2016 budgets. Mayor Miller acknowledged the amount of time Alder Wood put into this effort as well as the amount of time elected positions entail.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

REPORTS

City Clerk Andrusz reported there will be new digital vote tabulator machines in place for the 2014 elections.

City Administrator Marsh reported Council and staff volunteers are requested for the Senior Holiday luncheon at the Community Center on Thursday, December 12 beginning at 11:45 a.m.

Mayor Miller reported that after many years of effort the City's low power FM radio station has been approved, tentatively 98.1 FM, and will serve Monona, East Madison, and the Isthmus. Monona will be the only area municipality with its own radio station, and has the capacity for emergency messaging.

Build Monona will meet in the Community Center on Tuesday, December 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. with adult beverages and snacks. There will be an exciting announcement at that time. Also, there will be an announcement of a personnel change at the December 16 City Council meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Alders Thomas and O'Connor abstain from the following vote due to their participation as Election Inspectors.

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Wood to approve the following Appointments, was carried:

1. Chief Election Inspectors effective January 1, 2014–December 31, 2015:

Nathan Harper	Mary Possin	Ilana Strauch
Diane Erickson	Vern Breunig	Lynn Mansfield
Mary O'Connor	Kate Nolan	

2. Election Inspectors effective January 1, 2014–December 31, 2015:

LaVerne Ahrens	Kathleen Baxter	Christopher Coates
David Allen	Kathy Bell	Jean Coates
Kate Allen	Richard Benzine	Alice Copper
Stanford Bang	Laura Bowles	Grace Daggett
Marylin Barker	Polly Brandes	Shirley Dalton
Marilyn Baumgarten	Sharon Britt	Karen Dorman

Tom Dorman
Connie Dreger
Shirley Fassbind
Louise Fritz
Kay Gage
Kathy Gundlach
Barb Helsel
Don Hendrikse
Joyce Hornburger
Geraldine Hovland
Dorothy Hujik
Jeff Hunter
Yvonne Jackson
Paul Johnson
Shannon Kennedy
Carol Kowing

Darleen Laufenberg
Elizabeth Lemon
Mari Anne Lichtfeld
Judy Lynn
Mary Mail
Iline Marking
Virginia Iline Marking
Jan Marshall Fox
Peggy McDonald
Michele Miller
Martha Nawratil
Meredith Oehlkers
Mary Pringle
Marilyn Rindy
Sandra Robertson
Kathryn "Sunny" Schubert

Phyllis Seiler
Rose Marie Siebert
Carole Sorenson
Keith Sorenson
Kathleen "Katy" Sticha
Rosemary Temple
Thomas Terrien
Kathy Thomas
Jean Van Dreel
Richard Van Dreel
Ken Vanden Wymelenberg
Judith Weum
John Whalen
Sara Whalen
Jan Whelan
Christine Williams

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A Closed Session under Wisconsin Statute section 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment promotion compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility (City Attorney Contract Renewal) was not needed.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Busse to Convene in Closed Session under Wisconsin Statute section 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (Discussion of Potential Purchase of Property for Economic Development). On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Upon reconvening in Open Session:

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Busse to adjourn, was carried. (10:28 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk