

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 3, 2014

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

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

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, Project Coordinator Janine Glaeser, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Media Director Andrew Hagen, Herald-Independent Editor Dave Carlson, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL

Mayor Miller announced with sadness the death today of Jim Foley from Strand Associates, the highly respected and well-liked construction manager who oversaw the five years of Monona Drive reconstruction, and asked for a moment of silence in Mr. Foley's honor. City Administrator Marsh will keep members informed of funeral arrangements.

Mayor Miller thanks Alder Wood for his service as Council President in his absence in January.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve the Minutes from January 21, 2014, was carried.

APPEARANCES

There were no Appearances.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Administrator Marsh reported the volume of invoicing to the Stark Collection Agency was very minimal at 10 to 12 per year.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 14-1-1953 Approving an Agreement with The Stark Collection Agency for Municipal Court Collection Services, was carried.

Project Coordinator Glaeser reviewed the Sustainability Plan process to date, with approval sought tonight for Phase I. Input from the Public Safety Commission on Plan impacts is incorporated. Work

with the School Board was done to emphasize educational aspects. Mayor Miller and Alder Wood thank Project Coordinator Glaeser and Cable Coordinator Hagen for their extensive work on this Plan.

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Speight to approve Resolution 14-1-1954 Review of Draft Sustainability Plan and Approval to Proceed, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alder Busse recused himself and abstained from the following due to professional conflicts.

Recreation Director Anderson provided information on Resolution 14-1-1955 Approval of Proposal and Agreement from Vierbicher Associates for Engineering Consulting Services for Lottes Park Improvements, which is for engineering for all but the shelter. Construction bids will follow. This has been on hold due to the Treysta project delay. City Administrator Marsh reported park improvements will be done now and this will be amended to include the City's portion of the Treysta project which is now planned to begin in mid-April.

Recreation Director Anderson reported the goal is to fund most of this project with TIF and grant funds. The plan was reviewed including an archaeology study, an invasive species cleaning station, and an automated fee station which will increase revenues. This was tabled by the Finance & Personnel Committee so language and schedule revisions can be done before the second reading. Alder Wood stated the shelter portion of the project should be clarified. Alder Thomas questioned the maintenance of the fish cleaning station. Recreation Director Anderson reported cleaning the stainless steel grinder station using its attached hoses will be part of the Public Works crew's schedule. A video of its use will be provided. Improper fish disposal was discussed with a possible Ordinance suggested. Alder Speight stated adequate staffing levels will need to be maintained as new park facilities are created.

A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Busse to suspend the rules and take action on of Resolution 14-2-1956 Purchase Approval of Two Police Vehicles, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported no vehicles were purchased in 2013 and now two are required. The 2009 Crown Victoria will go to Public Works for the new Code Enforcement staff member's use. The malfunctioning 2010 Dodge Charger will be traded-in for \$5,500. A better price and trade-in than the State bid was found. Savings will go to the General Fund. Two marked 2014 Ford Utility Police Interceptor all-wheel-drive vehicles will be purchased, blue with white doors added later.

The remainder of funding will be used to outfit both vehicles, which will be received in 60 to 90 days, in time for the Memorial Day parade. Fuel economy will be 20% greater than current. Alder Holmquist reviewed the Public Safety Commission's discussion on sustainability and fuel economy, followed by member's questions regarding engine idling and hybrid use. Police Chief Ostrenga stated while savings and sustainability are always considered, there isn't an acceptable vehicle available at this time.

A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve of Resolution 14-2-1956 Purchase Approval of Two Police Vehicles. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

REPORTS

The Report from Andrew Hagen, Media Director, reviewed 2013 activities including 285 taped programs. This high volume compared to the 100 programs typical for a municipality of similar size is in large part due to the partnership with the high school. Other work included a 75th Anniversary video, coordinating an alternate site for the Memorial Day Parade taping, wiring the new School District office, and work on obtaining the low power FM radio station.

Work in 2014 includes hiring a new Senior Cable Caster, Justin Janus, who will share his time with McFarland, a video server, Board Room recording equipment, and an election forum. The remainder of the report reviewed on-going work on obtaining licensing for the low power FM radio station, a process which began in 2008 with completion sought by next school year.

Members discussed programming possibilities, website information, and the extent of student involvement of which Media Director Hagen is very proud. Alder Thomas stated parents have reported their students have followed a media career path thanks to Media Director Hagen's guidance.

Mayor Miller introduced new Herald-Independent Editor Dave Carlson. Mr. Carlson provided information on his background and career, and his plan to increase usage of social media at the Herald to provide up-to-date reporting between publications, including reports from the Vetter family from the Sochi Olympics.

Alder Holmquist reported the Family Attraction Committee will discuss its mission fulfillment.

Alder Busse reported the Plan Commission will have potential Monona Drive developments to report.

Alder Wood reported the License Review Committee will discuss whether to draft an Ordinance that is now required to prohibit pub pedal quadricycles and will draft an Ordinance addressing outdoor alcohol consumption areas, which will also require Plan Commission input before Council approval. The Library's 50th Anniversary celebration will include a Downton Abbey high tea, a Very Hungry Caterpillar tea, a pig roast and square dance, and a '60's Night at the Library.

City Administrator Marsh invited Alders to provide articles for the Summer/Fall newsletter by February 14.

Mayor Miller reported City Administrator Marsh's list of 2014 goals will be finalized and presented at the next meeting. One of the goals was Department Head reports at the first Council meeting each month, as Media Director Hagen provided tonight. The public is urged to access the City's new website which has numerous capabilities, and tips on usage will be provided each month. Two emergency alerts regarding water main breaks were already successfully posted. The Public Works crew is commended for their work on those water main breaks from 6:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in subzero temperatures.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Busse to adjourn, was carried. (8:52 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk