

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
August 4, 2014

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor Miller at 7:27 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Media Coordinator Will Nimmow, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve the Minutes from July 7, 2014, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Peter McKeever, 6302 Southern Circle appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of Resolution 14-07-1978 Supporting Practices that Reduce Monona's Dependence on Fossil Fuels.

Marena Kehl, 6302 Southern Circle registered in favor of Resolution 14-07-1978 Supporting Practices that Reduce Monona's Dependence on Fossil Fuels.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Administrator Marsh reported Public Works Supervisor Stephany contacted surrounding businesses and all agreed to the parking restrictions outlined in the following Ordinance.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Speight to approve Ordinance No. 7-14-662 Amending the Official Traffic Map of the City of Monona for Establishment of "No Parking Between Arrows" on Mangrove Lane, was carried.

Police Chief Ostrenga reported the following Ordinance amendment updates the current language and improves the order of the Ordinance. Three attorneys on the Commission and the City Attorney reviewed and approved the changes.

A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Speight to approve Ordinance 7-14-661 Amending Title 5, Chapter 1 of the Monona Code of Ordinances Regarding the Police and Fire Commission, was carried.

Mayor Miller reported several Dane County Supervisors have voiced support for the following Ordinance reducing the City's dependence upon fossil fuels, and read a supportive statement from Senator Mark Miller. Alder Wood stated that while the City doesn't invest in fossil fuel companies, he questioned whether a policy should be drafted as this might impact future TIF projects which may include those companies. Alder Thomas stated the Sustainability Committee did extensive work on this and questioned whether the City could afford to turn down a large investor and which investors would be included in such a policy, which could be applied on a case by case basis.

Alder Holmquist reviewed the Committee's process which included urging other entities and communities to change their practices. Future investments were discussed as well as where the line is in terms of accepting or rejecting an opportunity. The consensus was possible future decisions can't be documented. Alder O'Connor reported discussion included the State Retirement System and that employees may be investing in fossil fuel companies but questions arose on how that could be addressed.

Alder Speight expressed support for this Resolution and Mr. McKeever's proposed amendment that urges others to consider their investments. The City should continue to consider fossil fuel consumption when deciding on projects and future budgets. He is disturbed by Madison Gas & Electric's current actions which appear to target sustainable energy efforts.

Alder Speight made a motion, seconded by Alder O'Connor to adopt Mr. McKeever's entire amendment into Resolution 14-07-1978 Supporting Practices that Reduce Monona's Dependence on Fossil Fuels. Alder Busse stated this language is already covered by "Now Therefore" point number two and the amendment is not consistent with the Resolution's language which focuses on what to do as opposed to what not to do. Alder Thomas repeated that the Committee already did extensive, diligent work on this and can't be here for this last minute amendment. Alders O'Connor, Wood, and Busse agreed the Committee did want a stronger statement made and would approve of this change. A friendly amendment to remove some of the language from Mr. McKeever's amendment was agreed upon by the motion's maker and second.

Alder Thomas questioned if all responsible institutions don't follow these practices, who will make the remaining institutions behave better? Alder Speight stated the City pays MG&E a large sum each month, they are a monopoly, but the City's role is to push them to do the right thing. Alder Wood stated MG&E's specific action is to raise basic service charges to cover the revenue lost from solar projects. Mayor Miller reported that while the City's solar project has been grandfathered in, the City is still part of the group against MG&E's actions. He provided information on a health care company's successful sustainability efforts, which were required to make economic sense, proving that business and sustainability can work together.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder O'Connor to amend Resolution 14-07-1978 Supporting Practices that Reduce Monona's Dependence on Fossil Fuels to include a fifth "Now Therefore" action item as follows: "5. That the City of Monona urges individuals, businesses, institutions, and other communities to reconsider their investments in practices and equipment that are dependent on the use of fossil fuels and to invest in, explore, and adopt alternative energy sources.", was carried. Alders Busse and Thomas voted against the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Speight to approve Resolution 14-07-1978 Supporting Practices that Reduce Monona's Dependence on Fossil Fuels as amended, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Holmquist to suspend the rules and take action on Ordinance 8-14-663 Dissolving the Committee on Family Attraction, Retention, and City Promotion

Alder Holmquist reported that beginning two years ago the Committee reviewed its achievements and objectives and agreed all have been resolved and have been taken over and sustained by other committees. There was unanimous agreement to dissolve. Mayor Miller read the list of strategies the Committee has initiated which will continue, including the Fall Family Festival, the website rebuild, way finding signage, the City logo update, light pole banners, and other marketing efforts. Committee members want to become members of other committees, so the City won't be losing their talents.

A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Ordinance 8-14-663 Dissolving the Committee on Family Attraction, Retention, and City Promotion, was carried.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 14-8-1982 Approval of Amendment to 2014 Lottes Park Engineering Contract, was carried.

Recreation Director Anderson reported the plan was to use the existing boat landing but a large section turned over on itself and now needs to be included in the improvements. This will require extra construction and design. A DNR-required landscape plan is also included. Alder Wood stated Recreation Director Anderson and City Administrator Marsh are meeting this Wednesday regarding the DNR grant.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 14-8-1982 Approval of Amendment to 2014 Lottes Park Engineering Contract. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no Miscellaneous Business.

REPORTS

Mayor Miller introduced and welcomed Media Coordinator Nimmow, who provided information on his professional background. Mayor Miller reported the City is very fortunate that the radio station committee includes award-winning engineers and media professionals. Volunteer programmers may be sought.

Recreation Director Anderson reported Ryan Kvammen, Facilities and Grounds Maintenance received his Aquatic Facility Certification, and does an excellent job responding to contamination issues in the Recreation Director's absence. Thursday is the Police Department's National Night Out, relocated to Winnequah Park, with many family events from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A showing of "The Sound of Music" begins at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Mayor Miller reported the Monona Swim Club placed fifth in the All City Swim Meet, with Ben McDade achieving All City records in his events.

Alder Holmquist reported the new Senior Breakfast program began, partnering with Cranberry Creek, with payments by donation.

Alder Busse reported the Facilities Committee will review the Lottes Park improvements.

Alder Wood reported Library construction is two weeks behind schedule due to material delivery delays.

City Clerk Andrusz explained the August 12 election is the Partisan Primary and voters must choose a party or vote within one party. Votes will not count if crossover voting between parties occurs.

City Administrator Marsh reported the Radio Committee will meet on August 13 at 6:00 p.m. He thanks all those who participated in the Mulligans Fore Monona fundraiser.

Mayor Miller was asked about the restaurant "It's All Greek" and responded it failed a review by the Dane County Health Department and was closed. As of today he was told work on Dean Avenue would begin the week of August 18 and will take a week to complete. The contractor has until October to finish the work. City Administrator Marsh listed the streets included, along with the Fire Department parking lot. Broadway will be finished in November and the contractor was given an extension to work on Saturdays and Sundays.

City Clerk Andrusz provided a report on Clerk's office operations including Accounts Receivables and Payables, ambulance collections, licensing, Board of Review, Distinguished Service Awards, continuing education, professional Clerks association, elections, and other duties of the City Clerk.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Speight to adjourn, was carried. (8:42 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk