

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
November 17, 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 Mary O'Connor, Brian Holmquist (arrived during the Public Hearing), Kathy Thomas, Jim Busse, Doug Wood, and Chad Speight

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Library Director Erick Plumb, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Code Enforcement Officer Jeremy Small, Director of Administrative Services Leah Kimmell, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Speight to approve the Minutes from the October 30, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting, was carried.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve the Minutes from the November 3, 2014 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Mark Reif, 5706 Tecumseh Avenue appeared before the Council and spoke against trailers or other vehicles not being allowed to be parked on residential property.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Miller declared the Public Hearing To Receive Public Input Regarding the Proposed 2015 Operating Budget open. The following individuals appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of increased Library Children's program staffing:

- Ben Redding, 6019 Queens Way
- Sally Buffet, 4912 Wallace Avenue
- Ann Aswegan, 6008 Winnequah Road
- Craig Aswegan, 6008 Winnequah Road
- Todd Stebbins, 5005 McKenna Road

The following individuals registered in favor of increased Library Children's program staffing:

- Brett Blomme, 131 Shato Lane
- Karen Wendt, 1218 South Thompson Drive, Madison
- Theresa Cunningham, 5511 Brandt Place
- Leslie Johnson, 106 Parkway Drive
- Amy Babula, 1209 East Main Street, Stoughton
- Clyde Drake, 606 Nichols Road
- Karlyn Spevacek, 1730 Baird Street, Madison
- Andrew Spevacek, 1730 Baird Street, Madison
- Ann Doran, 5212 Tonyawatha Trail
- Pat Howell, 4324 Winnequah Road
- Cathy Bernards, 5104 Midmoor Road
- Erin Staver, 6201 Winnequah Road
- Paul Johnson, 106 Parkway Drive
- Teresa Adams, 4904 Shore Acres Road
- Sue Carr, 4209 Winnequah Road

The following individuals registered in favor of Amendments 15-03 and 15-04 regarding increased Fire/EMS staff:

- Chris Virnig, 2013 Carver Street, Madison
- Jeremy Small, 5211 Schluter Road
- Dan Eklof, 5408 McKenna Road

Robert Nelson, 302 Starry Avenue appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of Amendments 15-03 and 15-04 and against Amendment 15-05 reducing Fire and EMS overtime.

Robert Miller, 5506 Winnequah Trail appeared before the Council and spoke against Amendment 15-05.

The following individuals registered against Amendment 15-05:

- Kristen Halverson, 4706 Winnequah Road
- Dan Eklof, 5408 McKenna Road

Eric Redding, 507 West Wilson Street, Madison appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of Amendment 15-08 increasing the Community Media budget.

The following individuals appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of using the Hotel Room Tax to fund the Chamber of Commerce:

- Kristie Schilling, 5708 Monona Drive
- Cari Fuss, 6201 Winnequah Road

Mayor Miller declared the Public Hearing closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alder Busse recuses himself from the discussion and vote on the following three Agenda items due to professional conflicts.

City Administrator Marsh stated the following Resolution details services from Vandewalle & Associates, Inc. for a master plan solidifying layout and uses for the Triangle Project.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve Resolution 14-11-1991 Authorizing a Contract with Vandewalle & Associates, Inc. for Planning Services for the Waterfront Redevelopment Master Plan in the City of Monona, Wisconsin. On a roll call vote, all those members voting voted in favor of the motion.

City Administrator Marsh stated the following Resolution is the second part of the planning process. The 2015 planning and development phase includes ongoing negotiations with developers and potential partners through December 31, 2015.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve Resolution 14-11-1992 Authorizing a Contract with Vandewalle & Associates, Inc. for Planning Services for Development Management Assistance in the City of Monona, Wisconsin. On a roll call vote, all those members voting voted in favor of the motion.

City Administrator Marsh stated the following Resolution approves a plan defining the boundaries of Redevelopment District #9 and three properties on the south side of Broadway. These are the Monona Garden Family Restaurant, DiMaggio's Tires, and La Petite day care center. Two objections to inclusion have been filed: Four Lakes Yacht Club and DiMaggio's Tires.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder O'Connor to approve Resolution 14-11-1993 Approving the Boundaries of Redevelopment, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reviewed the 2015 Operating Budget. The levy limit is based on new construction figures, 1.4%. \$64,563 in spending could be increased. Carry over is possible but there is some loss and it can't be all used at once. Without amendments the property tax increase to the average home of \$260,000 is \$80, down from the \$101 previously calculated. The effect on the levy limit was reported periodically during discussion of amendments.

Amendment 15-01 reducing MUFN fees by \$4,800. Alder O'Connor met with City Administrator Marsh and the IT service providers and reviewed the technical service contracts. MUFN will only be used between City Hall and the Public Works building at this time.

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Speight to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by reducing Technology Service Contracts by \$4,800, was carried.

Amendment 15-02 to add a permanent part-time Children's Librarian. Alder Wood stated the speakers during the Public Hearing explained the need for this position. This would start March 1 so the cost will be higher in 2016. Alder Thomas stated families today do more activities in the evenings and weekends. 30% of Winnequah School students are low income, so free services are needed. Alder Busse expressed concern for sustaining additional staff positions with aids decreasing and health care costs rising. Alder Holmquist agrees and questions whether current resources could be used. If the children's programming augments what the school does there are different funding sources available. If this is meant to serve "latchkey kids", that is a different need. The Strategic Plan should be completed before this is decided.

Library Director Plumb reported the Strategic Plan will be critical in determining needs; however this position will pay immediate dividends in 2015 to allow needed growth in Children's Programming. Alder Holmquist stated the Capital Improvement budgeted equipment that was installed to reduce workload may allow a shift in resources. Library Director Plumb replied there was not enough saved to cover this position and Children's Librarians have expertise in a specialized field which current staff does not have. Alder Thomas stated proposed hotel developments will raise the room tax and TIF 2 funds will be available in 2019. The fund balance shouldn't be routinely used but could fund this position for four years until other funds become available. The Council is responsible to do what the community wants and can afford.

Finance Director Houtakker explained Library funds are different in that they can be used however the Library wants. Library Director Plumb stated one goal is to attract non-residents to increase circulation, as that is what the County's aid calculation is based upon. 53% of circulation is from area non-residents. This position would allow staff to work on obtaining grants and program development. The hours would increase as the current staff member's decrease and will replace her upon retirement. Other program areas may need reductions but not children's.

Alder Wood stated the large fund balance should be reduced. Alder Busse stated the City shouldn't use savings to pay expenses. Finance Director Houtakker reported transportation aids will be reduced by \$15,000 next year and the full 10% allowed after that. Salaries and health care costs will go up. The fund balance could be used to pay for this position for one or two years but that would start the following year at a deficit.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by increasing Library salaries, FICA, WRS, and Health Insurance by a total of \$20,594 to add a permanent part-time professional Librarian for children/youth services. On a roll call vote, the motion carries. Alders Busse and Holmquist voted against the motion.

Amendment 15-03 to add \$35,000 to fund additional Fire/EMS coverage. Alder Thomas reported the Public Safety Commission wants one full-time Fire Fighter added and this would cover the City's current needs until the planned task force study is done. Volunteers are not as available during the day. Required call staffing levels were described. Fire Chief Sullivan reported the Blooming Grove Board voted to keep their fire station until 2027. The Firefighters

Union won't allow LTEs. The Affordable Care Act limits workers to 30 hours per week, so multiple people would be needed. Members discussed whether and how to act on this before the task force study is done, and agree the levy should be used. Mayor Miller stated that while the task force is planned it will be some time before it is formed. He wants Madison involved.

Alder Speight questioned whether the City plans on counting on Madison to provide coverage for the new apartment complexes being built. The Fire Department has shown demonstrated needs and issues with volunteer levels. Fire Chief Sullivan stated he wants three full-time fire fighters but one is a start toward fixing problems. Revenue increases have reduced taxes.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Holmquist to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by an increase of \$35,000 in Fire/EMS Coverage to carry out the direction of the task force. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Amendment 15-04 to add \$18,000 for Fire/EMS LTEs. Alder Thomas reported this only covers six months of the year while the task force does its work. Alder Wood confirmed with Fire Chief Sullivan that he was comfortable with this.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Holmquist to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by an increase of \$18,000 for Fire/EMS LTEs, decreasing Paid on Call by \$7,000, Fire and EMS Overtime by \$2,600 each, Parks Part-Time Wages by \$1,000, and using the \$4,800 from Amendment 15-01. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Alder Busse withdrew Amendment 15-05.

Amendment 15-06 to reduce the Parks budget by \$5,700 in various accounts. Alder Busse reported the Recreation Director was agreeable to these reductions which are largely for Lottes Park which won't be usable the whole year and is an effort to allow funding for other projects. Members expressed concern that overtime can be controlled but the reduced accounts could go over budget. Recreation Director Anderson stated the figures in the budget were realistic based upon use and he's confident they are correct. Public Works staff now working in Parks and LTEs has reduced overtime and one staff member chooses comp time. A friendly amendment was accepted that changed this Amendment to a reduction of \$2,000 in Parks Overtime only.

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Speight to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by \$2,000 by reducing Parks Overtime. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Amendment 15-07 to decrease Pool Concession Expense by \$2,000. Recreation Director Anderson stated he would rather decrease daily pool admission entry fees instead of having to increase concession prices. Alder Speight reported a work group is looking at fees and usage in an effort to increase revenues and usage, so other line items may be changed. A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Speight was withdrawn along with the Amendment.

Amendment 15-08 to increase Part-Time Wages in the Community Media budget by \$6,390. Alder O'Connor reviewed the work responsibility list, which was distributed, and felt there were too many tasks for the current 19 to 24 hours per week. This is not a permanent position and will be reviewed next year, but is needed now. Increased cable fees and changes at the School District will fund this. Finance Director Houtakker reviewed the Cable Fund Balance and stated that because this position is not Permanent Part-Time there is no health insurance.

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Thomas to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by an increase of \$6,390 from the Cable Fund Balance to bring the Assistant Media Coordinator to 32 hours per week. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Amendment 15-09 to increase Sustainability Initiatives by \$5,000. Alder O'Connor reported the Sustainability Committee initially requested \$10,000 and it was reduced to \$5,000. The Sustainability Plan is almost complete. These funds would finalize the Plan and hire an intern to assist the Project Manager with multiple projects, finishing some. This cost will be reduced the following year.

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Holmquist to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by an increase of \$5,000 for Sustainability Initiatives funded by the Fund Balance. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Amendment 15-10 to reduce Transit Advertising by \$8,000. Alder Holmquist reported this is a placeholder while information from a marketing agency is gathered. History of this fund was reviewed and that duplicate efforts were made. Finance Director Houtakker reported the Transit Commission was challenged last year with increasing ridership so needed these funds. Transit is funded 60% by the State and 40% through property taxes. Alder Speight reported ridership has increased 10% both of the last two years and this is Year Two of the expanded Express services. It is unknown which parts of the Marketing Plan will be implemented and could include improved signs and bus labeling. Mass transit is consistent with the City's sustainability goals. These funds may not be needed in the future but are now. A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Busse was withdrawn along with the Amendment.

Amendment 15-11 to decrease Yard Waste Disposal cost by \$10,000. Alder Holmquist gathered information including the cost of leaf removal and that the County increased its fees and is not providing this service anymore. Sustainable practice would be to use leaf compost, which people pay for, and the City should educate residents. Alder Wood replied that would work for some properties but others have too many to compost. Public Works Director Stephany stated the cost for yard waste removal is \$16,500, and leaf removal cost is \$3,000. A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Busse was withdrawn along with the Amendment.

Amendment 15-12 to increase payments on Debt Service by \$100,000. Alder Wood repeated that some of the large Fund Balance should be used to stay within the City's policy of 15% to 20%. It has grown from \$977,000 in 2011 to \$1.4 million in 2014. Future needs account for some, but not all, of this. Finance Director Houtakker stated offsetting Capital borrowing was one option, and this reduction may affect interest cost savings in future years. He will work with

the City's financial consultant. This amendment leaves the Fund Balance at 21.4%. Moody's does look at this when calculating a credit rating and likes to see Fund Balance use on non-operating costs.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Busse to amend the 2015 Operating Budget by an increase of \$100,000 for Debt Service payments from the Fund Balance. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 14-11-1990 Adopting the 2015 Operating Budget and Establishing a Tax Levy as amended. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Finance Director Houtakker stated property tax bills will be mailed out the second week of December after the County has them ready and reported the following 2015 Operating Budget results:

- \$5,852.755 total property tax
- \$189,332 total property tax increase from 2014
- \$112,969 of that is non-debt service increase
- 6.00% mil rate is a decrease from last year's 6.12%
- \$97.53 property tax increase on the average home valued at \$260,000

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 14-11-1995 Award of Contract for Community Center Entrance Ramp and Railing Replacement Project, was carried.

Alder Wood reported this should be amended to \$36,205 to include the main entrance stairway and railing. Recreation Director Anderson reported this is an approved 2014 Capital Budget project. The ramp is no longer ADA compliant and the damaged railing has been deemed a safety issue by the Fire Department. The work would be done this year.

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 14-11-1995 Award of Contract for Community Center Entrance Ramp and Railing Replacement Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

REPORTS

Discussion of Property Maintenance Inspections was moved forward in the Agenda to accommodate those present. Alder Holmquist reported he has had many contacts from residents that side yard vehicle parking restrictions were unclear and questions the Public Safety Commission's requirement of a paved surface. He doesn't want an impervious surface required for temporary, seasonal storage, but it appears it is no longer sufficient to put blocks under the vehicle tongue and wheels. Residents who have stored items for years are now getting non-compliance letters.

Code Enforcement Officer Small stated he is following the City's Ordinance, and the issue may be the definition of "paved" which could be of many materials. City Administrator Marsh stated there are many pervious surface options that are acceptable. Included in the meeting packets were several examples of improper storage, and the Council approved this version of the Ordinance.

Mayor Miller stated this Ordinance was a long process to complete, but the Public Safety Commission can revisit it to look at options to address temporary storage. He doesn't want grass to grow up around a stored vehicle but doesn't want concrete slabs required. Members agree the Ordinance needs amendment. Mayor Miller stated he supports making changes, but whatever is decided will be enforced by Code Enforcement Officer Small and commends him for his 97% non-problematic resolutions. He wants to rescind Ordinances that aren't enforced. Mr. Reif quoted the letter he received that stated his vehicle had to be stored in the back yard. He is concerned the Fire Department won't be able to get between houses if items are stored on side yards. Mayor Miller stated enforcement is on hold while the storage issue is worked on.

Director of Administrative Services Kimmell reported the City Newsletter is going to the printer this week and will be sent out the first week of December.

Alder O'Connor reported there will be a radio engineering meeting Monday at 6:00 p.m.

Alder Wood reported the Library Board will be presented a solar panel kiosk demonstration.

City Clerk Andrusz reported Election Inspectors and Chiefs did an excellent job with the large voter turnout – 81.4%! – at the November 4 General Election, which included 567 registrations!

City Administrator Marsh reported asbestos has been removed from the Ruby's building and gas was removed today. It will be taken down as soon as possible after the Fire Department uses it for training. The Public Works Committee is looking at revising the time period brush can be left out and may approve 15 days prior to pick up.

Mayor Miller invited those present to the Chamber of Commerce "Business at 5:00" event at Rutabaga Paddle Sports on Tuesday.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Speight to approve Steve Brezinski to the Police and Fire Commission (effective immediately – May 2017), was carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Speight, seconded by Alder Holmquist to adjourn, was carried.
(10:45 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk