

MONONA CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES  
2015 CAPITAL BUDGET  
October 6, 2014

The meeting of the Monona City Council Committee of the Whole was called to order by Mayor Miller at 6:00 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Patrick Marsh, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Library Director Erick Plumb, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Recreation Director Jacob Anderson, Media Coordinator Will Nimmow, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Project Manager Shannon Haydin, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

Mayor Miller and City Administrator Marsh introduced the process for tonight's meeting. All Department Heads will give a ten-minute overview of their Capital Budget projects for 2015. Council members may ask questions and tonight's meeting can be extended or held to the first Council reading.

Finance Director Houtakker provided a Power Point presentation regarding the 2015 Capital Budget. With a \$1.5 million TIF payment \$6.9 million is available. After the Capital borrowing, \$2.6 million is left. Current debt of \$5.2 million was reviewed along with future debt. Water and sewer rates will increase due to the loss of the largest customer. The stormwater rate is under consideration. Mayor Miller didn't make any changes to the budget except the addition of a dog park. It was noted that new borrowing is \$4.3 million and \$4.2 million will be paid off.

City Administrator Marsh reviewed proposed City Hall purchases, reporting that iPads or a similar product is in the budget in another attempt to go paperless. There is a \$75,000 placeholder for a new telephone system. The current system is obsolete and can't be serviced. This change doesn't include Dispatch. The goal is to tie into the internet and the City's website. An accounting/finance system will reduce the significant time spent on payroll twice each month and will allow online utility payments. Cosmetic building upgrades will keep City Hall in its current condition though most funds will be used for the radio station. The plan is to paint the hose tower prior to antenna installation.

Senior Center upgrades will address water damage, and an LCD projector, tables, and chairs are requested. Alder Holmquist stated restroom accessibility will be addressed this year.

Library furniture will be ordered. The parking lot grade will be studied for possible mitigation of the steep slope with tiers. Library Director Plumb reported ceiling fans will be installed for increased air circulation to lower heating and cooling costs.

Fire Chief Sullivan reported personal protective equipment is an ongoing purchase for new staff. Other equipment purchases and use of each was reviewed. The vehicle exhaust system was discussed, which is needed to clear out smoke smell and soot. The current system is 5 to 7 years old and doesn't do enough. The CO monitor often goes off.

EMS equipment replacements to upgrade to current versions available were discussed. As stretchers get older they aren't as strong, the mechanisms wear out. The current ones are 6 years old, the recommended age for replacement. They do get evaluated every year and pads get replaced. An automated load system was considered but decided against due to cost and the young crew is not as susceptible to back injury.

Mayor Miller referred to a distributed vehicle report showing age and mileage of City vehicles. Equipment replacement guidelines were reviewed. Public Works Director Stephany stated Public Works crew member Ron Hoffman can evaluate all City equipment in this manner if desired.

Police Chief Ostrenga discussed four squad car replacements and the extensive maintenance work needed on the current vehicles to keep them serviceable. Alder Wood's email history of vehicles purchases was reviewed. Current CNG vehicles are not set up for squad use. Propane is being looked into. Equipment and IT replacements were discussed. This year's station remodeling was reduced and the request is to do the cabinetry, electrical, plumbing, and kitchen area for the 24-hour use it gets. Mayor Miller urges members to tour the remodeled station area. The current traffic counter is outdated and can't be serviced.

Dispatch needs a new copy machine; the current one from City Hall is no longer serviced. A lease option was suggested. Radio and security monitor upgrades and remodeling of cabinets and counters would be done in a first phase. The second phase would be security glass in the entryway between the two doors.

Members discussed the need for security cameras at the Public Works Garage and the Community Center.

Mayor Miller stated there is a liability concern with Recreation Director Anderson driving his own vehicle through park facilities. Recreation Director Anderson reviewed project and equipment purchases. He will look into CNG mowers. Two park grants and a bicycle grant are possible for Schluter Park. Status of current projects was reviewed along with funds for continuing, routine, and maintenance work. Project manager use was discussed.

Wyldhaven Park hazards were discussed. Mayor Miller cautioned that too many improvements will require a concrete ADA pathway through this very narrow park.

Mayor Miller has asked for a dog park, based upon public input, on the just less than one acre site on Femrite Drive next to the Public Works facility. He anticipates conflicting opinions on this. Fencing and amenities were discussed, and the cost will likely be under the budgeted amount. Parking is available on the street and at Edna Taylor Park. Members discussed that the Park Board did not make a decision on this project.

Recreation Director Anderson reviewed Community Center table and lobby furniture replacement. A used scissor lift will ease the job of cleaning the vaulted ceilings. The current bar area will be converted to storage. Service will be from a portable bar with a limited alcohol selection, and the bar manager position will go out to bid.

Swimming pool diving board, chemical storage, equipment, and furniture replacements, along with concession stand upgrades were discussed. A study of the pool, built in 1993, will be conducted. He wants to get the word out now to begin what may be five years of fund raising if changes are desired.

City Administrator Marsh stated Community Media is not funded through borrowing, but through franchise fees. Media Coordinator Nimmow reported the fees will cover the costs of the radio station. Equipment upgrades to new technology were reviewed, including flat screen televisions to replace the pull-down screens in the Municipal Room to improve picture quality.

Public Works Director Stephany (with Project Manager Haydin available for questions) reviewed projects. 26 light poles on Broadway are failing and will be replaced under warranty. The other 30 will need replacement at the City's cost with no share by the City of Madison or Dane County. There is no

ash tree program in the City. Mayor Miller stated the City of Madison has an aggressive removal/treatment program that includes removal of healthy trees. The City's tree removal/replacement program was discussed. Public Works Director Stephany reported the pump house and reservoir project includes 26 DNR-directed upgrades. Water tower re-painting will be assessed to antenna companies. Schluter Beach dredging will receive grant funds and is assessable to property owners, who requested this work. He will reapply for a grant for storm project construction. There is no ongoing work being done on Pirate Island. Mandated sign replacement was discussed and should be a Capital Budget item. Vehicle replacements based upon a point system, along with Bobcat attachments that will allow the crew to do work so it will pay for itself in one year, were reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Busse, seconded by Alder Speight to close the Committee of the Whole, was carried. (8:04 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz  
City Clerk