

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
May 3, 2021

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council, via Zoom, was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor, Alderpersons Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, Kristie Goforth, and Doug Wood

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, City Attorney William Cole, Financial Consultant Jeff Belongia, MESBA Director Devin Renner, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Dan Perry from Vierbicher Associates, Acting Police Chief Sara Deuman, Harry Hawkins from the Nehemiah Center, Fire Chief Jerry McMullen, Friends of San Damiano President Andrew Kitslaar, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Ericka Watson, Monona resident, appeared before the Council for informational purposes with suggestions for San Damiano plans.

PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Alder Wood reported the License Review Committee approved the amendment to the East Side Club's hours of operation. The Tiki Bar will be open only one hour earlier in the morning, to 11:00 a.m. from noon, which will have minimal impact on neighbors. City Administrator Gadow reported approval could be contingent upon Plan Commission review.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-5-2492 Amending the Hours of Operation for East Side Club of Monona contingent upon Plan Commission approval, was carried.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to take Discussion and Possible Action on Resolution 21-3-2470 Establishing an Ad-Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues off the table, was carried.

City Administrator Gadow reviewed the Substitute Resolution and noted there were other versions included in the packet as well. Alder Grupe stated she wants an opinion on the first "Now, Therefore" section regarding a majority of members being of diverse ethnicities. Alder Moore stated the language

changes were made so it would be more constitutional based on City Attorney Cole's input. She asked Mr. Hawkins to clarify that part of the Nehemiah Center contract was formation of an advisory council that would not be affiliated with the City and would serve as more of a sounding board.

Mr. Hawkins responded the Center wanted to be flexible and not dictate to the City how the committee was done. In the past, two groups were helpful as long as there was an agreement to collaborate. Trust needs to be built. He wanted to gather residents and ask them how they'd interact with the City; he didn't want to be locked in. The goal is to make sure the channel of communication remains open and to make people aware of how to contact the Council. Alder Goforth stated the City could push the limits constitutionally with the membership. Alder Thomas suggested someone could be in both groups to serve as a link between the two. Mayor O'Connor agreed that could work; the ad hoc committee is only a 6-month group. Alder Grupe stated this is an unprecedented relationship between with the City and the Nehemiah Center and all the answers aren't known now, but she is confident it can be made to happen.

Alder Moore provided an amendment to include Alders in the Workgroup's membership. There has to be a tie to the City for this group because the Nehemiah Center isn't. She wants information brought back to the Council. Alder Grupe supports this amendment for the action steps the Alders would bring to the Council. Alder Goforth verified with Mayor O'Connor that Nehemiah would facilitate the Workgroup. She questioned how members are assigned because of concern they will be skewed to White. Mayor O'Connor reviewed the application process and that Council members will talk to people as well. She gave two to three weeks to submit applications.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Grupe to amend Substitute Resolution 21-3-2470 as follows: In the "Now, Therefore" section, in subsection 1.: "...shall not exceed (9) individuals which may include up to two Alderpersons.", was carried.

Alder Goforth stated a Black woman resident who had questions was answered dismissively and that speaks to the trust issue. It is very important to listen to People of Color. The public has concerns. Alder Wood responded that an email was sent to members and it was answered in detail. Alder Grupe agreed that the answers given at the meeting were too abrupt. She supports Alder Goforth's assignment to the Workgroup as a Person of Color. Alder Moore stated she has reached out to the woman who was at the meeting; she hasn't met with her yet but will. She wants Jayson Chung to be a member and suggests the Mayor or Council President should chair the Workgroup.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Substitute Resolution 21-3-2470 Establishing an Ad-Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues as amended, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Thomas to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-5-2487 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$3,260,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2021A, was carried.

Mr. Belongia provided information on comparable sales and reported the interest cost will be 1.51%. He congratulates the City on the affirmation of its incredible AA+ Standard & Poors rating. It is normal for the letter grade rating to be different on the three borrowings under consideration tonight. The General Obligation borrowing is normal Capital Budget project funding and is pledging tax revenues to pay it back. The San Damiano borrowing is only a promise to pay it back, so the rating is AA. He clarified this will be a 5-year anticipation note that will then be re-financed for another 20 years, because land lasts forever. The third borrowing is for the utility, not the City, so the rating is A; it is short term, 5 years, and

a small amount, so will avoid rate increases. Alder Goforth questioned whether insurance is needed. Mr. Belongia explained this doesn't warrant that expense and provided further information.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 21-5-2487 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$3,260,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2021A. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-5-2488 Authorizing the Issuance of \$8,600,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and the Issuance and Sale of \$8,600,000 Note Anticipation Notes, Series 2021B, in Anticipation Thereof, was carried.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Thomas to amend Resolution 21-5-2488 Authorizing the Issuance of \$8,600,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and the Issuance and Sale of \$8,600,000 Note Anticipation Notes, Series 2021B, in Anticipation Thereof, \$8,500,000 to account for the earnest money paid, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported the payment schedule will have level payments over 25 years. Taking into account the \$2 million from the Dane County grant, it will cost property owners \$29.13 per \$100,000 of home value using current assessed values. The average house is \$362,800; this comes out to approximately \$104 per average home. Alder Thomas questioned whether interest rates will remain low. Mr. Belongia reported the interest rate will be 1.67% for the first 5 years and explained rates are subject to market risk. But if rates are too high for the 20-year schedule, a 10-year schedule can be considered with a balloon payment at the end. He is confident the current plan will be fine; the City won't finance itself into a corner. Alder Wood noted that private donations and state funds will be received so the cost will be further reduced.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 21-5-2488 Authorizing the Issuance of \$8,500,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and the Issuance and Sale of \$8,500,000 Note Anticipation Notes, Series 2021B, in Anticipation Thereof. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Belongia experienced an electrical blackout at his location, so items were moved forward in the Agenda.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Resolution 21-5-2490 Award of Contract for 2021 Street Resurfacing Project. On April 22nd the Public Works Committee reviewed three contractor bids for this project with the low bid, Payne & Dolan, chosen. The Committee will review this on May 5th and it will be back at the Council for final approval on May 17th. He reviewed the scope of work and costs. The City has a positive history with this contractor.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Resolution 21-5-2491 Award of Contract for Winnequah Road Traffic Calming Project. On April 22nd the Public Works Committee reviewed three contractor bids for this project with the low bid, Raymond P. Cattell Inc., chosen. The Committee will review this on May 5th and it will be back at the Council for final approval on May 17th. Mr. Perry is here to answer any design questions; Vierbicher approved the design in February and approved the contractor as well. Alder Grupe thanks Public Works Director Stephany for taking public input into consideration.

A motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-5-2489 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$1,550,000 Water System and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021C, was carried.

Mr. Belongia stated this remote meter project is a forward-looking way to save money and keep utility rates down. Very good prices were achieved; interest is 2.24%. He reviewed the sales process.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-5-2489 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$1,550,000 Water System and Sewer System Revenue Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2021C. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Acting Police Chief Deuman provided information on Ordinance 5-21-739 An Ordinance Repealing Chapter 168-3 of the Code of Ordinances Requiring Registration and Licensing of Bicycles, reporting that Alder Goforth brought this to the attention of the Public Safety Committee. It is underutilized. The City of Madison repealed their requirement and suggested one of the two national registry sites be used to record loss or theft. Alder Thomas thanks Alder Goforth for this and reported that once one of the registries has been chosen the Committee will get information to residents and promote this actively. Acting Police Chief Deuman reported there is a cost for a sticker that can be printed if the resident chooses. She thinks only one of the sites does a cross-index. The serial number is under the bicycle near the pedals; it could be used to register or a picture could be taken to have on file.

Alder Goforth reported the national registry sites are Bike Index and 529 Garage. Alder Kuhr expressed concern that the registry platform used may make data sales. She wants more information before one is endorsed because a child's data would be entered. Alder Goforth responded that registration is usually by adults or for high-end bicycles. Acting Police Chief Deuman responded that she will look into that. She responded to Alder Wood that currently the average is 11 bicycles licensed per year at \$3.00 each, so revenue loss would be very low. Alder Thomas questioned whether rental bicycles are licensed; if they are on City property, they should be licensed if the City requires that for others. Acting Police Chief Deuman responded they are not licensed in Monona or Madison. Alder Goforth stated B-Cycles only charge in B-Cycle stations, so theft wouldn't work.

Mayor O'Connor provided information on Resolution 21-5-2493 Approving a Memorandum of Understanding Between the Friends of San Damiano and the City of Monona for Fundraising Activities. This would delineate the roles of the City and the Friends Group for purchases, maintenance, and capital projects. The Mayor would have the tie-breaking vote. Alder Wood thought this MOU was very well done. Alder Thomas asked about how people become members of the Board or Friends Group. Mr. Kitslaar responded those interested could reach out through the website to get involved. The Group is fundraising to keep resident costs down for ongoing costs. Fundraising is focused on major gifts but donations are welcome. They may encourage members to join in the future. There will be a community clean-up event.

Alder Goforth asked several questions. Mr. Kitslaar responded that this MOU is a form of transparency to let the public know about the Friends Group. The Friends Group's bylaws will be in a future Council packet. The Friends Group will review the fund raising professional(s) if they choose to contract with one or more. The Communications Plan will be coordinated with the City. A Steering Committee will be formulated. City Administrator Gadow explained the Friends Group would raise funds for a professional facilitator position. An RFP will be sent out with wide distribution. After staff review of candidates, the Council would select and approve the facilitator. Members confirmed the Board of Director's names are on the Friends website.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Goforth to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-5-2494 In Support of Sufficient State Aid to Cover VSP Fee Rate Reduction, was carried.

City Administrator Gadow reported this is needed now to work within the state budget process. He worked with the Community Media Committee and Director of Community Media Will Nimmow. This relates to video service reimbursement in the state budget. The fee has gone down the last few years and the Wisconsin Community Media organization has asked municipalities to advocate for this fee to increase to help cover costs. Mayor O'Connor noted the state had pledged to do this.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve Resolution 21-5-2494 In Support of Sufficient State Aid to Cover VSP Fee Rate Reduction, was carried.

REPORTS

Alder Thomas announced that WVMO received an incredible 27 awards from the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association. This included 7 First Place awards, one for Social & Digital Station of the Year! They are doing an incredible job at the radio station!

Alder Moore reported that the May 10 Plan Commission meeting will include a pre-hearing on a new tenant at the Shopko site, the national company Floor & Décor. The Sustainability Committee's recycling Earth Week event drew in over 200 cars. Styrofoam was also collected. She thanks the community for their participation. Community members and staff were great volunteers! Alders Grupe and Goforth thank Alder Moore and the Committee for that event.

Alder Grupe reported the B-Cycle stations are up and running. On Saturday the Friends of the Monona Senior Center will sell Lilies of the Valley as a fund raiser for the gardens around the Community Center.

Alder Goforth reminds everyone that May is Historic Preservation Month.

Alder Wood reported Madison Alders are joining the MPO. The License Review Committee will review the annual liquor license renewal applications. On Tuesday, the Parks & Recreation Board will have a B-Cycle tour of the parks.

Fire Chief McMullen reported volunteer applications are available. On May 21st and 22nd WPS is the host for Leadership Training; the Department has 38 members signed up to attend. The City has 33% cardiac arrest resuscitations compared to the rest of Dane County. Call volume is up and the volunteers are great! The Lake Monona 20K and the Wellness Expo were fully staffed. He applied for a grant to provide businesses and schools with "Stop the Bleed" training.

Acting Police Chief Deuman reported calls have increased with the improved weather and Beltline construction. The speed and seatbelt grant efforts are staffed. Alder Grupe reported the "Drug Take Back" effort on April 24th was very successful. Acting Police Chief Deuman reported the average is 3 to 6 cases collected; there were 27 this time!

City Clerk Andrusz reported it is Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Week. She submitted a photo, with input from Deputy Clerk Alene Houser and assistance from Director of Community Media Will Nimmow, for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities magazine cover contest. She didn't win, but all entries were included in the May issue, which focuses on Clerks. On April 2nd she completed 20 years of service to the City of Monona. The Open Book property assessment appointments will be held via telephone today and tomorrow. Food cart and temporary beer and wine permit applications are starting to come in.

City Administrator Gadow reported that in the search for a Police Chief there are now three finalists the public can meet on Thursday in a 1 ½ hour Zoom event. There had been four finalists; one withdrew after getting a position in another community.

Mayor O'Connor reported the Public Safety Committee, GovHR, and the Nehemiah Center are providing the Police Chief hiring public engagement session at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday via Zoom. The Committee page on the City's website has details, links, and candidate videos. The session will be a great opportunity to meet them. She thanks the Sustainability Committee for the ecycle event and the Police Department for the medication drop-off event.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood, to adjourn was carried. (8:40 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk