

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
September 16, 2019

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Council President Kitslaar at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Council President Andrew Kitslaar, Alderpersons Jennifer Kuhr, Kathy Thomas, Molly Grupe, and Doug Wood

Excused: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor and Alderperson Nancy Moore

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Attorney William Cole, Library Director Ryan Claringbole, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the September 3, 2019 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES and PUBLIC HEARING

There were no Appearances or Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve the following, was carried:

1. Approval of Applications for 2019/2020 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Brandon A. Blair, Mr Brews Taphouse
 - b. Tracy L. Drill, Tower Inn
2. Approval of Applications for 2019/2021 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Garrett A. Schaefer, East Side Club/Silver Eagle Bar & Grill
 - b. Cashay T. Harris, Speedway – Monona Drive
3. Approval of Renewal Application for 2019/2020 Operator License:
 - a. Caleb T. Krause, Silver Eagle Bar & Grill
4. Denial of Application for 2019/2021 Operator License:
 - a. Charles M.J. Johnson, Buck & Honey's

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Library Director Claringbole reported the installer will recycle the old carpet based on its condition. The shelf moving company's bid came in \$500 over budget; the Library Board will find the funds for this.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 19-9-2370 Approving a Bid for the Purchase and Installation of Library Carpet. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

City Administrator Gadow reported the required \$2 million insurance coverage for the Riverfront Park building won't increase the City's expenses but the two additional properties there will. City Attorney Cole reported that if "The Current" property transfers ownership, the new owner will accept the obligations as a subject of the transfer. If the new owner won't agree to the assignment of conditions, the current owner has to keep those obligations. This is very standard language; he has never seen a lease agreement without it. Tenants have no right to knowledge of a lease transfer. The new buyer may contact the City or the City would receive notice at the closing.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve Resolution 19-9-2371 Approving a Park Shelter Lease Agreement between the City of Monona and Yahara RFP Phase 1, LLC, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Gadow provided information on Resolution 19-9-2372 Approval to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant. This authorizes staff to move forward with a grant application for removal of trees affected by the emerald ash borer. The amount to be requested is unknown but the maximum amount that could be applied for is \$25,000 with a 50% match. Funds are in the Capital Budget. This is a very competitive program that is typically awarded to fund a more plan-based project. Alder Kuhr reported the City of Whitewater received the grant and their application is on their website.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Ordinance 9-19-720 Requiring a Three-Way-Stop-Controlled Intersection at Frost Woods Road and Bridge Road. This was based upon resident Curtis Jones's request and recommended by the Public Works Committee by a 4 to 3 vote. Issues include that this type of uncommon intersection usually has either 1 or 3 stop signs; there are now 2 signs. There is difficulty seeing traffic at the curve and drivers don't always use blinkers to signal their intent which creates delays. There will be minimal impact on a nearby driveway. Alder Grupe appreciates that the Committee has heard a resident's concerns. Alder Kuhr reported the City's Engineer, who was present at the meeting, stated the intersection should be either free-flowing or have a 3-way stop.

Fire Chief Sullivan provided information on Ordinance 9-19-721 Amending Section 152-1 A. (1) of the Fees, Fines, and Penalties Schedule Regarding Ambulance Transport Fees. This was requested by the Public Safety Committee for 2020 and is in the Operating Budget. Discussion was started on making the increases effective in 2019, which members supported, but because it wasn't on the Agenda, no action was taken. However, he is able to bring this forward as staff so the new rates could be effective November 1. This brings the City's charges in line, at the median, with area municipalities. The billing company supports this change. There is no increase in the "No Transport" fee, which insurance doesn't cover. Charges for Medicare and Medicaid will not increase; those are paid at a flat rate no matter how much is charged. Increasing fees now will net \$13,000 to \$15,000 and will help with this year's Paid on Premise program and revenue shortages.

Alder Thomas reported the Committee would have proposed the changes be effective immediately if this had been on the Agenda. Alder Wood noted there is a larger fee gap between residents and non-residents than other municipalities. Alder Thomas responded that historically this has been done because Monona residents pay for the service through taxes so deserve a break in fees. The Department has always been compassionate in terms of care and patient's ability to pay.

Alder Kuhr provided information on Resolution 19-9-2373 Supporting Dane County Application to Change the Name of Squaw Bay, distributing a corrected version with the 3rd “Whereas” section restored. Dane County, led by Supervisor Tanya Buckingham, is putting forth an application to the state-level entity for naming and if approved it will go on to a federal agency. This effort was presented by Alder Wood in 2005 and was tabled after public input and comment. At that time 8 people spoke against the change, 4 spoke in favor, and 2 spoke for informational purposes. She read a statement regarding the derogatory nature of the word and the history of sexual violence against women. Alder Grupe stated they tried to be thoughtful and diplomatic in this effort. Alder Moore talked to members of the Ho Chunk Nation; they were comfortable with the choice of Wicawak (We-chow-ek) Bay, which means “muskrat”.

Alder Thomas stated there are differing points of view on the origin of the word “squaw”, but the Ho Chunk have suggested different names so she respects that and the Alder’s efforts. Alder Kuhr reported the Bay was named in honor of an eastern man’s Ho Chunk wife, Sarah Wood, but the word’s meaning has changed. She notes that Ho Chunk don’t name places after people. Alder Grupe stated the word is so inextricably tied to a negative connotation it needs change. Alder Wood thanks the Alders and Supervisor Buckingham for their efforts. Alder Kuhr stated that if this is approved, Squaw Circle will also be re-named. The word “Winnequah” will be addressed in the future; this smaller step needs to be taken first.

REPORTS

Alder Grupe reported there is an event scheduled to say goodbye to Community Resource Officer Jim Reiter on Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Alder Wood reported the Cold Springs Avenue overlook is complete and is worth seeing; all the work was done in-house by City staff.

City Attorney Cole reported the lawsuit brought against the City regarding signs in the right-of-way that were taken out by Code Enforcement was ruled in the City’s favor by the small claims Court Commissioner.

City Administrator Gadow reported the Parks & Recreation Board chose “Grand Crossing” as the name for the Riverfront Park. There is now a 30-day public comment period underway which will be followed by City Council approval.

Council President Kitslaar invited all to go and see the Riverfront Park; it is almost complete. The Tourism Commission grant award applications are due October 1 and will be awarded on October 8.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Wood, to adjourn was carried. (7:39 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk