

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 7, 2019

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:03 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Fire Chief Scott Sullivan, Detective Lieutenant Sara Deuman, Operations Lieutenant Curt Weigel, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Library Director Ryan Claringbole, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2019 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES and PUBLIC HEARING

- Larry Reed, 5602 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of the ambulance fee increase and the name change for Squaw Bay.
- Mary Anne Reed, 5602 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of the name change for Squaw Bay.
- Cathy Karr, 4713 Tonyawatha Trail appeared before the Council and spoke against the name change for Squaw Bay.

Mayor O'Connor reported she received the following emails:

- Mary Murrel, 5701 Winnequah Road in favor of the name change for Squaw Bay.
- Sunny Schubert, 6107 Winnequah Road against the name change for Squaw Bay.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the following, was carried:

1. Approval of Applications for 2019/2020 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Elizabeth D. Downey, Mr. Brews Taphouse – Monona
 - b. Cassandra M. Holmes, Mr. Brews Taphouse – Monona
2. Approval of Application for 2019/2021 Operator License:
 - a. Sumandeep S. Handa, Monona Mart
3. Approval of Renewal Application for 2019/2021 Operator License:
 - a. Chris R. Tingley, Snicks Sportsman's Bar

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Resolution 19-9-2372 Approval to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany reported the owner of the Bridge Road property with the circular driveway was not contacted.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Ordinance 9-19-720 Requiring a Three-Way-Stop-Controlled Intersection at Frost Woods Road and Bridge Road, was carried. Alder Thomas voted against the motion.

Fire Chief Sullivan reported the ambulance fee increase brings the City in line with area communities and will assist with budget shortfalls. Medicare and Medicaid patients will not be affected; those programs pay a flat rate no matter what is charged. Low income patients can apply for a fee waiver if they qualify. Alder Thomas stated mutual aid is billed at the City's lower rate.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Ordinance 9-19-721 Amending Section 152-1 A. (1) of the Fees, Fines, and Penalties Schedule Regarding Ambulance Transport Fees, was carried.

Alder Grupe reported there has been extensive collaboration with the Ho-Chunk Nation on the re-naming of Squaw Bay. White voices shouldn't overshadow Native's. She attended the UW's Wisconsin Distinguished Lecture Series and shared remarks by a Ho-Chunk member regarding re-naming. Muskrat, which is what Wiicawak (We-cha-wuk) means, is a delicacy and very important to the Ho-Chunk. Alder Moore reported she spent a lot of time with Ho-Chunk tribal members, including the Heritage Preservation Department's Bill Quakenbush, who says "squaw" has become offensive and Wiicawak is their preferred choice. This change erases the error and honors the Nation. Alder Wood read an anthropologist's opinion that "squaw" is an English word and is now considered offensive. He reviewed the history of "squaw" and "winnequah". Wisconsin settlers took over naming rights. He didn't have an alternate name to suggest during his effort in 2005.

Alder Kitslaar stated the Council won't officially change the name; the County will do that. This action shows support for the change. Words and mascots have been changed recently. There are better ways to honor women in this day and age. There is meaning in the fact that women have led this effort and he thanks them. Alder Moore stated the Ho-Chunk have a connection to the natural world and everyone has a connection to the Universe. The Nation reveres the muskrat for its fur and meat and place in the Universe and chose that name. Alder Thomas stated it is sad white people took the Ho-Chunk's land and language. The word and name was meant to honor a woman and she wishes the new name honored women. Alder Moore responded Ho-Chunk don't name places after individuals. A woman-related word could have been chosen, but they felt that would have been inappropriate. Alder Thomas responded Ho-Chunk men may have said that, but she knows Ho-Chunk women who would disagree. Alder Kuhr stated this is a humble effort to remedy a wrong done by cultural appropriation of a word by white men.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 19-9-2373 Supporting Dane County Application to Change the Name of Squaw Bay, was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Alder Wood reviewed his amendments to Resolution 19-10-2374 Approving the 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Program and 2020 Capital Borrowing:

Amendment 20-01: To increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$4,500 for Police Office Furniture. The current furniture is mismatched and broken. Operations Lieutenant Weigel stated this is his office. Detective Lieutenant Deuman reported her office and Police Chief Walter Ostrenga's also need upgrades.

Amendment 20-02: To increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 for Flooding Restoration. Recreation Director Anderson reported work was not done due to poor weather. There might not be City staff available to do all of the shoreline and turf work, so additional help may be needed from contractors. If the budget remains at only \$10,000 he will have to pick and choose projects. He reviewed issues like standing water, mosquitos, and resident complaints. There has been a 100-year flood two years in a row; predictions can't be made with certainty. Alder Thomas requests an actual plan for work using these funds. Alder Kitslaar stated topsoil and grass seed could be under water next year; work needs to follow a plan. Recreation Director Anderson responded high water has impacted Winnequah Park the most; he'd do that first. Other parks will be easier and less expensive. Public Works Director Stephany reported the west ends of Pochontas Drive and Nishishin Trail, and Birch Haven and Schluter Parks need attention.

Amendment 20-03: To increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 for Community Center – Loading Dock Design. Alder Wood reported this design work was held off until 2021. The Community Center needs to be in use for a long time so it needs to be safer and more usable. Alder Thomas stated this entryway is used a lot and is a liability, an accident waiting to happen. Recreation Director Anderson agreed, reporting that with the snow and ice, trash couldn't be picked up. Finance Director Houtakker reported that if this project is moved back a year, an additional \$5,000 is needed. Alder Wood agreed to reduce the amount to \$10,000 based upon Recreation Director Anderson's recommendation.

Amendment 20-04: To increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 for the Right-of-Way Tree Replacement Program. Alder Wood stated he is concerned the City won't catch up if it falls behind on replacing trees removed due to the emerald ash borer. He wants the goal to be 1 for 1. Public Works Director Stephany reviewed the work needed, including stump grinding by staff or a contractor. \$25,000 will purchase 75 trees with help doing hole digging and planting. The summer crew can use the water truck to drive up to the curb for watering. Re-planting might need to be held off until 2021 to see how much is needed; replacing all might be too much work for one year. If staff catches up on other work, he could ask for funds then. Alder Kuhr stated it should be in the budget, she doesn't want Public Works Director Stephany burdened with coming back to the Council to request funds. Alder Kitslaar agrees. Alder Thomas stated she respects staff and Public Works Director Stephany that he would ask for funds if needed. Alder Moore stated she supports 1 to 1 replacement and the City should commit to that. Community resources may need to be used, such as resident arborists, and contractors instead of staff doing all of the work. Alder Kitslaar stated budgets set priorities; funds should be available to do as much as can be done. Alder Grupe agreed budgets reflect community priorities and resident concerns. Public Works Director Stephany reported stump removal is a major stumbling block to the process. The Department has a stump grinder but each tree takes two staff 3 to 4 hours. He would like to be able to contract for that in bulk, but it is very expensive. 72 trees can be done for \$40,000. Stumps could be removed after trees are planted. Alder Thomas stated symmetry is important for street tree appearance.

Amendment 20-05: To increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$7,300 for a Bus Shelter. Alder Wood reported that in the MPO Board study the Madison Metro Transit stop in Monona doesn't have the recommended facilities and that is the community's responsibility. Public Works Director Stephany reported the Department maintains the southbound stop trash and snow removal. Mayor O'Connor stated the northbound stop gets less use. Public Works Director Stephany reported the Department can pour the concrete for less than this amount and the current trash cans may be good enough. Members support this to encourage mass transit use, request trash cans to reduce litter, and request a recycle bin as well.

Amendment 20-06: To increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$56,800 to apply funds from the Fund Balance to pay for the previous 5 amendments.

Finance Director Houtakker will bring forward an amendment after input from the Public Service Commission for a water meter rate case to measure water in gallons and switch to monthly billing. Alder Moore thanks staff and Mayor O'Connor for their work on the Capital Budget, especially the sustainability efforts throughout; this budget reflects the City's commitment to sustainability. Alder Thomas stated the new Public Safety building is very important to every department and the City needs to save funds to get that constructed. Mayor O'Connor stated she appreciates staff keeping their Capital Budget requests low.

Library Director Claringbole projected a Presentation on Library 2019 Departmental Update. Included were the Library's mission, staff, and services. Partners include businesses, groups, other City departments, and other libraries. Programs were reviewed. He credits staff with the increase in visits both historically and steadily over the last 6 years. Future plans and upcoming projects were reviewed, and community survey results were shared. Visits are recorded by laser at the doors with the total cut in half for a daily count. UW speakers are invited as presenters. Alder Kitslaar suggested a tilted mirror above the cooking demonstrations. Library Director Claringbole responded a projection camera has been considered. Alder Thomas stated the Council could meet in the new Public Safety building, giving the Municipal Room back to the Library. Alder Wood suggested more resources should be highlighted and publicized. Alder Moore suggested a real coffee shop and a low-tech cooking program using a camp stove. Library Director Claringbole projected a South Central Library System data dashboard that showed the Monona Public Library is first in the state in number of visits!

REPORTS

Alder Kuhr thanks Recreation Director Anderson for the fantastic Riverfront park grand opening event on Sunday, especially for the children's activities. Alder Moore agreed and reported she heard many positive comments.

Alder Wood reported at the MPO meeting he learned the Atwood Avenue project is not in the 2020-2025 program. Driving on the shoulder on the Beltline during rush hour will likely be allowed by 2021.

Alder Kitslaar reported the Tourism Commission received 10 applications for the \$48,000 in funds available to distribute. The Commission will talk to each applicant and decide in October.

City Administrator Gadow reported next Monday he and Mayor O'Connor will represent the City in a meeting with a member of the White House office about the Opportunities Program. This will include a bus tour of the WPS campus and South Towne Drive area.

Mayor O'Connor thanks Council President Kitslaar for chairing the last meeting. Dredging on the Yahara River has been postponed until next spring; the County couldn't find a contractor. She thanks staff for their help with the flooding event. Resident Anne Doran recently pass away and will be greatly missed; she was very involved in the Library as a volunteer, especially in children's programming. She thanks Recreation Director Anderson for the successful park grand opening event. She thanks Police Chief Walter Ostrenga for the wonderful "Justice For A Cure" breast cancer awareness event. The Operating Budget Committee of the Whole meetings are on October 16 and 23; budgets will be available by next week.

APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve the following, was carried:

1. Connie Miley to the Public Safety Committee (effective immediately–April 2020).
2. Ann Tieman to the Police and Fire Commission (effective immediately–April 2020).

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Kitslaar, to adjourn was carried. (8:52 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk