

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 21, 2019

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:01 p.m.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Jim Danielson from Accurate Appraisal LLC, Police Chief Walter Ostrenga, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Alder Moore requests that the Minutes reflect that she pointed out that the amount requested in Amendment 20-03 should be reduced to \$10,000 and notes that this was not corrected in tonight's packet.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the October 7, 2019 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES, PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Appearances, Public Hearing, or Consent Agenda.

Mayor O'Connor moved the following item forward in the Agenda to accommodate Mr. Danielson.

NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Gadow provided information on Resolution 19-10-2376 Approving a Proposal from Accurate Appraisal, LLC for Services Related to the Assessment of Properties. Tonight the Finance & Personnel Committee asked questions of Mr. Danielson, including regarding commercial property assessment, and approved this proposal with the full value program and no walk-throughs of one-quarter of the City for the four years of the contract, except for properties with building permits, sales, construction, or demolition. Members had no further questions for Mr. Danielson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Members reviewed amendments to the 2020 Capital Borrowing. Alder Wood stated that roll call votes aren't needed for each amendment, just for the resulting balance.

Police Chief Ostrenga reviewed the history of Police Department furniture replacements. His and the two Lieutenant offices haven't had any changes. We could wait, but the status of the future Public Safety building is unknown. Mayor O'Connor stated she hopes that will be in 3 years. Members discussed reducing the amount or using the full amount for more than one office.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$4,500 for Police Office Furniture, was carried.

Alder Wood reported FEMA funding for flooding repairs was discussed at tonight's Finance & Personnel Committee meeting. Finance Director Houtakker reported he just received notification late last week that \$20,000 to \$25,000 in funding is approved for certain parks only. Public Works Director Stephany reported there is a deadline in June, 2020 to have the work done in targeted parks. This is for more minor work like grass and riprap and won't include installing berms at properties. In 2021 there will be funding of \$48,000 for more detailed work. A plan is in place for the 5 parks included; materials have to be ordered. Alder Kitslaar stated he wants the work done to be lasting, not washed away if heavy rains or flooding occurs again. Recreation Director Anderson stated the work will be done within the FEMA guidelines.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 for Flooding Restoration, was carried.

Alder Wood stated the following Amendment should be reduced to \$10,000. The motion maker and second agree.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Grupe to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$10,000 for Community Center – Loading Dock Design, was carried.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Moore to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 for the Right-of-Way Tree Replacement Program, was carried.

Alder Grupe stated the Public Works Department will do some of the bus shelter work and will report if savings are achieved.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$7,300 for a Bus Shelter, was carried.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$51,800 to apply funds from the Fund Balance to pay for the previous 5 amendments, was carried.

Mayor O'Connor reported the City can't apply for a water rate case unless all water meters are upgraded and installed in one year. This work had been scheduled over two years, but future capital projects cannot be included in the rate analysis.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$451,000 to upgrade and install water meters, was carried.

Alder Kitslaar reported that since the last meeting Recreation Director Anderson has talked to businesses for partnerships in sharing the ongoing costs after installation of a B-Cycle station at the Riverfront park. The City should show its commitment by funding the installation. Recreation Director Anderson reported he is negotiating the costs with Trek, who owns B-Cycle, meeting with them on-site. Trek supports the City in this effort. The installation would be a one-time cost for the City. Businesses would then handle the on-going costs per the terms and conditions that would be in an Agreement. This is a tourism draw and brings people into the City. He and the City won't ask for tourism funds, but the businesses could.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Moore to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 to install a B-Cycle Station at the Riverfront park, was carried.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Grupe to increase the 2020 Capital Budget by \$15,000 to apply funds from the Fund Balance to pay for the previous amendment, was carried.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Resolution 19-10-2374 Approving the 2020-2024 Capital Improvements Program and 2020 Capital Borrowing, as amended. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Thomas to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 19-10-2375 Purchase Approval – Parks and Recreation Truck, was carried.

Recreation Director Anderson reported this 2018 Capital Budget item was delayed by timing and staff changes. It is a repair station, hauls equipment, plows parking lots, and plows paths around the Lagoon. He missed the previous order deadline but the vendor is honoring the state bid price. Anti-idling could be added, but an electric or hybrid option is not yet available.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 19-10-2375 Purchase Approval – Parks and Recreation Truck. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Recreation Director Anderson provided information on Resolution 19-10-2377 Approving “Grand Crossing” as the Name of the City Park at 6320 Inland Way. The name was approved by the Parks & Recreation Board on September 10, followed by a 30-day public input period. “Park” is not part of the name, but included on the sign will be “A City of Monona Park”. Alder Kuhr asks if Native American language could be part of this sign or another park sign. Recreation Director Anderson responded that was suggested by the UniverCity project and included ideas for Native language classes and programs as well. Alder Wood found historical references to the name and reported he will bring those publications and documents to the next meeting.

REPORTS

Recreation Director Anderson thanks all who attended or participated in last weekend’s Fall Festival, especially his Department’s awesome, hardworking staff. The Halloween Spooktacular is on Friday and costumes are encouraged! If children don’t have a costume, staff can help with that. The Grand Crossing ice rink will open at the end of November.

Alder Kuhr reminds everyone there is a public information meeting tomorrow in the Community Center at 6:00 p.m. regarding McKenna Road reconstruction.

Alder Moore thanks Mayor O’Connor and City staff for a Capital Budget that reflects the City’s values. It is a tight, appropriate budget. Alder Wood agrees.

City Administrator Gadow reported the website refresh rollout is on Wednesday. After April 1 he will create partnerships with the Library and Senior Center as well as social media to get the word out about resident participation in the 2020 Census. Alder Thomas suggested reminding residents and businesses that vehicle registrations should be recorded as being located in Monona, as this affects the census. City Administrator Gadow reported the plan for Bridge Road asphalt is to apply a first coat to allow travel and finish the work in the spring. Alder Kuhr requested residents be informed that the work is not done so they can be prepared for more work next year. Alder Kitslaar expressed concern that the concrete curbs could be chipped by snow plows. Alder Wood responded Public Works Director Stephany told him the

asphalt will be tapered up to the concrete. Alder Moore questioned whether the final work should wait, based upon the development site schedule, so large trucks wouldn't mar the work. City Administrator Gadow responded the work may need to be completed, but he will look into this.

Mayor O'Connor reported she and City Administrator Gadow attended the ceremony at the Capitol observing First Responders; honorees included Monona's own Assistant Fire Chief Dan Eklof. The second Operating Budget Committee of the Whole will meet here in the Municipal Room at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Kitslaar, to adjourn was carried. (7:49 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz
City Clerk