

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
November 18, 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 Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, Andrew Kitslaar, Doug Wood, Jennifer Kuhr, and Kathy Thomas

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Operations Lieutenant Curt Wiegel, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor O'Connor notes an error in her Report on page 4, "The Commons" should be corrected to "The Current".

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve the Minutes of the November 4, 2019 City Council meeting as amended, was carried.

APPEARANCES

There were no Appearances.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor O'Connor declared open the Public Hearing To Receive Public Input Regarding the Proposed 2020 Operating Budget. As there was no one present to provide comment, Mayor O'Connor declared the Public Hearing closed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Application for 2019/2020 Temporary Operator License:
  - a. Susan M. Carr, Monona Public Library

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no discussion on the following four 2020 Operating Budget Amendments:

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to increase the 2020 Operating Budget by \$1,902 to increase a Public Works crew employee wage, was carried.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Kuhr to decrease the 2020 Operating Budget by \$2,000 in Traffic Control Maintenance, was carried.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to increase the 2020 Operating Budget by \$1,784 to increase the Media Coordinator salary and increase Media Other Revenue by \$1,920 to include the School District share of recording School Board meetings, was carried.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Moore to amend the 2020 Operating Budget by \$1,145 to increase the Library Youth Services Coordinator salary, funded by reducing \$395 from Library Equipment Maintenance, \$250 from Library Building Maintenance, and \$500 from MadiSUN marketing, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported that with these amendments the budget is right at the levy limit. The overall increase is 9%. An average priced home, at \$340,100, will see an increase of \$183. With Capital Budget amendments, the Fund Balance is at 23%. Alder Wood stated this is over the 20% policy; he reviewed the history of the Fund Balance from a low of 7%. It was built up over several years but now the City is holding too much. Mayor O'Connor reported funds may be needed for a new Fire Chief salary increase, a compensation and class study, and other projects; she wants to keep the Fund Balance at 21%. Finance Director Houtakker reported reducing it by \$150,000 brings the tax increase to 7% resulting in a \$142 increase to an average home. The school tax levy is up \$1.4 million, around 9%. The City is 27% of the total tax bill.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to reduce the 2020 Operating Budget by \$150,000 to apply Fund Balance toward debt service, was carried.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 19-11-2380 Adopting the 2020 Operating Budget and Establishing a Tax Levy as amended. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Finance Director Houtakker reported expense management by Department Heads, along with the Fund Balance policy, keeps the City's bond rating up. He doesn't have the mil rate yet but will send it out to members as soon as he does. Property tax bills will be mailed out the first week of December.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Ordinance 11-19-723 Adopting a Records Retention Schedule, was carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 19-11-2385 Authorizing a Petition to the Office of the Commission of Railroads to Construct an At-Grade Bike Trail Crossing on South Towne Drive, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany distributed a drawing of the area under consideration. He wants to send a petition to connect a City sidewalk to the Capital City Trail bicycle path for an at-grade crossing. The City's portion will be in Blooming Grove's road right-of-way and they have approved this as well as the other entities involved. The project is in the 2019 Capital Budget with construction in 2020. Alder Wood reported the City doesn't have to get approval from the Commissioner of Railroads if work is within existing right-of-way, but this Resolution should be approved and the petition filed to have it in place.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Resolution 19-11-2385 Authorizing a Petition to the Office of the Commission of Railroads to Construct an At-Grade Bike Trail Crossing on South Towne Drive, was carried.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 19-11-2383 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Grant Titled: 2020 Capitol Area OWI Task Force, was carried.

Operations Lieutenant Wiegel reported this is an OWI grant for \$10,000 for overtime wages with a 25% match. The \$2,500 match will be paid with on-duty traffic activity and fringe benefits. The program runs from November 20, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Resolution 19-11-2383 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Grant Titled: 2020 Capitol Area OWI Task Force, was carried.

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Grupe to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 19-11-2384 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Grant Titled: 2020 Dane Suburban Seat Belt Task Force, was carried.

Operations Lieutenant Wiegel reported this is a seatbelt and speed grant for \$16,000 for overtime wages with a 25% match. The \$4,000 match will be paid with on-duty traffic activity and fringe benefits. The program runs from November 20, 2019 through September 30, 2020.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Moore to approve Resolution 19-11-2384 Approval of Participation in a Wisconsin Bureau of Transportation Safety Grant Titled: 2020 Dane Suburban Seat Belt Task Force, was carried.

Finance Director Houtakker reported the funds for these two grants are already in the Operating Budget.

## REPORTS

Alder Kuhr reported tickets for the January 25, 2020 Loud in the Library event are available for \$25 each starting today in the Library, at City Hall due to planned Library closures, and online.

Alder Wood reported that at the November MPO meeting they voted to defer action on the proposed "Dynamic Part-time Shoulder Use" project. This is the use of the inside emergency lane of the Beltline as a traffic lane during peak times. This will be monitored by video cameras from a remote location and there will be signs lighted when it is allowed to be used. There was opposition, particularly from the City of Madison MPO representatives. It will be acted upon at the December meeting and may result in a split vote. It is funded by the state but needs MPO sign-off before it can be implemented because it is part of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Alder Grupe reported the Sustainability Committee met its 2019 goal of 101 storm drains adopted at 52 properties. There are still storm drains available to adopt.

Alder Moore reported residents should look for a flyer from MG&E this week and take advantage of their offer of free, energy-saving LED lightbulbs.

City Clerk Andrusz reported the April 7, 2020 Spring Election ballot will include the Presidential Preference Primary, Court of Appeals Judge District 4, and County Supervisor District 24 contests. In addition, Alders Kitslaar, Grupe, and Kuhr and Judge Finley's terms will expire. Declarations of Noncandidacy are due December 27. Packets are ready for candidates to begin circulating nomination papers on December 1; these are due to the Clerk on January 7, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. City Administrator Gadow had asked that sign code information be added and she worked with City Planner Plowman and

City Attorney Cole to make sure that wording was correct. She urges voters to check their voter registration status on MyVoteWI or by calling the Clerk's office. Name changes and new addresses, even within Monona, require a new registration. Voters should register early to save time at the polling place. She provided a One Community Many Voices interview with Library Director Ryan Claringbole and the process was painless; she urges anyone interested to contribute their voice to this interesting project. She will be on vacation all of next week so wishes all a Happy Thanksgiving!

City Administrator Gadow reported the next meeting, December 2, will be in the Community Center Main Hall due to the Library's carpet installation project.

Mayor O'Connor reported the leaf collection that was stalled due to snow has resumed. Bridge Road is striped and has one layer of asphalt. It will open this week once some bridge and MG&E work is complete. The rest of the asphalt layers and other work will be completed in the spring. She wishes everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

#### APPOINTMENTS

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kitslaar to approve Rebecca Bernstein, Second Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals (effective immediately–April 2022), was carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Kitslaar, seconded by Alder Grupe, to adjourn was carried. (7:45 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz  
City Clerk