

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
March 15, 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 Molly Grupe, Nancy Moore, Kristie Goforth, Doug Wood, Jennifer Kuhr, and Kathy Thomas

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Attorney William Cole, Finance Director Marc Houtakker, City Planner Doug Plowman, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Recreation Director Jake Anderson, Recreation Supervisor Missy Miller, Helen Bradley from B-Cycle, Devin Renner from MESBA, Mountain Bike Trail Project presenters Jack Oliver, Miles Peterson, and Bennett Chapa, Fire Chief Jerry McMullen, and City Clerk Joan Andrusz

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Goforth to approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2021 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

Jeff Beckett, 4604 Winnequah Road appeared before the Council and spoke for informational purposes about City government positions whose job responsibilities have not been met.

Travis Youman, 617 Clear Spring Court appeared before the Council and spoke in favor of the B-Cycle proposal.

The following individuals registered via email their support of the mountain bike project:

- Beth Esser and Derek Peterson, 6009 Ridgewood Avenue
- Sarah Moran, 6010 Midwood Avenue

The following individuals registered via email their support of the B-Cycle proposal:

- Lisa Gundlach, 404 Midland Lane
- Rebecca Phillips, 6009 Gateway Green
- Chris Whelley, 1018 Birch Haven Circle
- Sue Carr, 4209 Winnequah Road

The following individuals registered via email against of the B-Cycle proposal:

- Kevin Alexander, 4807 Wallace Avenue
- Jimmer Yunek, 6106 Queens Way
- Mike Paulus, 6111 Winnequah Road

Sue Carr, 4209 Winnequah Road registered via email in support of the Ad Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues.

Ronesha Strozier of Monona registered via email against the Ad Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues.

#### PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

There was no Public Hearing or Consent Agenda.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor O'Connor reported she has talked to the Nehemiah Center and they will be involved with the Ad-Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues. City Administrator Gadow reported Nehemiah suggested they be named as advisors to the Workgroup and suggests language should be added under the membership section. Alder Moore reported individual names have been taken out of the Resolution and City Attorney Cole advised her that the membership not be narrowed. Alder Grupe stated more listening to constituents should be done before this committee is formed. Alder Wood stated he proposes an amendment in the "Now, Therefore" section 4., "...within six (6) months of adoption of this Resolution..." should be changed to "...within 6 months of the committee being appointed by the Mayor and affirmed by the Common Council,..." Alder Goforth stated it makes sense to have Nehemiah start the committee process and thinks this should be tabled until after the election because People of Color have some concerns. She questions whether Alders could nominate members.

Alder Grupe reported concerns were expressed regarding duplication of efforts; it would be important for the Center to be involved, but it doesn't preclude the City from forming its own committee. City Administrator Gadow reported Nehemiah was in favor of a more City- and public-facing committee and theirs would let people have conversations; there would be two different focuses. Alder Moore stated the Workgroup is not permanent; there is value in a group distinct from Nehemiah. She addressed a resident's emailed concerns. Mayor O'Connor stated the Ad-Hoc group would inform a permanent committee. Alder Goforth stated she would be more comfortable talking in a non-City committee. No action was taken on a motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-3-2470 Establishing an Ad-Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues as amended.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Goforth to table Resolution 21-3-2470 Establishing an Ad-Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues. Alders Kuhr, Goforth, and Grupe voted in favor of the motion; Alders Moore, Wood, and Thomas voted against. Mayor O'Connor broke the tie with a vote in favor. The motion carries.

Public Works Director Stephany reported on March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Public Works Committee approved the low bid from Joe Daniels Construction for the Stone Bridge Park project and the alternate bid was approved. Work will end by August 15. Recreation Director Anderson reported the Community Center portion won't be done with this project. He wants to get a separate bid for just the south side sidewalk. The loading dock will be done. Alder Goforth stated she wants to stop the park piece of this project, but not the stormwater work, due to tight fiscal times and economic downturn. San Damiano also effects this in terms of costs. Alder Grupe respectfully replied that this project has been combined to save money over time. Alder Moore stated the stormwater work cost is shared with grants; a lot of the project is park restoration. The only addition is ADA accessibility. Alder Wood stated the Parks & Recreation Board did pare back the hardscape. This is now a combined bid so if it is voted down the project would have to be re-bid. That would result in two times the tear up and work on the park. Public Works Director Stephany reported the main driver of the stormwater work is Reach 64 compliance; it has to move forward. Alder Grupe requested to end the discussion. City Clerk Andrusz provided parliamentary rules guidance.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to call the question on Resolution 21-3-2466 Award of Contract for the Stone Bridge Park Improvement Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 21-3-2466 Award of Contract for the Stone Bridge Park Improvement Project. On a roll call vote, the motion carries. Alder Goforth voted present.

Public Works Director Stephany reported the Public Works Committee voted on March 3 to recommend approval of Homburg Contractors for the Gateway Green stormwater project.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Kuhr to approve Resolution 21-3-2467 Award of Contract for the Gateway Green Storm Water Improvement Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Public Works Director Stephany reported the Public Works Committee voted on March 3 to recommend approval of V&T Painting with bid alternate #1 to include working around cellular equipment. Alder Thomas requests that committee recommendations be included in the meeting packet going forward. The 2<sup>nd</sup> bid alternate for City name painting on the tower was removed.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Wood to amend Resolution 21-3-2468 Award of Contract for the Water Tower Painting Project in the “Now, Therefore” section to read, “...plus an ~~combined~~ alternate bid total of ~~\$7,500~~ \$5,000.”, was carried.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Resolution 21-3-2468 Award of Contract for the Water Tower Painting Project as amended. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor O’Connor explained property tax collection and the not unusual amount that is outstanding. Dane County collects any taxes paid after January 31 and makes the City whole. It then pursues payments from delinquent payers and keeps any fees and penalties. Alder Thomas stated the funds for the B-Cycle project are reported as being from the Ahuska Park lighting project, but should be from the Capital Budget Fund Balance because unused funds are put there. Finance Director Houtakker agrees as that project was completed. The Resolution will be corrected.

Alder Moore reported that B-Cycle stations were only in the Grand Crossing Park design. Recreation Director Anderson and the Parks & Recreation Board pursued reduced program costs and financial sponsorships. She learned that the UW subsidizes employee memberships. The City would be charged \$400,000 for a few stops by the Madison Metropolitan Transit service.

Recreation Supervisor Miller confirmed sponsorships from Avid Hotel, Forage, Buck & Honey’s, WPS, and The Current, with two additional, MG&E and Skipper Buds, in the works to make up the difference in the 3-year cost for maintenance. The Department has a great connection with businesses. Alder Thomas thanks Recreation Director Anderson, Recreation Supervisor Miller, and staff; they collect 50% donations for program fees; the national average is 35%. Alder Wood agrees and praised the very impressive promotional materials sent out. The price is much lower than at the start; the Board pushed for this. He thanks Mr. Youman for his comments tonight. Alder Grupe agrees regarding the lowered cost. B-Cycle is a great business model, company, and service, and is a great partnership.

Alder Goforth stated this is an awesome program and brings benefits to the community. She verified with Recreation Supervisor Miller that the total advertising revenue is \$5,500 and that kiosk rates are set by the

Parks & Recreation Board. Alder Goforth talked about other fundraising options she could help with. The program affects more than just Monona; she could set up a GoFundMe with the bicycle group she is in. Alder Wood responded that he wouldn't suggest that and fundraising wasn't discussed by the Board, but any funds raised would be welcome and could go on even after this Resolution is approved. Alder Thomas stated the City shouldn't be attached to any GoFundMe effort, there should be no connection, as taxpayers may question that.

Alder Goforth asked for data on who uses the B-Cycles; she is concerned with the financing. Mr. Renner provided information about his involvement in the early stages of the project and that MESBA would be willing to help with future fundraising. Mayor O'Connor stated this could be approved tonight and any funds raised could go into the General Fund. Recreation Supervisor Miller stated they are on a time frame with B-Cycle; they are working on set-ups now. Ms. Bradley stated B-Cycle has been working with the City on this for four years resulting in a fair offer and she would like a decision tonight to allow time for ordering. The proposal includes free docking stations at Schluter Park; it is the best deal they can do.

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 21-3-2471 Amending the Capital Budget for the Installation of B-Cycle Stations at Grand Crossing and Schluter Parks as amended. On a roll call vote, Alder Goforth voted against the motion. The motion carried.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mayor O'Connor moved the following item forward in the Agenda to accommodate the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students present.

Mr. Oliver, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Chapa provided a presentation on Resolution 21-3-2475 Approval to Construct a Mountain Bike Trail in Maywood Park. Information on their project included that this land was Ho-Chunk. They updated their plans to address resident concerns. They have professional help, donations in funds and time, and a possible Dane County grant.

Alder Grupe stated she is excited to approve this awesome project. These young gentlemen and their thoughtful addressing of resident's concerns are impressive; one changed her mind after their input. Alder Kuhr thanks them especially for their acknowledgement of whose land this was, their work, efforts, and meeting the needs of the neighbors. She is excited to approve this as well. Alder Thomas was impressed by them improving the project after opposing input was received. She is happy to help raise funds.

Recreation Supervisor Miller reported possible funding is a 50/50 matching park grant from Dane County. Saris Infrastructure will donate the matching portion of that grant. Alder Moore is impressed with the boys and their work. She questioned why some neighbors didn't get notice of the project. Recreation Supervisor Miller responded letters were sent to the list of residents included in the packet; none were returned by the Post Office, so she is not sure why they wouldn't have received them. Alder Goforth stated the students did a great job and she and her son look forward to getting out there on the trail! She can get additional help if needed. Alder Wood congratulates the group on a cool idea and a great project with great changes. There is a lot of excitement about this and he thanks Recreation Supervisor Miller for her involvement.

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Thomas to suspend the rules and take action on Consideration of Resolution 21-3-2472 Award of Contract for the Springhaven Pagoda Rehabilitation Project, was carried.

City Planner Plowman reported a consulting engineer was hired to assist the Landmarks Commission. Three bids were received by the bid closure on March 5. Joe Daniels Construction was the low bid. Casting techniques for the roof were different than usual, but was approved by the engineer. Conditions included the concrete color and roof removal. Funding is in the Parks budget.

A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Grupe to approve Consideration of Resolution 21-3-2472 Award of Contract for the Springhaven Pagoda Rehabilitation Project. On a roll call vote, all members voted in favor of the motion.

Recreation Director Anderson provided information on Resolution 21-3-2473 Award of Contract for Woodland Park Parking Lot and Trail Improvements. This was in the 2020 Capital Budget. 50% of the cost will be paid by Jon and Peggy Traver. Five bids were received; the landscape architect and staff approved Blaze Landscaping Contracting, Inc. Off-street parking is a positive outcome. Alder Moore, along with all members, thanks the Travers for all they've done for this park and the City.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-3-2474 Authorization to Apply for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program, was carried.

Recreation Director Anderson reported this is due on May 1<sup>st</sup> for acquisition of the San Damiano property with an extension of the 5-year Park Plan granted; that is required to apply for grants. He provided information on probable costs. Alder Thomas thanks Recreation Director Anderson for all his efforts to save money for taxpayers.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-3-2474 Authorization to Apply for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Local Assistance Grant Program, was carried.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on Ordinance 3-21-738 Requiring a Three-Way-Stop-Controlled Intersection at Nichols Road and Winnequah Road. At its March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the Public Works Committee recommended approval. It is not to control speed; poor sight lines create safety issues. He reviewed speed data and times of key traffic volume; both are collector streets. A few residents have asked for increased safety measures. He can get Nichols Road data for the next meeting as requested by Alder Wood.

Alder Goforth stated bicycles won't stop and suggested signage stating whether they have to stop or not. Mayor O'Connor stated there is a lot of pedestrian traffic there. Alder Kuhr stated bicycles are supposed to stop and she requests statute verification on that for the next meeting. She questions the need for an additional sign if riders won't stop. Alder Thomas stated having it optional is confusing for children; bicycles should be following the law as required. Alder Goforth stated a sign might be considered to emphasize that as a reminder.

## REPORTS

Members announced meeting dates and times and provided the following:

Alder Kuhr reported the City is getting a portion, potentially \$810,000 or more, of the \$100 billion America Rescue Plan funds for infrastructure and parks. The rules are not known yet. Mayor O'Connor stated she will keep everyone posted on this. Some campaign yard signs have been placed against the Code, including duplicate signs on properties.

Alder Moore reported the Plan Commission is reviewing many interesting projects. The new WPS building is state of the art in terms of sustainable materials. The 4 Lakes Yacht Club building makeover is terrific. The PAWS Aquatic Center at 915 Femrite Drive at the vacant Treasure Mart building will provide a recreation and rehabilitation center for dogs. There will be a pre-hearing regarding the new proposal for the site of the Monona Garden Family Restaurant. Parking is an issue but that project would provide a nice gateway building for Monona. On Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> the Sustainability Committee is hosting an recycling event at Ahuska Park for electronic devices and equipment. Information will be provided soon including a list of what can be turned in and the fee charged.

Alder Goforth reported Amy Rosebrough from the State Historical Society was a guest at the Landmarks Commission and she suggested the City do a Phase 1 archaeological identification of all parks and open spaces, especially mound and burial sites; grants are available. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Community Media Committee will livestream a fundraiser at the Barrymore Theatre. There are 667 eNewsletter subscribers.

Alder Grupe reported the Transit Commission is working on an RFP on a bus company; bids are due in July. It will include a requirement that transit employees receive training regarding unconscious bias, equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Senior Center Friends Board is planning the summer concert series.

Alder Wood reported that at its March meeting the MPO approved as a major project the reconstruction of US Highway 51 from Stoughton to McFarland.

Alder Thomas questioned whether creation of the eNewsletter was an executive decision or was decided by the Community Media Committee. Mayor O'Connor responded she requested it but Media Department staff were supportive and are doing the work. Alder Thomas stated the Ordinance should be changed to reflect this process.

Public Works Director Stephany provided information on the two speed humps that are in the 2021 Capital Budget. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Public Works Committee approved the design on north Winnequah Road near Waterman Way and near Outlook Street. These will be very effective at slowing speeds. This will be going out for bids on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> with the bid opening on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Approval by the Committee and City Council will be sought in May.

Fire Chief McMullen reported the flex staffing program is going well and will be formalized next month. Alder Goforth questioned whether special training is required with the Beltline "flex lane". Fire Chief McMullen reported a foot of space was lost from each travel lane so it is tight for bigger vehicles. He wasn't notified of the ramp closures at first, but that has been rectified. Traffic hasn't slowed.

City Clerk Andrusz provided April 6 Spring Election absentee voting information:

- 1,255 ballots with requests on file will be mailed out by tomorrow's deadline
- There will be no Special Voting Deputy visits to Heritage Monona due to COVID-19. Residents with requests on file will be mailed a ballot and others still have time to make a request
- The deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail is April 1
- In-person absentee voting in City Hall begins on Tuesday, March 23 and ends on Friday, April 2, during regular office hours/days
- Additional hours are provided on Wednesdays, March 24 and 31 until 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, March 27 from 8:00 a.m. until noon
- The ballot drop box will be open and available between the flagpoles in the City Hall parking lot; it is kept secure and will be emptied daily

- She urges voters to follow the directions and make sure all required lines are filled in on the certificate envelope so the ballot can be accepted. This includes the voter's signature and the witness's signature and address
- She also urges voters to request and return their ballot as soon as possible to make sure it is received in time to be counted. Ballots are due back by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day

Alders Goforth and Wood questioned the process if a voter with an absentee ballot request on file changes their mind and wants to vote in person. City Clerk Andrusz responded they can let the Clerk's office know right away so a ballot isn't mailed. If they receive a ballot, they can return it to the City and it will be cancelled. If they wait until Election Day, they should destroy the ballot before coming to the polls and will be required to verbally certify they have not returned their absentee ballot.

City Administrator Gadow reported he is evaluating City COVID-19 processes. Staff is getting vaccinated.

Mayor O'Connor reported the Citywide garage sale is May 15<sup>th</sup>. The yard waste site is opening this Saturday. Committee openings will be posted soon. She reminds members the next meeting is in three weeks.

#### APPOINTMENTS

There were no Appointments.

#### ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Grupe, seconded by Alder Wood, to adjourn was carried. (9:18 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz  
City Clerk