

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

May 1, 2023

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 Patrick DePula, Brian Holmquist, Nancy Moore, Doug Wood, Teresa Radermacher, and Rick Bernstein

Also Present: Interim Administrator/Finance Director Marc Houtakker, Public Works Director Dan Stephany, Director of Administrative Services Leah Kimmell, Police Chief Brian Chaney, and City Clerk Alene Houser

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Alder DePula, seconded by Alder Holmquist, to approve the Minutes of the April 17 and April 18, 2023 City Council meetings. Motion carried.

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC HEARING, CONSENT AGENDA, UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Public Hearing, Consent Agenda or Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS

G.2.a Consideration of Resolution 23-5-2623 Award of Contract for 2023 Street Chip Seal Project.

Director Stephany explained that two bids were received with Scott Construction providing the low bid. The Public Works Committee will be discussing this contract on May 3. The alternate bid is for a fog seal application, which lasts for two or three years. The fog seal is a coat over the top of the chip seal to help extend the roads life. The included fiscal note shows all the work that is planned to be done within the Streets, Bridge Repair & Maintenance Program 2023 Capital Budget account.

G.2.b Approval of Employment Agreement for the Position of Library Director.

Director Kimmell explained that the City has employment agreements with department heads. Director Claringbole did not have an employment agreement during his previous employment with the City but one is being done this time for consistently. The Library Director's employment is with the City even though the Library Board recruits and appoints the Director.

Motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder Radermacher, to suspend the rules and take action on the Employment Agreement for the Position of Library Director. Motion carried.

Motion by Alder Moore, seconded by Alder DePula, to approve the Employment Agreement for the Position of Library Director. Motion carried.

REPORTS

1. Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts

Alder Wood reported there is an exhibit at the Library from the Wisconsin Historical Society. The exhibit is about the Civil Rights Movement in Milwaukee in the 60's. If you are at the Library take some time to read the panels, it is very informative and interesting.

2. Update/Discussion on Sustainability Efforts.

Alder Radermacher reported that since the No Mow May program began last year they have gone through 125 yard signs. Tomorrow, May 2, she will be giving an interview to NBC 15 regarding No Mow May.

3. Committee Reports.

Alder Holmquist reported the ZBA meeting is shifting to May 25 from May 18.

Alder Moore reported the Transit Commission will meet May 10 and will continue to analyze data from the survey. Thank you to the whole committee and everyone who responded to the survey.

Alder Wood reported the CDA met April 25 and had a discussion in Closed Session about the Walter Wayne (Monona Drive) and Whitehorse (1208 E Broadway) projects. MPO meets May 3 and will be looking at allocating another seven million to the bus rapid transit. This additional federal funding that was recently announced brings federal funding for this project to about 110.5 million. Will also be discussing the Carbon Reduction Grants, one of which is a Monona LED project.

Alder Radermacher reported that Community Media will be talking about more ways to promote MononaGo. If you have not downloaded yet, please do.

Alder Bernstein reported that he did a ride along with Officer Mashak. He learned a lot and came away with the feeling of a high sense of morale within the department. He had a discussion with Ryan about the Library Board and signed up to be part of the embracing equity program. He will learn more at his first Library Board meeting on May 16. He also has a Zoom call scheduled with Jimmy Anderson.

Alder DePula reported the Public Works Committee will be taking up the street renaming on May 3.

Police Chief Chaney reported the first annual Cops and Bobbers event was held on April 22. There was about 20 children participating, many of which were first time fishers. There was a recent press release regarding an officer stopping a vehicle for going 22 over the speed limit on Monona Drive. The vehicle pulled out into traffic causing the officer to be pushed into traffic. The officer is okay however please do not flee from officers. These officers have a lot of compassion and discretion on when to site, arrest, etc.

Clerk Houser reported assessment letters were sent on April 26. In-person Open Book is Thursday, May 4 from noon to four and phone Open Book is the whole month of May. Appointments can be made by going to Accurate Appraisals website. Board of Review is June 7 at 6pm. Open Book is where residents can talk to an assessor about their assessment.

Mayor O'Connor reported the Dane County Housing task force met last week and focused on affordable housing. They were also brainstorming different strategies that they are considering including in the plan that will be out in August or September. Please take and share the San Damiano survey located on the homepage of mymonona.com. The survey will be open until the end of the weekend. Some Committees are looking at or have changed meeting start times to the middle of the afternoon. There are concerns

about who might be able to make these meetings times, which could be a diversity issue. Alder Wood added that the Parks Board has not met yet with their 3pm start time. It is a trial and it might be easier for someone to attend via Zoom than in person if they have small children. Alder DePula added that members have to be aware that if the topic might draw public interest the schedule will need to be changed.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Alder Radermacher, seconded by Alder Wood, to approve the following appointment.
Motion carried.

1. Mitchell Wiesshoff to the Tourism Commission, Hotel Representative (effective immediately-April 15, 2024).

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder DePula, to adjourn. Motion carried (7:47 p.m.).

Alene Houser
City Clerk