

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
January 3, 2017

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor Miller at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Mayor Robert Miller, Alderpersons Mary O'Connor, Doug Wood, Andrew Kitslaar, Brian Holmquist, Jim Busse, and Chad Speight.

Also Present: City Administrator April Little and Public Works Director Dan Stephany

ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion by Alder O'Connor, seconded by Alder Holmquist to approve the Minutes of the December 5, 2016 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES

The following residents registered in favor of the proposed Resolution 17-1-2138 By the City of Monona Electors Supporting a Constitutional Amendment:

- Susan Manning
- Kathleen Williams
- Jo Oyama-Miller
- Linda Hoelzel
- Al Sulzer
- Jonathan Englehardt
- Patricia Gundlach
- Kathy Thomas

Janet Vinje – Their group is hopeful that this petition for direct legislation will go onto the ballot in spring, and expressed appreciation for support.

Waltraud Brinkmann – At July 5 City Council, she spoke of their Monona United to Amend group's plans. They are concerned about money interests "destroying our democracy." They are seeking a constitutional amendment. Eighteen states other than Wisconsin have passed such a resolution to call for such an amendment. Goal: to place a resolution calling for an amendment to the US Constitution on the spring ballot. Within 21 days, 1232 signatures were collected (718 minimum within 60 days was required), indicating widespread support. She expressed her thanks for the city clerk and attorney. They request that the language is placed on the ballot so that residents can express their opinions. Mayor Miller said that the group preferred that the resolution go to ballot rather than the City Council only approving the resolution.

PUBLIC HEARING

There is no Public Hearing.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Approval of Applications for 2016/2017 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Penelope S. Johnson, Independent
 - b. Mitchell F. Monson, O’Connell’s Liquor
 - c. Kyler A. Goglio, Snicks Sportsman’s Bar
 - d. Chanel D. Spencer, Speedway – Royal Avenue
 - e. Kyle M. Roessler, Waypoint Public House
2. Approval of Applications for 2016/2018 Operator Licenses:
 - a. Mark R. Hendricks, Tobacco Outlet Plus

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Consideration of Resolution 17-1-2137 Purchase Approval of One Current Model Year One-Ton Single Rear Wheel Chassis Cab (Public Works Committee).** Finance and Personnel Committee approved the resolution. *Alder Holmquist made a motion to approve and take it out of order; Seconded by Alder Speight. Motion carried. Alder Speight made a motion to approve the resolution; Seconded by Alder Kitslaar.* Stephany – clarified that the current 2005 vehicle being replaced will be sent to auction, and that he sought local pricing. Ewald Automotive submitted the recommended proposal. Utility box upfit is separate from this resolution. \$3240 will remain in the budget line item after purchase. *Motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.*
- b. **Consideration of Resolution 17-1-2138 By the City of Monona Electors Supporting a Constitutional Amendment (City Clerk).** *Alder Busse made a motion to take the item out of order; Seconded by Alder Kitslaar. Motion carried. Alder Speight made a motion to approve; Seconded by Alder O’Connor.* The petition was certified by the city clerk on November 22. Alder Speight explained the review process. Alder Wood and Alder Speight support passing the resolution and putting it on the ballot.

Alder Holmquist asked about what would happen if the measure was rejected. Alder Busse asked questions about the intent of the proposed Constitutional Amendment. George Penn, Wisconsin United to Amend, responded: Applies to corporations, unions, and nonprofits. All entities do not have constitutionally given rights as people do; only biological humans have these rights. The point is that these entities cannot be limited as we can limit humans, therefore they get undue power. PACs and other groups can contribute to campaigns if the government says they can. Government should have the right to impose limits like they can on people.

Alder Busse says that this probably has wide impacts; how will the public be educated? Penn: Corporations were limited under the law, which was gradually eroded. They should be treated as property with privileges, but not take away rights necessarily. Alder Busse clarified that the proposal is not solely about elections; it’s about how corporations are treated legally. Alder Speight: the petition is attempting to restore status quo before the recent Supreme Court decision. Alder Wood: the resolution also says “money is not speech”. Alder Speight says he sees no reason not to speak as representatives for Monona residents by passing a resolution.

Alder Speight made a motion to go ahead and vote on the resolution as well as sending it on to the ballot. Discussion of the fact that the legal memo said the City Council must act “within 30 days of the City Clerk’s certification,” which has now passed. Therefore the language must go to the ballot. Alder Holmquist was concerned that if we vote the resolution tonight, some may vote against it which can send a wrong message. He supports the resolution individually but not this night. Alder O'Connor: should wait to consider it until after results of the election. Motion died from lack of second.

Alder Busse made a motion to table; motion died from lack of second. Alder Kitslaar made a motion to put forward ballot language as stated in the packet on the April 2017 ballot; Seconded by Alder Speight. Motion carried. Alder Speight offered to withdraw his original motion; agreed to by Alder O'Connor.

REPORTS

Alder Kitslaar: The Library Board will be interviewing library director candidates in mid-January. The board is asking the public to be involved. It was requested that Community Media tape the public portion. Loud in the Library fundraiser is January 28.

April Little provided a 2017 priority project summary for the City Council. Board packets included staff reports. Jake Anderson did not include his report. Mayor Miller: City Council races update: three aldermanic seats are open. Alder Speight Alder Wood and Nancy Moore are the three declared candidates. For the mayoral race, Alder O'Connor and Phil DeVillers have submitted papers. Alder Busse and Mayor Miller are stepping down and a vacancy may be possible. Riverfront project is moving forward in a positive mode; final submissions are due to CDA in January for hoped negotiations of a development agreements with shovels in the ground in 2017.

APPOINTMENTS

D. Bruce McConnell to Public Works Committee. *Alder Wood made a motion to approve; Seconded by Alder Kitslaar. Motion carried.*

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Holmquist, seconded by Alder Kitslaar, to adjourn, was carried. (8:38 p.m.)

April Little, City Administrator