

MONONA CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
July 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Monona City Council was called to order by Mayor O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Mary K. O'Connor, Alderpersons, Kristie Goforth, Doug Wood, Jennifer Kuhr, and Kathy Thomas

Excused: Alderpersons Nancy Moore and Molly Grupe

Also Present: City Administrator Bryan Gadow, City Attorney Bill Cole, Police Chief Brian Chaney Austin, City Planner Doug Plowman, 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 June 21, 2021 City Council meeting, was carried.

APPEARANCES, PUBLIC HEARING and CONSENT AGENDA

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Planner Plowman reported the following was requested by WPS to assist in the sale of a lot by allowing access. Conditions 3 and 4 address this; also included is Condition 2, the revised CSM that addresses the edits from the Vierbicher Associates letter. Alder Wood questioned whether the Plan Commission discussed traffic issues in separating the sites; the only way out is Bridge Road. City Planner Plowman responded that the area was reviewed for WPS with a traffic impact analysis, including the potential Monona Garden redevelopment and the completion of the Riverfront, and there was no significant impact on intersections, particularly at Bridge Road and Broadway. Cueing and student pick-up and drop-off were accommodated. Emergency access will be part of further discussion and design with input from the Police and Fire Departments.

Alder Wood stated he is skeptical; the access will work fine now, but he is concerned if it will when other redevelopment in the area is complete. City Attorney Cole reported emergency access will be issued via a recordable document. He has that document but hasn't be able to review it yet; approval should be conditional. The mover and second agree to amend the motion to state that condition. Alder Goforth reported the Plan Commission agrees the reduction in the WPS workforce balances out the increased traffic. Cueing, staging, and staggered start times at One City Schools will help.

A motion by Alder Goforth, seconded by Alder Thomas to approve Resolution 21-6-2501 Approving a Certified Survey Map (CSM) for Lots 1 and 2 of CSM 15671 and Lot 3 of CSM 10267 at 1707 W. Broadway on condition of the City Attorney's approval of the emergency access document, was carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

City Administrator Gadow provided information on Resolution 21-7-2503 Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Monona and the DNR for Mutual Aid and Fire Suppression Services. This will allow the City to work collectively to address forest fires.

Mayor O'Connor began Discussion and Update on Planning for New Public Safety Facility. A plan to work within the current site of the Fire Department garage and parking lot will be pursued; the City has contracted with UWM for potential for future design ideas for west of the Fire Department parking lot. City Administrator Gadow reported work is needed to determine if the facility can be located at the Fire Department parking lot, and the cost for more high-level detail. 5 Bugles architectural firm, who focuses on public safety buildings, did a walk-through to determine if this is possible to do. An RFP for a feasibility study is needed and will cost \$8,000 to \$10,000. Then an RFP will be done for formal design services, which will cost about \$800,000. He will request the Council break that cost into two budget years with construction in 2024. He asked the Council's opinion on doing the site analysis for feasibility.

City Administrator Gadow explained funding, including possible loans to reduce the tax impact. The plan is for design by 2023, bids for the project in 2024, with construction finished in 2025. The Bray Architects study stated to expect the project to take two years. The focus will be just on the public safety portion, but keeping in mind future City campus changes. Parking will be emphasized in the design. Mayor O'Connor stated the new Community Center and swimming pool would be on the Community Center site. There will need to be talks with Winnequah School on the drop-off and pick-up of students as they use the roadway in front of the Community Center.

Alder Thomas thanks Mayor O'Connor and City Administrator Gadow for this effort, and the Police and Fire Departments for doing what they do in the conditions they're in. Alder Goforth agrees and noted that construction costs are going down. City Administrator Gadow stated the Departments will still be combined and Police will be moved down to the new area. McFarland and other area municipalities are currently doing this and will help the City's process. He discussed building and facility demolitions and remodeling. Mayor O'Connor stated a City Hall remodel will be done in the future.

A motion by Alder Thomas, seconded by Alder Kuhr to suspend the rules and take action on Resolution 21-7-2502 Resolution Rescinding Local State of Emergency (COVID-19), was carried.

City Administrator Gadow reported this is a housekeeping item to not maintain the City's Emergency Order now that Dane County has rescinded theirs. A new State of Emergency could be called if needed.

A motion by Alder Kuhr, seconded by Alder Wood to approve Resolution 21-7-2502 Resolution Rescinding Local State of Emergency (COVID-19), was carried.

## REPORTS

Alder Goforth began Updates/Discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts, reporting that the Landmarks Commission's Pagoda sign language evolved to include Ho Chunk language acknowledging the area was an encampment; this language was reviewed by members of the Nation. It will be turned over to the Parks & Recreation Board. A member of the public came to offer to purchase park signs for numerous park sites with this type of historic language. Alder Thomas reported the Senior Foundation provides welcome bags for new residents of senior housing and she will seek advice on what and whether something should be included in those. Eventually, she'd like to see that program expand to

non-seniors as well. Alder Wood attended a “Justified Anger” history class orientation session at the Nehemiah Center; Alder Grupe did as well.

Members announced meeting dates, times, and cancellations, and that committees are beginning work on the 2022 Capital Budget.

Alder Kuhr reported there is a public information meeting on south Winnequah Road improvements on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. She thanks the Police and Fire Departments for their service during the Festival.

Alder Goforth reported on work by the Landmarks Commission. The applications for National Historic Registry for the Otto Schroeder House, also known as the Bohrod Mansion, has been submitted and the Kohls Grocery Store will be very soon. This process will take a year so because of the backlog of applications. An extension was granted for late submission so there may be some additional applicants. The Commission is getting ideas for use of leftover grant funds, possibly for plaques and signs.

Alder Thomas reported Mark Croft will perform at tomorrow’s Concert in Winnequah Park at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor O’Connor read Alder Grupe’s report: She is very excited about the formation of the Ad Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues! She urges those members and other members of the community to consider committee memberships for 2022 to make sure diverse voices continue to be heard. Renew Wisconsin and the City are co-hosting a MadiSun “Introduction to Solar” webinar on July 28 at 7:00 p.m. Information is on the Sustainable Monona, City, and Renew Wisconsin websites. She reminds everyone to take the transit survey.

City Administrator Gadow reported the construction project on north Winnequah Road, for the two speed humps near Schluter Park, begins on June 27.

Mayor O’Connor thanks the Festival Committee for a great job this year! Staff will receive Operating Budget instructions this week. She thanks Police Chief Chaney Austin for his PSAs focusing on traffic.

Police Chief Chaney Austin reported the Department is focusing inward on hazardous driving on residential streets. He is having ongoing conversations with the School District on the School Resource Officer (SRO), which he supports 100%. They will make a decision next month. If the SRO continues, there will be changes to how the SRO engages with students, with safety and feeling safe emphasized. He has begun deep review of policies, standard operations, and general orders. He will work with the Public Safety Committee to make changes, arrange them, and make them more organized and user-friendly. He is meeting with various trainers to see what is available for cultural competency, implicit bias, and other instruction for the Department. National Night Out is August 10 at 5:30 p.m. The Festival was a joint effort across departments, including Public Works and Parks, as well as community organizers. He looks forward to future collaborations. Alder Thomas asked about the prevalence of car thefts. Police Chief Chaney Austin responded they trend up and down. He hosted a successful multi-agency “Stolen Auto Initiative” event in Monona. A steady decline was seen; the same individual may be committing thefts throughout the area. Alder Goforth thanks Chief Chaney Austin for the Juneteenth event and especially Court Clerk Toya Harrell for her singing. She questioned whether the SRO will work with student parking on residential streets prior to school starting. Police Chief Chaney Austin responded he will form a traffic safety plan with input from parents, teachers, staff, community members, and the Police and Fire Departments which will include parking. He hopes to convince school administration to have a plan at each school.

APPOINTMENTS

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

1. To Ad Hoc Workgroup on Diversity and Equity Issues (effective immediately):
  - a. Jayson Chung, Chair
  - b. Jerry Chapa
  - c. Raquel Diaz
  - d. Jade Fea
  - e. Kristie Goforth
  - f. Alicia Hazen
  - g. Catherine Orr
  - h. Mary Anne Reed
  - i. Oscar Young
  
2. Mary Anderson to Library Board (effective immediately–June 2024)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Alder Wood, seconded by Alder Kuhr, to adjourn was carried. (7:39 p.m.)

Joan Andrusz  
City Clerk