

1 The Meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14,
2 2020. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted at City Hall.

3
4 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Mayor Kim Smith, Ald. Tom Smith,
5 Ald. Dan Stevens, Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Diane Wulf

6
7 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, City Clerk Cari Burmaster, City Attorney
8 Amanda Jackson, Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, Human Resource Director
9 Hope Burchell, City Engineer Jarrod Holter, Planning Manager Katie Aspenson, Parks and
10 Recreation Director Dan Wick, Police Chief Charles Ashbeck, Fire Chief Billy Hayes

11
12 **Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

13
14 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

15
16 **Item 3 – Rules of the City of Onalaska Common Council and its Sub Committees –**
17 **Harassment Free Forum**

18
19 Mayor K. Smith read the following: *“The City Council and Sub-Committee meetings shall be*
20 *conducted in a courteous manner. Citizens, Council, and Committee members shall be allowed*
21 *to state their positions in an atmosphere free of slander, insults, obscene remarks, threats of*
22 *violence, or for use of Council or Committee as a forum for politics. Sufficient warnings may be*
23 *given by the Sergeant of Arms at any time during the remarks. In the event that any individual*
24 *shall violate the rules of decorum heretofore set forth, such person may then be cut off from*
25 *comment or debate.”*

26
27 **Item 4 – PUBLIC INPUT: (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

28
29 Mayor K. Smith called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

30
31 **Marcia Horvath**
32 **1205 County Road PH**
33 **Onalaska**
34

35 “I’m here to talk about the proposed rezoning of the south end of County Road PH. I know this
36 issue is part of the Consent Agenda tonight, but I want to make a few comments. I really
37 appreciate that the city has worked so long and hard on the proposed rezoning and updating the
38 zoning codes, and that they are working to do what’s in the city’s best interest. However, I think
39 there’s somewhat of a disconnect between the city’s thinking and the thinking of area residents.
40 For over three decades, proposed business incursions into this neighborhood have been
41 universally fought against by the area residents who have had to settle for compromises in a few
42 instances. We may be located right behind a strip mall, but it’s not like we are looking straight at
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43 a business alley out our back windows. There's a 10-foot raised earthen berm, and a 5-foot
44 wooden fence on top of that, for a total of 15 feet that blocks the view at the back of the
45 buildings and separates us from the strip mall. The Bronston complex is set off by trees and a
46 fence. Olive Juice Quilts and the churches are set way back from the street. However, if the
47 proposed MU-N zoning were to go forward, it would encourage commercial development and
48 over 30 types of businesses would be allowed to come in right next door to homes, with no
49 separation. We submitted a petition to the Plan Commission with signatures of 87 people in the
50 neighborhood who overwhelmingly want these 12 homes to remain under R-1 zoning. We have
51 now submitted 28 additional signatures on that petition to the Common Council. We have
52 signatures from people in 100 percent of the affected homes, as well as many surrounding
53 neighbors. We are pleased that the Plan Commission heard our objections and did not ignore an
54 entire neighborhood telling them that it is opposed to this rezoning. This area has been fighting
55 commercial encroachment for decades. We have a strong residential neighborhood, and we want
56 it to stop being considered for rezoning ever again. Please preserve the R-1 zoning for our
57 neighborhood going forward. Would everyone who wants the south end of County Road PH to
58 remain Single Family Residential zoning please stand up. Thank you."

59
60 **Tony Horvath**
61 **1205 County Road PH**
62 **Onalaska**
63

64 "I know the city has put much time and effort into coming up with the proposed zoning codes
65 and the districts, and we appreciate their efforts. But I don't think they realize how much the
66 residents in the neighborhood want to prevent further commercial encroachment. If the zoning is
67 changed from R-1, the people living there would no longer have any say about what's happening
68 in the neighborhood. [There would be] no warning of changes to come, [and] no place to voice
69 their concerns about the changes. MU-N zoning would add stress and uncertainty for the
70 residents for those changes. That wouldn't be fair to the citizens whose homes have been here
71 for decades. We need to protect the neighborhood from further commercialization. There are
72 already numerous nearby places in Onalaska that could be developed that don't have to further
73 encroach on their neighborhoods. Shopko, Payless Shoes, Carlos O'Kelly's, Bamboo House,
74 TGI Friday's, Hot Springs Hot Tubs, the space next to US Cellular in the Crossroads Center,
75 Gap Outlet Store, and two spaces in the Bronston complex expansion all stand empty. The
76 residents in the neighborhood can already walk or bike to nearby stores and restaurants; we don't
77 need more. We need to protect this neighborhood from further commercialization. I'm grateful
78 that the Plan Commission heard what we were saying and voted not to rezone the area to MU-N.
79 We trust you will agree with their recommendation.

80
81 I'd like to mention that Julie and Dick McGarry couldn't be here tonight, but I hope you had a
82 chance to read their email she sent you expressing her appreciation for the Common Council
83 support of the R-1 zoning over four decades, its recognition of the value of maintaining R-1
84 zoning over four decades, and the recognition of the value of maintaining the zoning into the
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85 future. She also expressed her concern about the proposed MU-C zoning of the Bronston
86 complex and Olive Juice Quilts instead of MU-N zoning. Please take that into consideration.
87 Thank you.”

88

89 **Park Hunter, Pastor of Onalaska United Methodist Church**
90 **212 4th Avenue North**
91 **Onalaska**

92

93 “I come on behalf of the churches of the community to offer a prayer as we begin this year. For
94 those who would like to pray, you are welcome to join me: *‘Lord God, we give you thanks as we*
95 *begin a new year full of new opportunities and changes. Every year brings new things, and we*
96 *try to see them as blessings. We want to begin by giving you thanks for the service of Mayor*
97 *[Joe] Chilsen over the years and appreciate his leadership, and we ask that you watch over him*
98 *on his new journey. We also want to ask you to watch over Mayor Smith and bless her and the*
99 *[Common] Council as they continue to guide our community. Often many of us pray that your*
100 *kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. But we don’t often think about the*
101 *fact that if that’s going to happen, at least part of that is up to us. So tonight I want to give you*
102 *thanks for all those who go to work to make this community a bit more heavenly every day –*
103 *those who serve by clearing the streets and making sure they are well-paved; those who serve by*
104 *protecting us and our homes from fire or from criminal activity; those who serve by planning for*
105 *the future of our community. Lord, we ask that you would help each of us in our own ways to do*
106 *our part, [and] to continue to make Onalaska a wonderful city and a piece of heaven on Earth.*
107 *We ask these things in your name. Amen.’ Thank you.”*

108

109 **Michael Peterson**
110 **1216 County Road PH**
111 **Onalaska**

112

113 “As I was driving here today, I was trying to figure out what I could say to the Council to get you
114 to understand we don’t want to go through this all the time. We’re happy where we’re at. I’ve
115 been here over 30 years in that house. It’s a little, modest house. Would you be doing this if it
116 was one of your golf course houses? Would you be saying to them, ‘I want to change your
117 [neighborhood] into a commercial area?’ They’d laugh at you and you wouldn’t have a thought
118 about it. Because geographically where we’re located and we’re in modest houses, it seems to be
119 something you’re considering. I don’t understand it. What do I have to do to be a better citizen
120 than to get treated the way I feel I’m getting treated by having to defend myself all the time to
121 the Council? Why am I in defense when I didn’t move this action – the committee did. I’d just
122 like to say, please leave us alone. Let us be a residential area. Thank you.”

123

124 **Betsy Stannard**
125 **1224 County Road PH West**
126 **Onalaska**

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127
128 “This zoning proposal came to me as a big disappointment, for I see south PH only as a
129 residential corridor. I have driven that road for 47 years and seen people put up their Christmas
130 decorations, mow the lawn, repair the roof, put additions on, and do a lot of things everybody
131 does in their home. It’s a residential area. Developers have had us in City Hall [because they
132 have tried] to change the neighborhood from homes to businesses many times in those 47 years
133 of living where I live. I think Onalaska needs those 12 homes on south PH. And as everyone in
134 those 12 homes has shown by at least one person signing the petition that they want to stay
135 residential. Tonight, I hope you can all see south PH as the residential corridor it is. Then please
136 hear south PH’s 12 households when they say they want to stay residential. I’m asking you to
137 please reject this zoning change. Only you can help them realize their wish to stay in their
138 homes. Thank you.”

139
140 **Ryan Beach**
141 **1203 County Road PH**
142 **Onalaska**

143
144 “[I live in] one of the 12 homes you’re looking to rezone. I wasn’t going to speak tonight, but I
145 agree with what all my neighbors are saying. I’ve been in the house that I’m in for 10 years. My
146 grandparents lived there before me. We, or they, have had to fight to keep it residential, and I
147 have no intentions of leaving. I don’t like the idea of having to go through this every five, 10
148 years. We don’t want to leave. We want it to stay the way it is. Please, if this could be the last
149 one, that would be great. Thank you.”

150
151 Mayor K. Smith called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed
152 that portion of the meeting.

153
154 **Item 5 – REPORT FROM THE MAYOR:**

155
156 A. Swearing in of Mayor Kim Smith

157
158 For the Office of Mayor, Cari asked Mayor Kim Smith to raise her right hand and repeat the
159 following: “*I, Kim Smith, having been appointed to the Office of Mayor, swear that I will*
160 *support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and*
161 *will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to the best of my ability, so help*
162 *me God.*”

163
164 B. Appointment of 3rd District Alderperson to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of
165 Boondi Iyer for the term ending April 20, 2021

166
167 Mayor K. Smith said, “The Council and I followed a different procedure this time than has been
168 done before for the appointment. We collected the resume and letter of interest from those
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169 applicants. We were very happy to have five very well-qualified individuals come forward, and
170 by very well-qualified, there are no set requirements for the alderperson position. I'm sure all of
171 the people would do a wonderful job filling out the alderperson position. But at the end of the
172 day when I made my decision, what I reflected on is what I think makes a good councilperson.
173 It's been my experience in over 20 years serving in different manners in our municipal
174 government – I started out on the Park[s] [and Recreation] Board, I served on the Plan
175 Commission, I've been an alderperson since I was first elected in 2004 – I think the people who
176 best become productive alderpersons who are able to get things done in our community are those
177 who start on committees. By serving on committees, you learn the ordinances, [and] the
178 functions of the different departments within City Hall. You meet the people who work in this
179 building, out in Public Works, and over in the Police and Fire [departments], and you build
180 relationships. You build relationships with your other committee members, and with the
181 alderpersons.

182
183 With that being said, to those who are not appointed, I strongly encourage you to continue to find
184 ways to participate in municipal government in Onalaska. And I hope that you will reach out
185 and try to get on a citizen committee. With that being said, I would like to appoint Steve Nott as
186 the Third District Alderperson to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Boondi Iyer for
187 the term ending April 20, 2021.”

188
189 Ald. Wulf stated she concurs with Mayor K. Smith, and she thanked the Common Council and
190 former Mayor Joe Chilsen for agreeing to utilize a different process with which to fill a vacancy.
191 Ald. Wulf stated she believes this process was much more transparent, and she thanked the five
192 applicants for the Third District seat. Ald. Wulf said she agrees with Mayor K. Smith that the
193 individuals who were not appointed should contact the mayor and have their names placed on a
194 list to serve on city committees. Ald. Wulf noted she had first served on the Pool Committee in
195 2000 after being appointed by former Mayor Jim Bialecki, who also had appointed her to the
196 Plan Commission prior to her being elected Second District Alderperson in 2003. Ald. Wulf
197 stated she also agrees with Mayor K. Smith that “it's about building relationships, and it makes
198 you a better alderperson when you start on committees or commissions or boards. And I think
199 the more diverse our committees, commissions, and boards are, the better our end product will
200 be.” Ald. Wulf greeted former Ald. Boondi Iyer, who she said she believes is watching this
201 evening's meeting, and noted Boondi had been a good friend both prior to serving on the Council
202 and after being elected Third District Alderperson. Ald. Wulf said she believes Boondi had done
203 “a remarkable job” even though she had never thought about running for public office. Ald.
204 Wulf said Boondi had served the city very well for seven months, adding she misses her.

205
206 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. Stevens, to approve the appointment of Steven Nott as
207 Third District Alderperson to serve through the term ending April 20, 2021.

208
209 Ald. Stevens said he is pleased by the nomination of Steven Nott, noting he and Steven have
210 served together on the Parks and Recreation Board. Ald. Stevens noted Steven has served as the
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211 Parks and Recreation Board Chair for three years, and he also serves on the Plan Commission.
212 Ald. Stevens said he has always known Steven to be prepared, and that he knows how to run a
213 meeting “fairly and smoothly.” Ald. Stevens stated he believes the attributes Steven has shown
214 will carry over to the Common Council very well. Ald. Stevens said there is a lot of merit to
215 starting out by serving on a city committee, and he encouraged the other applicants to approach
216 Mayor K. Smith and attempt to become involved as “the heavy lifting in the trenches of how the
217 city operates is really done on the committee level, and it is an excellent way to learn how things
218 work, and work well.” Ald. Stevens noted he had run against and lost to Ald. Wulf in his bid to
219 be Second District Alderperson in 2018, and he said that while he initially was disappointed he
220 had lost, he was appointed to the Parks and Recreation Board in 2018 and was elected to the
221 Common Council a year later much better prepared. Ald. Stevens said this could be an
222 opportunity for the applicants who were not selected to enter into city government with a head
223 start. Ald. Stevens said, “I applaud the choice of Steve Nott.”
224

225 Ald. T. Smith thanked all five candidates and said he believes they all were impressive. Ald. T.
226 Smith also thanked former Mayor Chilsen for agreeing to the format that allowed the Council to
227 participate in the opportunity to listen to all the candidates. Ald. T. Smith said he also
228 encourages the applicants who were not selected to participate in committees. Ald. T. Smith
229 noted Steven has served with him on the Plan Commission for the last nine months and said
230 Steven is “a good person [and a good] listener” who he believes will represent the Third District
231 well.
232

233 On voice vote, motion carried.
234

235 C. Swearing in of newly appointed 3rd District Alderperson for the term ending April 20,
236 2021
237

238 For the Office of Third District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Steven Nott to raise his right hand
239 and repeat the following: *“I, Steven Nott, having been appointed to the Office of Third District
240 Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution
241 of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to
242 the best of my ability, so help me God.”*
243

244 D. Appointment of newly appointed 3rd District Alderperson to the following standing
245 committees, boards, commissions, and other committees:

- 246 1. Administrative Committee
- 247 2. Judiciary Committee
- 248 3. Board of Public Works (alternate)
- 249 4. Historic Preservation Commission (Chair)
- 250 5. Onalaska School District Liaison
251

252 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. T. Smith, to approve the appointment of Ald. Steven Nott
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253 to the Administrative Committee, Judiciary Committee, Board of Public Works (alternate),
254 Historic Preservation Committee (Chair), and Onalaska School District Liaison.

255
256 Ald. Stevens asked if vacancies have been created on both the Parks and Recreation Board and
257 the Plan Commission with Ald. Nott's appointment to the Common Council.

258
259 Mayor K. Smith told Ald. Stevens there now are vacancies on both the Parks and Recreation
260 Board and Plan Commission, and she said she plans to discuss the vacancies over the next month
261 and make appointments to both bodies at the February 11 Common Council meeting.

262
263 Amanda said she believes the Plan Commission seat would be filled by Andrea Benco, who
264 serves as Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Board.

265
266 On voice vote, motion carried, 4-0, with one abstention (Ald. Nott).

267
268 E. Proclamation in Recognition of Mayor Joe Chilsen

269
270 Mayor K. Smith read the Proclamation in Recognition of Mayor Joe Chilsen.

271
272 Former Mayor Chilsen said, "This is completely unnecessary. This is why people come to
273 public service: to serve the public. They shouldn't do it because they're going to get a
274 proclamation or anything else for it at the end of the day. I thank the citizens for everything they
275 have given me, and the people on the Common Council, and specifically the members of the
276 team that really run the city. I want to thank you for everything you've done for me, done for the
277 city, and on behalf of the citizens. I don't want to take credit for things you really did, so I
278 won't. One last thing: I really had nothing to do with the format to how they selected the new
279 mayor. I'm going to duck that one right now. ... Thank you, everybody."

280
281 F. Library Statistics

282
283 Mayor K. Smith said she has no library statistics to report.

284
285 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION FROM THE**
286 **FOLLOWING COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/BOARDS:**

287
288 All items listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one
289 motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member requests
290 removal, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in the
291 order of business in the non-consent agenda.

292
293 **Item 6 – Consent Agenda**

294
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295 A. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting(s)

296

297 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

298

299 B. Approve 2019 Omni Center Financials

300 C. Approve 2019 General Fund Financials

301 D. Authorization to proceed with an application for a State Trust Fund Loan (STFL) on the
302 2020 Capital Projects that are not eligible for General Obligation Bonds in the amount of
303 \$542,000

304

305 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

306

307 E. Approval of Operator's Licenses as listed on report dated January 8, 2020

308 F. Approval of Temporary Class "B"/ "Class B" Retailer's License for La Crosse Area
309 Builders Association (LABA) for March 27-29, 2020 for LABA Home Show at the Omni
310 Center, 255 Riders Club Road, Onalaska

311 G. Approval to move forward on issuance of Class "A" licenses to salons, spas, barbershops,
312 and similar establishments

313

314 **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

315

316 H. Approval of soil borings for Green Coulee Intersection Project by Braun Intertec in the
317 amount of \$5,125

318 I. Approval of change order #1, #2, and #3 for the Public Works Facility Addition Project
319 by All-American Lumber Company, Inc. in the amount of \$13,343.79

320 J. Place on file the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources MS4 Program Permit
321 Evaluation Summary

322 K. Approval of professional engineering services for Storm Water Management Plan update
323 and storm water modeling with Strand Associates, Inc. not to exceed \$75,000

324 L. Approval of architecture services for City Hall Roof Project by Vantage Architects not to
325 exceed \$13,500

326 M. Approval of stop sign installation on all directions at Rolling Oaks Drive and Charles
327 Court

328

329 **PLAN COMMISSION**

330

331 N. Approval of an Easement Agreement for 1785 East Main Street, Onalaska, WI 54650

332 O. Approval to retain R-1 Zoning for residential properties along County Road PH on the
333 new zoning map

334 P. Approval of 2020 Plan Sub-Committee and Plan Commission meeting schedule

335

336 **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

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- 337
338 Q. Approval of Shared Ride Financials
339 R. Approval of 3rd Quarter MTU Transit Financials
340

341 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Stevens, to approve the Consent Agenda.

342
343 On voice vote, motion carried.

344
345 **Non-Consent Agenda**

346
347 **Item 7 – RECAP ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

348
349 As there were no items removed from the Consent Agenda, Item 8 was addressed next.

350
351 **Item 8 – FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 352
353 A. Vouchers

354
355 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the vouchers expended since the last
356 Common Council meeting on December 10, 2019 in the amount of \$13,830,230,88.

357
358 On voice vote, motion carried.

- 359
360 B. Update regarding a county notification system called RAVE/Smart911 and the
361 discontinuance of Code Red

362
363 Fire Chief Hayes noted the city has utilized an emergency notification system called Code Red
364 for several years to which citizens and visitors could subscribe and be informed of incidents such
365 as a train derailment or road closures. Fire Chief Hayes said Code Red “has run its course with
366 the city” and told the Council the city had worked with La Crosse County over the last year. La
367 Crosse City has attempted to convert to the RAVE system, with the signup mechanism being
368 Smart911.

369
370 Fire Chief Hayes noted he had attended the La Crosse County Chiefs meeting Monday evening
371 and said, “The difference in the program that we’re looking at [is] La Crosse County has worked
372 diligently to try to work out an agreement to where we can move to this program [called]
373 RAVE/Smart911 so we have continuity throughout the county, which is something that is
374 missing. We’re very fragmented in different jurisdictions using different programs and different
375 radio frequencies. One of the things the La Crosse Area Planning Committee was looking at was
376 to share services for fire and EMS. One of the things we can look at is shared programs, and
377 RAVE/Smart911 is one of those programs.

378
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379 There are several benefits to this. I'll start with the disadvantage because I like to end on a good
380 note. The disadvantage is change [and] the transition of moving all the people over the years
381 who have subscribed to Code Red to move over to RAVE and Smart911. We're going to
382 continue to market that. We're going to continue to get the message out. We've had individuals
383 come to my office, pull up a chair beside me, and I've enrolled and subscribed them in the
384 program. People are calling continuously. Our administrative assistant [Stacy Hoeft] and others
385 will enroll them over the computer should they have a difficult time doing that. It's change, and
386 it's going to take a little bit of growing pain to get everybody transitioned over. The benefits,
387 though – again, it's continuity. Now you have multiple jurisdictions in the county using a new
388 program we're all familiar with and we can all depend upon one another. Should there be an
389 issue, we all work on it together versus, 'That's your problem. You have to deal with it.'

390
391 Second, when we talk about shared services, that also means shared cost. Whereas we were
392 paying roughly \$13,000 budgeting every year for the Code Red program, we're now paying
393 \$1,500, which is an \$11,500 savings every year. That is big. Part of my job as a department
394 head is to be financially prudent in what we do. This is one of the decisions we made, and this is
395 a shared cost with multiple jurisdictions. I applaud La Crosse County. Jay Loeffler, who is the
396 communications director, was really pushing for this, as well as the former emergency
397 management director. We now have a new one, Kevin Rindy, who is working with me. ... He
398 was with myself and Chief Ashbeck today for about 2½ hours working on this, trying to fix some
399 bugs and things that we're working on, as well as our Emergency Operations Plan and where that
400 fits in. ... We moved to it rather quickly. That was a disadvantage because if we would have
401 waited we would have had to renew our contract on January 1, 2020, and we would have been
402 locked in for another year paying the other amount. I had to rush through this and get us signed
403 into the other program rather quickly to have savings for this year's budget. We're working
404 through that.

405
406 The last thing is usability and friendliness for us. It is a three-step process to send out an alert.
407 Should an event occur ... there are three buttons: *'What's Your Event?'*, *'Who Do You Want It*
408 *To Go To/What Do You Want To Send With It?'*, and *'When Do You Want To Send?'* That's it.
409 You almost have to have launch codes on the other one. ... It was very challenging for us. This
410 is user-friendly for us, and it was the right move at the right time. ... We're going to have some
411 growing pains transitioning to this. There are going to be people who still expect the Code Red
412 because not everybody is on Facebook [and] not everybody watches the news. As I mentioned at
413 the [January 8 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting], continue to get this out in your
414 newsletters, the city's newsletters and the city's website, where you can enroll now. We have
415 that information there."

416
417 Mayor K. Smith asked Fire Chief Hayes to explain how citizens may enroll.

418
419 Fire Chief Hayes directed citizens to cityofonalaska.com and to a link that reads "Get
420 RAVE/Smart911 (Replacing Code Red System)." Clicking that link will take citizens directly to
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421 the subscription site.

422

423 City Administrator Rindfleisch thanked Fire Chief Hayes for his efforts on working with La
424 Crosse County, looking for ways for the city to have a more cost-effective system, and also for
425 ways to partner with the city's neighboring municipalities. City Administrator Rindfleisch also
426 thanked La Crosse County for taking the lead with this initiative and said, "It does go to show
427 that we are willing partners in broader regionalization of services so long as that there's a benefit
428 in terms of the cost and a shared and equitable level of services to provide to everybody."

429

430 Ald. Stevens noted the enrollment process had been relatively simple and said he is encouraging
431 others to enroll as well.

432

433 **Item 9 – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

434

435 A. Review and consideration of expectations of the Compensation Study for 2020

436

437 Ald. Stevens said this item had been placed on the Non-Consent Agenda because the proposal
438 from Baker Tilly had been sent to Finance and Personnel Committee members late. This item
439 had been forwarded to the Common Council, and Ald. Stevens asked City Administrator
440 Rindfleisch to provide the Council with a brief recap.

441

442 City Administrator Rindfleisch told the Council the documents that had been included in their
443 packets provide a recap of the services Baker Tilly will provide, and thus he will not be
444 discussing it in its entirety. City Administrator Rindfleisch told the Council he has worked with
445 Baker Tilly and its director, Ann Antonsen, when she was employed by Springsted, which now is
446 part of Baker Tilly. City Administrator Rindfleisch said, "The process and procedure is almost
447 exactly the same as what you've gone through in the past. I found the process to be very
448 thorough and surprisingly cost-effective – it's much less than I anticipated when I reached out to
449 try to get a quote for the study and a descriptor of the work they'd be willing to do. There is a lot
450 of inputs provided both by the employees, by the Council, and by staff as to the positions, a
451 review of that and making sure they're comparing apples to apples and not just title to title,
452 which really doesn't speak to what each individual employee does on a daily basis compared to
453 other communities. They have the resources to compare to the private sector, which we would
454 not normally have, so we'd be able to be competitive in that nature."

455

456 City Administrator Rindfleisch pointed out Baker Tilly would utilize a job evaluation system
457 known as the Systematic Analysis and Factor Evaluation (SAFE) System, which is a method
458 designed to measure job factors that apply specifically to local government. The system has
459 been successfully utilized for many years throughout the nation, is periodically updated to
460 account for changes in technology, and has been reviewed by the United States Circuit Court, in
461 conjunction with an Equal Employment Opportunity suit, and found acceptable to the court.
462 City Administrator Rindfleisch noted this item was approved through the 2020 Capital

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463 Improvements Budget and said the Council has the following options:
464

465

- 465 • Accept Baker Tilly’s proposal and proceed.
- 466 • Accept Baker Tilly’s proposal, with additional considerations.
- 467 • Not accept Baker Tilly’s proposal and seek additional estimates and quotes.

468

469 Ald. Stevens noted he had examined the proposal since the January 8 Finance and Personnel
470 Committee meeting and said it appears to be sufficient. However, Ald. Stevens also told the
471 Council a city resident had contacted him and asked if the city was considering other consulting
472 firms in the proposal. Ald. Stevens said that while he understands Baker Tilly has an excellent
473 reputation, and that he also is pleased the proposal is cost-effective, “in the interest of fairness
474 and transparency, I think it might be appropriate to check the market and see what else is
475 available in terms of proposals.”

476

477 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. Wulf, that the City of Onalaska issue a Request for
478 Proposals to obtain a competitive bid for the consulting service for the Compensation Study for
479 2020.

480

481 Ald. Wulf told the Council she had spoken with a citizen who resides in Third District and had
482 expressed concerns regarding the city not going out for an RFP. Ald. Wulf asked City
483 Administrator Rindfleisch to discuss the pros and cons of going out for an RFP, as well as a
484 timeline.

485

486 City Administrator Rindfleisch referred to the recap of services Baker Tilly would provide and
487 said under the proposal, Baker Tilly would be able to begin in three weeks after receiving the
488 official notice to proceed, and the study would be completed within six months. City
489 Administrator Rindfleisch said he believes six months “is a very aggressive window” and told
490 the Council his proposal has never been to skip the RFP process. Rather, the proposal was to
491 obtain an estimate for the Capital Improvements Budget, which had been done.

492

493 City Administrator Rindfleisch told the Council, “The decision is yours what to do with that. If
494 the target is to complete that within this year and implement it this year, timing is of the essence.
495 We certainly would work and see if we get a proposal by the February [Common Council]
496 meeting for approval. The follow-up is, are we looking at the formal RFP process? Or are we
497 looking at getting additional quotes for use and review, and then make a decision off of that?
498 They are separate things. A formal RFP would have the independent scoring from staff and
499 possibly the elected officials. The danger is you may find someone who does it for less, but may
500 not do the same thing you’re looking for.”

501

502 Ald. Nott said that while he does not object to an RFP, “I do want to state that it’s very important
503 that whoever we would consider does have a track record of success in litigation. Classification

504 and compensation, by nature, are very conducive to challenges, and it's important to have
505 somebody who has a proven track record of being able to successfully support their own findings
506 and recommendations inside of the legal realms. Within the RFP, I just ask that we really
507 consider [firms] who have a proven track record.”

508
509 Ald. T. Smith stated he agrees with Ald. Nott and noted he has utilized the services of Baker
510 Tilly for several years within the private sector. Ald. T. Smith said Baker Tilly is a well-
511 respected firm that is knowledgeable and has a solid plan. However, Ald. T. Smith also said he
512 believes the city should explore other options so that the city is not “rubber-stamping it.” Ald. T.
513 Smith added, “I think the urgency is there. I think we've been promising to get this done for
514 years, and we would really like to get this started and at least into place this year. If we can get
515 another RFP or something comparable within a month or so and not delay it any further ... But I
516 think you're going to find these people, this is their background. This is what they do for a
517 living. If there are other ones out there, I'm open to looking so that we have a comparison. But
518 this is a good price. I was really surprised. ... It's usually about double that. It's a good
519 proposal. It's very solid. It's the same one I've actually used three times in over 20 years. But
520 I'm also open to looking [into] if there is another option out there.”

521
522 Ald. Stevens asked if the process would be expedited if he offered to amend his motion and ask
523 that the city obtain comparable quotes to the Baker Tilly study. Ald. Stevens also asked if it
524 would take just as much time to do a full RFP as it would to obtain quotes.

525
526 City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “If we're looking at quotes, what I would anticipate doing is
527 reaching out to whomever I could find. There were a few more firms in the field, but they've
528 been purchased or have closed. It would be a bit of a search to find, but we certainly will do so,
529 but utilizing the information provided by what we already have in front of you from Baker Tilly
530 to see if they can do the same thing at a similar cost. I could do a matrix or score things for the
531 Council to see what they could do. A full RFP potentially would not even receive a proposal
532 from Baker Tilly. That's one consideration, because you would prepare the RFP information,
533 send it out in an appropriate timeframe to come back with results, and score the results based
534 upon what you're asking for. ... We can't send Baker Tilly's out to the public and say, ‘Do this.’
535 You're creating the guidelines you're hoping to accomplish and waiting for results to come back
536 in. Getting estimates and quotes and being able to guide that would be more conducive to
537 getting this off the ground faster.”

538
539 Motion by Ald. Stevens to amend the previous motion and request that the City of Onalaska seek
540 quotes for the 2020 Compensation Study.

541
542 Mayor K. Smith asked that the original motion on the floor be voted down and a new motion
543 then be made.

544
545 Original motion restated:
Reviewed 1/16/2020 by Cari Burmaster

546
547 To ask the City of Onalaska to issue a Request for Proposals regarding the Compensation Study
548 for 2020.

549
550 On voice vote, motion failed, 5-0.

551
552 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. Olson, for the City of Onalaska to request a comparable
553 quote for expectations of the Compensation Study for 2020.

554
555 Ald. Wulf asked City Administrator Rindfleisch if the Common Council would see a second
556 quote by its February 11 meeting, or by its March 10 meeting.

557
558 City Administrator Rindfleisch told Ald. Wulf, “Depending on my availability to find the people
559 to provide quotes, I’d say by February. ... An RFP would be a whole different story. But to do
560 some comparable studies of some kind, I’d say I’d have some results to you by February.”

561
562 Ald. Wulf stated she will vote against the motion on the floor and said, “I think what we have
563 before us is a good plan.”

564
565 Motion restated:

566
567 That the City of Onalaska should acquire a comparable quote for the Compensation Study for
568 2020.

569
570 On voice vote, motion carried, 3-2.

571
572 **Item 10 – ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

573
574 A. Approval of Special Event Permit for Sole Burner for American Cancer Society on
575 Sunday, April 26, 2020 from approximately 6am – 2pm starting at 2700 Midwest Drive,
576 Onalaska, WI

577
578 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. T. Smith, to approve a Special Event Permit for Sole
579 Burner for American Cancer Society on Sunday, April 26, 2020 from approximately 6am – 2pm
580 starting at 2700 Midwest Drive, Onalaska, WI, pending the receipt of the \$250 application fee
581 and the Certificate of Insurance.

582
583 Mayor K. Smith asked Cari if she has received either the application fee or the COI.

584
585 Cari said she had not received either item as of today.

586

587 Ald. Wulf noted she had asked Cari how the Council should proceed and said Cari told her the
588 Council should approve the Special Event Permit pending the receipt of the \$250 application fee
589 and the COI.

590
591 On voice vote, motion carried.

592
593 **Item 11 – REPORT FROM CITY CLERK**

594
595 A. Update on Spring Primary and Spring Election

596
597 Cari noted the deadline for nomination papers had passed and told the Council there will be a
598 primary February 18 for the Office of Mayor. Cari noted former Second District Alderperson
599 Bob Muth, former First District Alderperson Jim Binash, Terry Bauer, and current Mayor Kim
600 Smith all were candidates for the position until Bob Muth had announced earlier Tuesday he was
601 withdrawing from the race. Cari noted Bob’s name still will appear on the ballot as he had
602 submitted nomination papers. The two candidates who receive the most votes will move forward
603 to the April 7 election, at which time three alderpersons also will be elected. Ald. Olson and
604 Thomas Harmon are running for the First District seat; Ald. Wulf is running unopposed in
605 Second District; and Mayor Kim Smith and former Third District Alderperson Jack Pogreba are
606 running for the Third District seat. The presidential preference primary also will be held April 7,
607 and County Supervisor, Onalaska School Board, and State of Wisconsin Justice seats also will be
608 decided.

609
610 **Item 12 – CLOSED SESSION**

611
612 To consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin
613 Statutes for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance
614 evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or
615 exercises responsibility:

- 616
617
 - Performance Evaluation of City Administrator

618
619 To consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin
620 Statutes for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the
621 investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or
622 bargaining reasons required a closed session:

- 623
624
 - Sanitary Sewer Service Agreement from La Crosse

625
626 To consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(g) of the Wisconsin
627 Statutes for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is

628 rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to
629 litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved:

630

- 631 • IAFF, International Association of Firefighters, Local 127: Grievance 2019-3 RE: Part
- 632 Time Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's)
- 633 • IAFF, International Association of Firefighters, Local 127: Prohibited Practice Complaint
- 634 – RE: Part Time Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's)

635

636 If any action is required in Open Session, as the result of the Closed Session, the Council will
637 reconvene in Open Session to take the necessary action and/or continue on with the printed
638 agenda.

639

640 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. Olson, to convene in Closed Session.

641

642 On roll call vote: Ald. Diane Wulf – aye, Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Tom Smith – aye, Ald. Dan
643 Stevens – aye, Ald. Steven Nott – aye. In Closed Session.

644

645 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. T. Smith, to convene in Open Session at 10:25 p.m..

646

647 On roll call vote: Ald. Diane Wulf – aye, Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Tom Smith – aye, Ald. Dan
648 Stevens – aye, Ald. Steven Nott – aye. In Open Session.

649

650 **Item 13 – REPORT FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

651

652 B. **Resolution 2-2020** – Regarding City of Onalaska Standard Form For Regional Services
653 Agreement

654

655 Motion by Ald. Nott, second by Ald. Wulf, to approve Resolution 2-2020 – Regarding City of
656 Onalaska Standard Form For Regional Services Agreement.

657

658 City Administrator Rindfleisch thanked the Council for its continued support for looking at ways
659 the city may continue to regionalize with its partners so that it may provide higher-level service
660 to its residents. The resolution also establishes the guidelines for staff to examine when looking
661 at regional service agreements.

662

663 On voice vote, motion carried.

664

665 A. **Resolution 1-2020** – Regarding Expansion Of Options For Sanitary Sewer Services

666

667 Motion by Ald. Nott, second by Ald. Olson, to approve Resolution 1-2020 – Regarding
668 Expansion of Options For Sanitary Sewer Services.

669
670 City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “This is not a place we had hoped to be, but we definitely
671 appreciate looking at additional options [because] so far what we have received from the City of
672 La Crosse does not meet Council’s established guidelines for regional service agreements.”

673
674 On voice vote, motion carried.

675
676 **Adjournment**

677
678 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. T. Smith, to adjourn at 10:29 p.m.

679
680 On voice vote, motion carried.

681
682
683 Recorded by:

684
685 Kirk Bey