

1 The Meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September
2 10, 2019. 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 Joe Chilsen, Ald. Tom Smith,
5 Ald. Dan Stevens, Ald. Boondi Iyer, Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Kim Smith, 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 Chilsen read the following: “*City Council, Committee, and Sub-Committee meetings shall*
20 *be conducted in a courteous manner. Citizens, Council, and Committee members shall be*
21 *allowed to state their positions in an atmosphere free of slander, insults, obscene remarks,*
22 *threats of violence, or for the use of the Common Council or any Committee meeting as a*
23 *platform for political positions. Sufficient warning may be given by the Sergeant of Arms at any*
24 *time during the remarks, and in the event that any individual shall violate the rules of decorum*
25 *heretofore set forth, such person may be cut off from further comment or debate.*”
26

27 **Item 4 – PUBLIC INPUT: (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**
28

29 Mayor Chilsen called for anyone wishing to provide public input.
30

31 **Park Hunter, Pastor of Onalaska United Methodist Church**
32 **412 4th Avenue North**
33 **Onalaska**
34

35 “On behalf of the faith community, I want to bring a word of blessing. And for those who would
36 like to pray, a prayer as well. We have come to the end of the summer season. Many of our kids
37 and youth are back in school, and change is in the air. It felt like fall. Today it feels like the
38 jungle. It’s hot and humid out there, and it’s an exciting time of year. Psalm 1 talks about
39 people being blessed who live by streams of living water, being like trees that bear fruit in
40 season, and in all they do they prosper. I spent a lot of time this summer at Dash-Park and at the
41 Great River Landing and looking out at the Mississippi River and seeing the many great things
42 that go on in our community, [including] the sculpture that’s going up, the concerts that took

Reviewed 9/11/19 by Cari Burmaster

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43 place this summer, and the various places that people gather just thinking about how blessed we
44 are to live in this community and the ways that we do prosper. We're grateful for your work in
45 making that possible for us. If folks would like to pray, they're welcome to join me: *'God, we
46 give you thanks for this community in which we live, and for good leaders, good citizens – all of
47 the elements that come together to make this a place of blessing for so many. As we send our
48 children and our youth back to school, we pray for their safety and well-being this year. We
49 pray for our teachers. Lord, we pray for those who serve and watch over us and protect us in
50 our community – our police and firefighters and EMTs, those who work on utilities and make
51 sure the roads are safe for us. And we pray for our leaders, both in business and in our
52 volunteer organizations, and in government. Lord, we are grateful for those who choose to give
53 their time to serve who make this a better place. We pray that you will continue to watch over us
54 that we might go from strength to strength. We ask these things in your name. Amen.'* Thank
55 you."

56

57 Mayor Chilsen called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that
58 portion of the meeting.

59

60 **Item 5 – REPORT FROM THE MAYOR:**

61

62 A. Library Statistics

63

64 Mayor Chilsen reported that 16,221 individuals passed through the library's doors, and also that
65 total circulation was 18,390. The library collected \$100 in revenue from usage of the meeting
66 room.

67

68 B. Recognition of probation completion of Onalaska Firefighter Erin Koller

69

70 Fire Chief Hayes told the Council that Firefighter Koller had completed her one-year probation
71 on August 6, noting she had joined the Fire Department in July 2016 and became a full-time
72 firefighter in August 2018. Fire Chief Hayes presented Firefighter Koller her collar insignia that
73 signifies she is a full-time firefighter.

74

75 C. Swearing in of Onalaska Police Chief Charles Ashbeck

76

77 Cari swore in Charles Ashbeck as the City of Onalaska's Police Chief.

78

79 D. Swearing in of Onalaska Police Officer Michael Bottcher

80

81 Cari swore in Michael Bottcher as a City of Onalaska Police Officer.

82

83 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION FROM THE**
84 **FOLLOWING COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/BOARDS:**

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85
86 All items listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one
87 motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member requests
88 removal, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in the
89 order of business in the non-consent agenda.

90
91 **Item 6 – Consent Agenda**

92
93 A. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting(s)

94
95 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

96
97 B. Approve 2019 Omni Center Financials

98 C. Approve 2019 General Fund Financials

99 D. Approval of agreement with Superior Technology Group, LLC regarding the
100 iCrimeFighter

101 E. Authorization to use sinking funds in the amount of \$8,688 for purchase of Windows 10
102 operating system upgrade to supplement budgeted project for a total cost of \$33,687.86

103 F. Approval of WI-Department Employee Trust Fund Resolution and employer
104 representative

105 G. Authorization/award of City of Onalaska Banking Services Contract to Bremer Bank for
106 years 2020-2022

107
108 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

109
110 H. Approval of stipends for additional duties due to Planning Manager upcoming leave as
111 listed in Planning Manager memo

112
113 **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

114
115 I. Approval of **Ordinance 1651-2019** to amend Article E of Chapter 3 of Title 2 of the
116 Code of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to Joint Municipal Court (Third and
117 Final Reading)

118 J. Approval of **Ordinance 1652-2019** to annex land located in the Northeast ¼ of the
119 Southwest ¼ in Section 32, Township 17 North, Range 7 West from the Town of
120 Onalaska to the City of Onalaska (Wessel Annexation) (First and Second Reading)

121 K. Approval of **Ordinance 1653-2019** to amend Section 2-5-4 of the Code of Ordinance of
122 the City of Onalaska relating to specific conflicts of interest (First and Second Reading)

123
124 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

125
126 L. Approval of Operator’s Licenses at listed on report dated September 4, 2019

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- 127 M. Approval of Special Events permits for:
128 1. Down Syndrome Awareness Walk on Saturday, September 14, 2019
129 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. starting at Onalaska Omni Center
130 2. Neighborhood Block Party on Saturday, September 14, 2019 from 11
131 a.m. – 8 p.m. on 8th Avenue between Green Bay Street and Wilson
132 Street
133 N. Approval of Firefighter’s Association request for the City of Onalaska’s support for use
134 of the City’s facility, personnel and equipment for the 9th Annual Firehouse 5K Run /
135 Walk
136 O. Approval of 2019 Cemetery Financials
137

138 **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**
139

- 140 P. Reject additional fifteen (15) minute parking restrictions along 3rd Avenue North at 301
141 Main Street
142 Q. Approval of \$1,200 payment by property owner for three City owned trees removed at
143 2253 Quarry Lane
144 R. Approval of purchase of Schwarze vacuum street sweeper from RNOW, Inc. in the
145 amount of \$209,955
146 S. Approval of end loader bucket repairs in the amount of \$4,681
147 T. Approval of placing roundabout into 2020 Capital Improvement Budget for possible
148 funding at Green Coulee Intersection
149 U. Approval of buried in-ground water system reservoir in Green Coulee
150 V. Approval of agreement for general engineering services with Short Elliot Hendrickson
151 not to exceed \$5,000
152 W. Approval of utility / street charges for 2700 & 2660 Abbey Road to be paid on twenty
153 (20) year schedule with signed assessment waiver and agreement
154

155 **PLAN COMMISSION**
156

- 157 X. Conditional Use Permit request filed by Caleb Sheng of SMJ International, 49030
158 Pontiac Trail, Suite 100, Wixom, MI 48393 on behalf of CenturyTel of Wisconsin, LLC,
159 2615 East Avenue South, La Crosse, WI and wireless carrier Verizon to replace six (6)
160 existing antennas with nine (9) new antennas and replace eighteen (18) Remote Radio
161 Units (RRU) with six (6) new RRU, and adding ancillary equipment to the existing
162 telecommunications tower located at 580 Lester Avenue, Onalaska, WI 54650 (Tax
163 Parcel #: 18-4013-0) (FIO)
164 Y. Conditional Use Permit request filed by Lori Kopecky of Wireless Planning, LLC of
165 2310 Mill Street, New London, WI 54961 an agent on behalf of wireless carrier US
166 Cellular and USCOC of La Crosse, LLC, 2310 Mill Street, New London, WI 54961 on
167 behalf of 2GJF, LLP, 3264 George Street, Onalaska, WI 54650, to replace nine (9)
168 existing antennas with six (6) new antennas, replace three (3) new Remote Radio Units

- 169 (RRU) with nine (9) new RRU, and adding ancillary equipment to the existing
170 telecommunications tower located at 1033 2nd Avenue SW, Onalaska, WI 54650 (Tax
171 Parcel #: 18-939-0) (FIO)
172 Z. Approval of an amendment to the Unified Development Code (UDC) to delete Part 2 of
173 Chapter 6 of Title 13, related to Signage in the City of Onalaska Code of Ordinances
174 AA. Approval of an annexation application for Tax Parcel #: 9-57-3, (0.030 acres total,
175 State Road 16) filed by Ben Phillips of BLP Holdings LLC, 2726 Larson Street, La
176 Crosse, WI 54601
177

178 **UTILITIES COMMITTEE**
179

- 180 BB. Approval of Shared Ride Financials
181 CC. Approval of MTU Transit Financials
182 DD. Approval of 2019 Storm Water Financials
183 EE. Approval of 2019 Sewer Financials
184 FF. Approval of 2019 Water Financials
185

186 **ROOM TAX COMMISSION**
187

- 188 GG. Approval of 2019 Room Tax Financials
189 HH. Authorization to repair fire pit at Great River Landing not to exceed \$3,000
190 II. Approval to change next meeting date to November 20th at 4:00 p.m.
191

192 **JOINT MUNICIPAL COURT COMMITTEE**
193

- 194 JJ. Approval of 2019 Joint Municipal Court Financials
195

196 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the Consent Agenda.
197

198 On voice vote, motion carried.
199

200 **Non-Consent Agenda**
201

202 **Item 7 – RECAP ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**
203

204 As there were no items removed from the Consent Agenda, Item 8 was addressed next.
205

206 **Item 8 – FINANCE COMMITTEE**
207

- 208 A. Vouchers
209

210 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Iyer, to approve the vouchers expended since the last
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211 Common Council meeting on August 13, 2019 in the amount of \$2,252,893.52.

212

213 On voice vote, motion carried.

214

215 B. **Resolution 36-2019** – Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of \$1,510,000 General
216 Obligation Refunding Bonds

217

218 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve Resolution 36-2019 – Authorizing
219 the Issuance and Sale of \$1,510,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds.

220

221 Brad Viegut, Managing Director for Robert W. Baird, noted he is serving as the City of
222 Onalaska's underwriter for the bonding transaction, and he told the Council an interest rate of
223 1.85 percent had been finalized earlier Tuesday. Brad said the estimated interest rate was
224 slightly more than 2 percent when he had addressed the Finance and Personnel Committee on
225 August 7. Brad noted this is a refunding bond that is a refinancing for savings, which means the
226 city will be exchanging higher-rate debt with lower-rate debt. The city is not adding any new
227 projects, nor it is extending the repayments. Brad reported the present-value savings for this
228 transaction is \$119,220 and noted it is approximately \$20,000 better than what he had utilized for
229 planning purposes in August. Brad referred to the detailed analysis included in
230 Councilmembers' packets and said it outlines the replacement of the prior debt in which the was
231 paying interest rates ranging from 4.5 to 5.85 percent. Moody's has assigned the City of
232 Onalaska a rating of Aa2.

233

234 Mayor Chilsen thanked Brad for his work in assisting the city with saving costs.

235

236 On roll call vote: Ald. Dan Stevens – aye, Ald. Boondi Iyer – aye, Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald.
237 Tom Smith – aye, Ald. Diane Wulf – aye, Ald. Kim Smith – aye. Motion carried, 6-0.

238

239 C. Approval of a Safe Routes to School Contract between the La Crosse County Health
240 Department and the Onalaska Police Department in the amount of \$500 for the time
241 period from September 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

242

243 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. T. Smith, to approve a Safe Routes to School Contract
244 between the La Crosse County Health Department and the Onalaska Police Department in the
245 amount of \$500 for the time period from September 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.

246

247 Ald. Stevens noted this item had not appeared on the agenda for the September 4 Finance and
248 Personnel Committee meeting and asked if it was a recent addition.

249

250 Fred said this item had come in after the Finance and Personnel Committee had met.

251

252 On voice vote, motion carried.

Reviewed 9/11/19 by Cari Burmaster

253
254 D. Authorization / award of the Assessing Services Contract with the City of Onalaska for
255 the years 2020-2024
256

257 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Iyer, to award Accurate Appraisal the Assessing
258 Services Contract with the City of Onalaska for the years 2020-2024.
259

260 Ald. K. Smith noted that Jim Danielson of Accurate Appraisal is attending this evening's
261 meeting and is available to answer questions.
262

263 Ald. Wulf asked why this item had not appeared on the September 4 Finance and Personnel
264 Committee meeting agenda.
265

266 Ald. K. Smith told Ald. Wulf there was a significant difference between Accurate Appraisal and
267 the other firm that had responded. Ald. K. Smith further explained that Fred wanted to perform
268 due diligence and contact the references that were listed as well as the other individuals that had
269 worked with Accurate Appraisals. Ald. K. Smith said, "The assessment process is very critically
270 important to our community. We had been with our previous assessor for quite a long time, so
271 making that separation is, to me, I'll just say a very scary transition. We want to make sure
272 we've checked into every possible thing before making the decision to leave the assessor we
273 have an established relationship with. But we do also have to look out for the taxpayers of
274 Onalaska, and I think that Fred and team have done due diligence in vetting Mr. Danielson's
275 company. I feel confident we've done everything we could to make the best decision we can and
276 make this recommendation."
277

278 Fred told the Council the city had "a very small window" in which to make a decision, and he
279 said, "We felt it was necessary to bring him [Jim Danielson] in for an actual interview, which
280 was after the Finance and Personnel [meeting]."
281

282 Ald. Wulf said he had been asked about this item a couple of times earlier Tuesday, and that she
283 assumed it was a timing issue.
284

285 On voice vote, motion carried.
286

287 **Item 9 – REPORT FROM CITY CLERK**
288

289 A. Preliminary Estimate of the January 1, 2019 Population
290

291 Cari reported the preliminary estimate of the City of Onalaska's population as of January 1, 2019
292 is 18,988.
293

294 Ald. T. Smith asked how the population is estimated.
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295
296 Cari told Ald. T. Smith the State of Wisconsin had estimated the city's population, noting the
297 city provided the state data pertaining to building permits. The state then performs the
298 calculations to determine the estimated population. Cari noted the state estimates the population
299 every year between censuses, which occur every 10 years.

300
301 Ald. Stevens asked Cari if any studies based on size and infrastructure had been conducted
302 regarding what the City of Onalaska's ideal population would be.

303
304 Jarrod said much of the City of Onalaska's infrastructure (e.g. water, sewer, storm water) is
305 adequately sized for population trends the city has seen over the years. Jarrod noted the city has
306 streets that border on state highway traffic numbers and said, "We facilitate the movement of the
307 cars fairly well within the city. I think you're going to see more infill development within the
308 city with our greenfield space being consumed, but I think our infrastructure that we have can
309 handle that ingrowth for what I consider the foreseeable future."

310
311 Mayor Chilsen said the estimate he has seen states the City of Onalaska's population will be
312 25,000 by 2035.

313
314 **Item 10 – ALDERPERSON STEVENS**

- 315
316 A. Onalaska Events
- 317 • Downtown Sound closeout
 - 318 • Onalaska Sculpture
 - 319 • Onalaska Hilltopper Rotary Club Pork Q benefitting Onalaska Police Department
320 K-9

321
322 Ald. Stevens shared the following:

- 323
- 324 • Downtown Sound, a free concert event open to the public which is hosted by the
325 Onalaska Hilltopper Rotary Club at Dash-Park, has ended for the 2019 season. A
326 different band is featured each week. Attendees were comprised of a large group ranging
327 from younger single individuals to families with children to retirees. Attendees danced at
328 the events that occurred toward the end of the season. Ald. Stevens said the event has
329 been judged to be successful, and he noted it was made possible due to a fusion between
330 Onalaska residents, community organizations, local business, and local artists. Ald.
331 Stevens said by bringing everyone together, a forum was created for area musicians,
332 public goodwill was provided, area businesses received exposure, food items were
333 collected for the food pantry, and funds were generated for the Onalaska Sculpture. Ald.
334 Stevens said Downtown Sound provided an opportunity to expand the donor base for the
335 sculpture by hundreds of individuals. Ald. Stevens said, "I think that's a great way to

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336 have literal public buy-in and support for our public art.” Ald. Stevens also said 62
337 percent of concert patrons had voted to change the name of the concert series to “Great
338 River Sound.”

- 339 • There will be a public dedication for the Onalaska Sculpture at 5:15 p.m. on Tuesday,
340 September 24 at the Great River Landing. A celebration of the sculpture will be held
341 following the completion of the dedication at Mary Cody’s Restaurant. Ald. Stevens
342 described the sculpture as being “a wonderful new focal point in our revitalized
343 downtown corridor,” and he also noted that this public art project occurred completely
344 with private fundraising. Ald. Stevens stressed no taxpayer funding was utilized for the
345 sculpture’s creation or emplacement, and he said he believes private funds have been set
346 aside for its future maintenance. Ald. Stevens expressed his gratitude toward the
347 individuals who made donations, as well as the artists who had worked on the project.
- 348 • The Onalaska Hilltopper Rotary Club, of which Ald. Stevens is a member, is hosting a
349 Pork Q to benefit the Onalaska Police Department K-9 Unit, as well as other rotary
350 causes. The event will be held at Dickinson Funeral Home between 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
351 on Thursday, October 3, and it will include a drive-through operation.
- 352 • The Onalaska Police Reserve Unit is hosting a Chicken Q on Thursday.
- 353 • Ald. Stevens said he wants to encourage citizens, groups, businesses, and organizations to
354 find ways to come together for the city’s benefit, adding he believes the examples he had
355 mentioned contribute to improving the quality of life in Onalaska. Further, Ald. Stevens
356 said he believes those efforts help the city without adversely affecting the city tax levy.

357

358 **Item 11 – CLOSED SESSION**

359

360 To consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin
361 Statutes for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the
362 investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or
363 bargaining reasons require a closed session:

364

- 365 • Discussion and negotiation strategy regarding the proposed Sanitary Sewer
366 Agreement with the City of La Crosse
- 367 • IAFF, International Association of Firefighters, Local 127 – For Bargaining
368 Purposes
- 369 • OPFA, Onalaska Professional Police Association – For Bargaining Purposes
- 370 • SORD, Supervisory Officers Relation Division – For Bargaining Purposes

371

372 And under Section 19.85 (1)(g) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of conferring with
373 legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning
374 strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become
375 involved:

376

377 • Tire damage on Abbey Road project

378

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

382

383 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. T. Smith, to convene in Closed Session.

384

385 On roll call vote: Ald. Dan Stevens – aye, Ald. Diane Wulf – aye, Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald.
386 Kim Smith – aye, Ald. Boondi Iyer – aye, Ald. Tom Smith – aye. In Closed Session at 7:32 p.m.

387

388

389 Recorded by:

390

391 Kirk Bey