

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

1

1 The Common Council Organizational Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday,
2 April 21, 2020. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted at City
3 Hall.

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

7
8 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, City Clerk Cari Burmaster, City Attorney
9 Amanda Jackson, Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, Human Resource Director
10 Hope Burchell, Police Chief Charles Ashbeck, and all Department Heads.

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 at 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 – Approve of minutes from previous meeting**

28

29 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Nott, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as
30 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

31

32 On voice vote, motion carried.

33

34 **Item 5 – Public Input: (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

35

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

37

38 **Leanne Stokes**
39 **324 14th Avenue North**
40 **Onalaska**

41

42 “I’m attending your Zoom Council meeting this evening to ask that you consider naming Jack
Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

2

43 Pogreba to the vacant alderperson's seat in the Third District in Onalaska. He was the candidate
44 who was on the ballot in the spring election. He received 749 votes and was extremely close to
45 the vote tally of Kim Smith, who won the seat with 776. Since Kim won the mayoral race, this
46 seat is now vacant. I do not have a vested interest in this race as I do not live in the Third
47 District, and I have never met this gentleman. What I do think is very important for you to
48 consider in your decision is that he received 749 votes, while Kim Smith received 776, [which is]
49 a difference of only 27 votes, or 0.0176 percentage point. I know the normal process in a
50 vacancy is to have the interested party fill out an application and go through an interview with
51 the Common Council. However, I believe Mr. Pogreba has, in essence, already completed these
52 steps. He filled out his paperwork to be a candidate for this seat; got the required amount of
53 signatures, which I believe would be like his application; he was vetted by the voters during the
54 campaign process, which I believe was like his interview. The people who voted in the spring
55 election did so with a great amount of effort on their part, either by voting absentee, doing early
56 voting, or voting on the day of the election, all while there was a pandemic going on. I believe
57 that these voters should have the last say in this decision. I thank you for your thoughtful
58 consideration of this request. Thank you.”

59

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

62

63 **REPORT FROM THE MAYOR:**

64

65 **Item 6 – Common Council Vacancy**

66

67 Amanda noted there a vacancy in the Third District due to Kim Smith assuming the position of
68 Mayor and said, “We are looking at having a special meeting next week on either Tuesday or
69 Thursday to get into the nitty gritty of what to do with that vacancy.” Amanda asked
70 councilmembers to inform either Cari or herself if they have a preference regarding whether to
71 meet Tuesday, April 28, or Thursday, April 30.

72

73 Mayor K. Smith noted she had accepted the mayoral position, which means there is a vacancy in
74 the Third District aldermanic seat. Mayor K. Smith said, “The Council will need to consider
75 that, and we will not be discussing that tonight.”

76

77 Amanda told councilmembers they will be discussing that topic at length next week “because we
78 don't have it noticed with the timing of everything for an action item tonight. But we did want to
79 acknowledge it.” Amanda said next week the Council will discuss the three available options.

80

81 Ald. Stevens asked if the Council will be expected to decide on one of the three options next
82 week.

83

84 Amanda said yes.

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

3

85

86 **Item 7 – Recognition of public service by standing boards and committees**

87

88 Mayor K. Smith thanked all the citizens who serve on the city’s boards, committees, and
89 commissions and said, “This is the primary way we get input from the community.” Mayor K.
90 Smith said that while citizens contact the alderpersons who represent their district as well as the
91 Mayor and city staff regarding specific issues, “in terms of planning and doing the business of
92 the city, we have a lot of citizens and we do appreciate their service.” Mayor K. Smith noted that
93 many of the citizens who already have been serving on committees have agreed to continue, and
94 she said she is bringing forward the names of citizens to serve as a few current committee
95 members have had to leave their position. Mayor K. Smith said, “We do appreciate their service,
96 whether they’re leaving or if they’re continuing on or the new ones.”

97

98 **Item 8 – Oath of Office for newly elected officials**

99

100 Cari noted the newly elected officials had taken the Oath of Office on Monday and said Mayor
101 K. Smith had been sworn in first.

102

103 Mayor K. Smith said, “I appreciate your support, and I am glad to be your Mayor.”

104

105 Cari noted Ald. Olson had been sworn in next.

106

107 Ald. Olson said, “I’m deeply honored to be elected again, and I want to thank everybody from
108 the First Ward.”

109

110 Cari noted Ald. Wulf had been sworn in last.

111

112 Ald. Wulf said, “I want to thank again the Second District voters. I appreciate their faith, trust,
113 and confidence they’ve placed in me. I’m looking very forward to working my fellow electeds
114 and also staff for my next two-year term. Thank you very much.” Ald. Wulf also congratulated
115 Mayor K. Smith for her victory.

116

117 Mayor K. Smith congratulated both Ald. Wulf and Ald. Olson and told them she looks forward
118 to having the vacant Third District seat filled.

119

120 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

121

122 **Item 9 – Election of a Council President**

123

124 Mayor K. Smith asked Amanda if the Council will take both a nomination and a second before
125 voting on it, as was the case in 2019, and then it either passes or it fails, or if it is up to the
126 pleasure of the Council.

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

4

127
128 Amanda told Mayor K. Smith she recommends utilizing the process she had just outlined.
129

130 Mayor K. Smith opened the floor for nominations for the Common Council President.

131
132 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. Nott, to nominate and elect Ald. Diane Wulf as
133 Common Council President.
134

135 On roll call vote: Ald. Dan Stevens – aye, Ald. Steven Nott – aye, Ald. Tom Smith – aye, Ald.
136 Jim Olson – abstain, Ald. Diane Wulf – abstain. Motion carried, 3-0, with two abstentions.
137

138 **Item 10 – Appointment of City Staff:**

- 139
140 A. City Clerk: Caroline Burmaster
141 B. Deputy Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer: Kim Isensee
142 C. City Attorney: Amanda Jackson
143 D. City Assessor: Accurate Appraisal LLC
144 E. City Administrator: Eric Rindfleisch
145 F. Director of Inspections: Katie Aspenson
146 G. Public Works Director/City Engineer: Jarrod Holter
147 H. Weed Commissioner: Katie Aspenson
148 I. Financial Services Director/Treasurer: Fred Buehler
149 J. Parks and Recreation Director: Dan Wick
150 K. Zoning Administrator: Katie Aspenson
151

152 Amanda said City of Onalaska Ordinances require that certain city staff who also are considered
153 city officers, many of which have the ability to issue citations, to direct citations to be issued
154 within their respective departments, or have other statutory roles, are supposed to be appointed
155 upon being hired. Amanda said there is not an accurate record as to whether that has been done
156 in its entirety, and she told councilmembers the city will go on record and reappoint everyone to
157 their respective roles.
158

159 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. Nott, to approve the appointment of City Staff, items ‘A’
160 through ‘K.’
161

162 Mayor K. Smith noted the following city staff members are being appointed to their respective
163 positions:
164

- 165 • Caroline Burmaster is being appointed as City Clerk.
166 • Kim Isensee is being appointed as Deputy Finance Director/Deputy Treasurer.
167 • Amanda Jackson is being appointed as City Attorney.

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

5

- 168 • Accurate Appraisal is being appointed as City Assessor.
- 169 • Eric Rindfleisch is being appointed as City Administrator.
- 170 • Katie Aspenson is being appointed as Director of Inspections.
- 171 • Jarrod Holter is being appointed as Public Works Director/City Engineer.
- 172 • Katie Aspenson is being appointed as Weed Commissioner.
- 173 • Fred Buehler is being appointed as Financial Services Director/Treasurer.
- 174 • Dan Wick is being appointed as Parks and Recreation Director.
- 175 • Katie Aspenson is being appointed as Zoning Administrator.

176
177 On voice vote, motion carried.

178
179 **Item 11 – Appointments to standing committees, boards, commissions, and other**
180 **committees**

181
182 Mayor K. Smith noted there was an attachment in councilmembers’ agendas outlining the
183 appointments, and she told councilmembers they also should have received a copy of the
184 appointments via email.

185
186 Motion by Ald. T. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the appointments to standing
187 committees, boards, commissions, and other committees.

188
189 Ald. Nott noted he is designated as an interim member of the Parks, Recreation and Library
190 Board, and he asked if it is the intention to fill that position with the individual who is appointed
191 as the new Third District Alderperson whenever the vacancy is filled.

192
193 Mayor K. Smith said that was the intent and told Ald. Nott she wanted to have someone start out
194 in the position and the individual who ultimately is chosen as the new Third District Alderperson
195 would have a seat on the Parks, Recreation and Library Board.

196
197 Ald. Stevens noted one resume was included in the attachment, and also that there will be several
198 new individuals serving on committees. Ald. Stevens noted there was no resume for two of the
199 individuals and suggested that perhaps they should submit a short biography or more information
200 as to who they are. Ald. Stevens said he believes that was the policy that was established in
201 2019 during Joe Chilsen’s tenure as Mayor.

202
203 Mayor K. Smith told Ald. Stevens the individual who would serve on the Board of Zoning
204 Appeals had submitted a resume when she expressed to the Mayor an interest in serving. Mayor
205 K. Smith said, “That was part of the reason when I emailed out her resume to the
206 councilmembers and then mentioned the other two people, I did not readily have that information
207 available. I was hoping if that was going to be a request of the Council that someone would have
208 made me aware of that, which nobody did. If you want to withhold appointment of those people

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

6

209 until you see that information, I'm sure I can get that. I just was not able to get that in this
210 timeline.”

211

212 Ald. Nott noted the Common Council will be meeting again next week and suggested including
213 this item on that agenda so that hopefully the Council will have background information on the
214 prospective committee members.

215

216 Mayor K. Smith asked councilmembers to amend the previous motion and remove whichever
217 names they wish from the attachment so that the Council may address this next week.

218

219 Ald. Nott noted the Council would be approving the individuals who had submitted information
220 and not the individuals who had not submitted any information.

221

222 Mayor K. Smith pointed out there are only two new individuals on the list in addition to the
223 individual who had submitted a resume. Mayor K. Smith also noted all the individuals on the list
224 are reappointments, with the exception of three individuals – two of which had not submitted any
225 background information.

226

227 Ald. Stevens stated he is not saying he believes the individuals are not qualified to serve, and he
228 said he believes the Council had set a precedent in the past. Ald. Stevens also said, “If we are
229 going to have people submit a bio, a resume – whatever – we should be consistent and do that
230 with everybody. ... I think the rules should apply to everyone equally. I would be very surprised
231 if I did not support both people. I think we can wait a week and approve them after they've
232 submitted some sort of information as other people have.”

233

234 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. Nott, to amend the previous motion and remove Sam
235 Scinta from the Long Range Planning Committee, and Peg Binash from the Room Tax
236 Commission, and refer them to the next Common Council meeting.

237

238 Mayor K. Smith said that while she does not object to referring the two appointees to the next
239 Common Council meeting, she also noted that “it [submitting a biography or a resume] was a
240 practice that happened once, so to me that wasn't a rule.” Mayor K. Smith added, “I have no
241 problem with doing it. It's just a matter of knowing that that was required.”

242

243 Ald. Nott stated he believes it is a good standard and a good practice whether or not it is a rule,
244 and he said, “Certainly in most cases when a name is submitted for a citizen who wants to
245 volunteer and serve on one of the committees, most of us – if not all of us – may not know who
246 that individual even is. I think it's a good practice to at least have a bio. I don't think that any of
247 us are expecting a professional resume reviewed by somebody else. [Rather], just something at
248 least to tell us who they are and what their background is, that's all.”

249

250 Mayor K. Smith told Ald. Nott she would have said the same thing.

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

7

251

252 Vote on the amendment:

253

254 On voice vote, motion carried.

255

256 Original motion restated:

257

258 To approve the appointments to standing committees, boards, commissions, and other
259 committees, with the understanding Sam Scinta (Long Range Planning Committee) and Peg
260 Binash (Room Tax Commission) have been removed until the next Common Council meeting.

261

262 Ald. Wulf referred to the Board of Zoning Appeals and said that per city ordinances the Chair
263 and the First Alternate must be denoted. Ald. Wulf said she believes the intent was for her to
264 serve as Chair, and for Ald. T. Smith to serve as First Alternate.

265

266 Mayor K. Smith told Ald. Wulf she is correct.

267

268 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. T. Smith, to amend the previous motion and designate Ald.
269 Diane Wulf as Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals, and to designate Ald. Tom Smith as First
270 Alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

271

272 Vote on the amendment:

273

274 On voice vote, motion carried.

275

276 Ald. Wulf said, "These are very challenging times we are working within right now, and I
277 certainly want to commend Mayor Kim Smith for the quick turnaround that she has provided this
278 Council with committee, board, and commission appointments. For many, many years, Council
279 seems to have struggled to receive these in a timely fashion. It was unfortunate that [Mayor K.
280 Smith's] time to produce this was cut in half. A tremendous amount of work had to be
281 accomplished in a very short period of time. Thank you very much to getting us to this point
282 where we are almost complete, because there have been times when it's taken two, three months
283 to get to this point. Thank you for your hard work on this. It's very much appreciated."

284

285 Original motion restated:

286

287 To approve the appointments to standing committees, boards, commissions, and other
288 committees, with the understanding Sam Scinta (Long Range Planning Committee) and Peg
289 Binash (Room Tax Commission) have been removed until the next Common Council meeting,
290 and also noting that Ald. Diane Wulf will serve as Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals, and
291 Ald. Tom Smith will serve as First Alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

292

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

8

293 On voice vote, motion carried.

294

295 **Item 12 – Resolution 21-2020 – Public Depositories**

296

297 Mayor K. Smith read into the record Resolution 21-2020:

298

299 *“TO: The Honorable Mayor and Council Members, Onalaska, Wisconsin: **WHEREAS**, the*
300 *Common Council of the City of Onalaska, Wisconsin, has designated the following*
301 *banks/investment pools/credit unions as public depositories for all public monies ear-marked for*
302 *the City General Fund, Checking and Savings Accounts, coming into the hands of the current*
303 *and/or any successor to the City Treasurer:*

304

- 305 • *BMO- HARRIS BANK*
- 306 • *RIVER BANK OF LA CROSSE*
- 307 • *ASSOCIATED WEALTH MANAGEMENT – GREEN BAY*
- 308 • *COULEE BANK OF LA CROSSE*
- 309 • *STATE BANK FINANCIAL OF LA CROSSE/ONALASKA*
- 310 • *WELLS FARGO BANK OF LA CROSSE/ONALASKA*
- 311 • *TRUST POINT INC./LA CROSSE*
- 312 • *VERVE A CREDIT UNION OF LA CROSSE/ONALASKA*
- 313 • *ASSOCIATED BANK/LA CROSSE*
- 314 • *STATE OF WISCONSIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL*
- 315 • *MERCHANT BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION*
- 316 • *U.S. BANK/LA CROSSE/ONALASKA*
- 317 • *BREMER BANK*

318

319 *or any other bank that is deemed advantageous to the City of Onalaska, Wisconsin, as well; and*
320 ***WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of Onalaska, Wisconsin, has designated the*
321 *following investment pool as a public depository for all public monies coming into the hands of*
322 *the current and/or any successor to the City Treasurer: **STATE OF WISCONSIN LOCAL***
323 ***GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT POOL** or any other investment pool that is deemed*
324 *advantageous to the City of Onalaska, Wisconsin, as well; and **WHEREAS**, the Common*
325 *Council of the City of Onalaska, Wisconsin, has designated the following credit unions as public*
326 *depositories for all public monies coming into the hands of the current and/or any successor to*
327 *the City Treasurer: **VERVE A CREDIT UNION LA CROSSE/ONALASKA** or any other credit*
328 *union that is deemed advantageous to the City of Onalaska as well; and **WHEREAS**, the*
329 *Common Council has granted the City Treasurer authority to use the depositories*
330 *interchangeably as he deems most advantageous to the City.*

331

332 ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Onalaska that*
333 *funds shall be drawn by check only upon the signature of the Mayor and/or the President of the*

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

9

334 *Common Council and the City Clerk countersigning, except that the City Treasurer be*
335 *authorized to make draws for investment of funds not immediately needed; and **BE IT***
336 ***FURTHER RESOLVED**, that with regard to such deposits or investments of such funds, the*
337 *City Treasurer shall take into consideration the following factors:*

- 338
339 *1. The safety and security of the investment or deposit shall be paramount;*
340 *2. The interest rate and other terms offered;*
341 *3. The capacity of the depository to handle the size of the deposit or investment;*
342 *4. The amount of existing City funds which are already in such depository;*
343

344 *and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Clerk be and is hereby directed to certify*
345 *such bank(s), State Investment Pool and credit union(s) the proper and authentic signatures of*
346 *said Mayor, President of the Council, City Clerk and City Treasurer, under Seal of the City.*
347 *Dated this 21st day of April 2020.”*

348
349 Motion by Ald. Nott, second by Ald. Wulf, to approve Resolution 21-2020 – Public
350 Depositories.

351
352 Ald. Stevens asked if this represents a change of the city’s primary banking, or if this is a
353 separate activity. Ald. Stevens said it is his understanding the city switched to Bremer Bank in
354 2019, and he asked if Verve will now be the depository, or if this will be an additional
355 depository.

356
357 Fred explained to Ald. Stevens that Bremer Bank is the city’s official bank, and he said, “This is
358 only banks ... It gives the opportunity for the city to explore, if necessary.”

359
360 On voice vote, motion carried.

361
362 **Item 13 – Resolution 22-2020 – Increasing Common Council Expenses**

363
364 Mayor K. Smith read into the record Resolution 22-2020:

365
366 *“**WHEREAS**, a novel strain of the coronavirus, named COVID-19 has spread throughout*
367 *numerous countries including the United States; and **WHEREAS**, the World Health*
368 *Organization has declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern; and*
369 ***WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public*
370 *Health Emergency; and **WHEREAS**, the State of Wisconsin and City of Onalaska has declared a*
371 *Public Health Emergency; and **WHEREAS**, the Common Council and Mayor of Onalaska, like*
372 *many Onalaska city employees, are teleworking and are adapting to working under new and*
373 *different conditions in order to still efficiently and effectively serve the citizens of the City of*
374 *Onalaska; and **WHEREAS**, due to the closure of City Hall and the need to perform their work in*
375 *new and different ways, there are new expenses associated with teleworking that elected officials*

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

10

376 *are facing, including but not limited to need for additional or increased Wi-Fi, microphones,*
377 *webcams, data, paper and printing costs. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that due*
378 *to the current circumstances, the City of Onalaska shall increase the expense reimbursement*
379 *provided to the Mayor and Council Members by an additional \$100/month effective May 1, 2020*
380 *through December 31, 2020.”*

381
382 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. Wulf, to approve Resolution 22-2020 – Increasing
383 Common Council Expenses.

384
385 City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “If the question about the budget arises, this is an amount
386 that would be covered within the actions taken by the Council in the previous budget.”

387
388 Ald. Nott asked if this is a \$100 increase to councilmembers’ monthly stipend that they already
389 receive that will last through December.

390
391 Mayor K. Smith said yes.

392
393 Ald. Nott noted the increase would total \$800 and said he does not know that the increase of any
394 costs associated with telework for councilmembers approaches \$800. Ald. Nott said, “What I
395 would have more comfort with – and I might be willing to make an amendment motion to –
396 would be that if there are expenses that people have incurred in order to conduct Zoom meetings
397 or whatever it is we’re doing here such as having to purchase a camera or some microphones or
398 some speakers, that they would submit that for reimbursement. Even that has certain perception
399 issues that are a potential here because you can buy a camera for your computer for \$35, \$40, or
400 you can buy a camera for \$400. I’m very concerned about how this could be perceived,
401 especially since we’re in a situation right now when so many of our citizens are not even
402 receiving an income, or are receiving a reduced income. I’m very uncomfortable about basically
403 approving a \$100 a month increase for eight months.”

404
405 Amanda noted that historically the City of Onalaska has stayed away from reimbursing expenses,
406 and she said that while it had been done in the past, “it puts the Finance Department and the city
407 in the uncomfortable position of trying to determine what expenses are appropriate for
408 reimbursement, and what are not. We’ve taken the approach of just giving a lump sum amount
409 for what are considered appropriate expenses.” Amanda noted the resolution runs through
410 December 31, 2020 and said, “Obviously if the current environment changes and the Council felt
411 this was not needed in the future, they could request an amendment to this and they essentially
412 could undo it at any time at the Council’s will.”

413
414 Ald. Stevens said it was his understanding that via the budget process last year the Council had
415 approved an increase to \$500, which he described as being commiserate and less than what some
416 of the peer common councils or governmental bodies received. Ald. Stevens noted the County
417 Supervisors in La Crosse County went up to \$700 or \$800, and he said he believes

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

11

418 councilmembers serving in the City of La Crosse receive \$575. Ald. Stevens said he believes the
419 Council had discussed and approved a total amount of up to \$500 per alderperson in this budget
420 cycle, and he stated, “I’m a little surprised that we see this here. I believe I went on record kind
421 of in detail – and because it’s my thing, my motion died for lack of a second – that I had
422 preferred, to Steven’s point, that I think the amount of money that’s expenses versus salary, it
423 seems like we’re splitting hairs. In the interest of transparency, it should all just be salary. I
424 don’t know if this is the time to break that out.

425

426 I also had mentioned that I’m aware that the Council President does have some extra duties and
427 responsibilities. I also made a motion that there should be some sort of elevated level, like \$25,
428 \$50, \$100 per month, as other bodies tend to do. While that didn’t pass for lack of a second, I
429 think that’s something we could discuss. I might be willing to bring an amendment up on that
430 again. But circling back to my original point, I thought this was already policy that was decided
431 upon prior to coronavirus.”

432

433 Amanda explained that there are two categories: salary and expenses. Amanda further explained
434 that expenses must be justifiable, meaning the city must break out and show what
435 councilmembers are being given reimbursement for. Amanda said this is why the resolution
436 acknowledges the city anticipates the expenses would be utilized for items such as increased Wi-
437 Fi. Amanda said salary may only be changed outside of someone’s term, and she explained that
438 a salary may not be adjusted as the result of a pandemic without adjusting it for the term moving
439 forward. Amanda said, “The salary was budgeted for, but we didn’t do the secondary step of
440 approving the salary increase, so it didn’t go into effect. It also only would have affected half of
441 the Council and not the full Council, so we are looking at fixing that as we rewrite the ordinances
442 for Title II. That is being worked on right now. The budgeted salary increases for half of the
443 Council did not go through.”

444

445 Motion by Ald. Stevens to amend the previous motion and amend the final paragraph of
446 Resolution 22-2020 to read as follows: “*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that due to the*
447 *current circumstances, the City of Onalaska shall increase the expense reimbursement provided*
448 *to the Mayor and Council Members by an additional \$100/month, and an additional \$50/month*
449 *to the Council President, effective May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.*”

450

451 Motion dies for lack of a second.

452

453 Ald. Nott said he had heard Amanda’s concern regarding the city going down the path of
454 reimbursing expenses, and he stated, “This is hopefully once in a blue moon, once in a decade or
455 longer type of an event. It would only be a couple of items that are listed here so that people can
456 participate in these Zoom meetings. And you don’t even need that – as long as you have
457 cellphone service you can call in, as we’ve already seen from several individuals. Again,
458 personally I have a hard time justifying it based on the explanation that was given, and also
459 because of the timing of it right now. I don’t think we should be talking about personally any

Reviewed 4/27/2020 by Cari Burmaster

**Common Council
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

12

460 increase at all until people are back to work in our districts.”

461

462 On roll call vote: Ald. Dan Stevens – aye, Ald. Steven Nott – nay, Ald. Jim Olson – nay, Ald.

463 Tom Smith – aye, Ald. Diane Wulf – aye. Motion carried, 3-2.

464

465 **Adjournment**

466

467 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. T. Smith, to adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

468

469 On voice vote, motion carried.

470

471

472 Recorded by:

473

474 Kirk Bey