

**Common Council  
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

1

1 The Common Council Organizational Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
2 April 16, 2019. 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 Joe Chilsen, Ald. Tom Smith,  
6 Ald. Dan Stevens, Ald. Boondi Iyer, Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Kim Smith, Ald. Diane Wulf

7  
8 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, City Clerk Cari Burmaster, City Engineer  
9 Jarrod Holter, Human Resource Director Hope Burchell, Police Chief Troy Miller, Parks &  
10 Recreation Director Dan Wick, Assistant Fire Chief Troy Gudie

11

12 **Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

13

14 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

15

16 **Item 3 – Approve of minutes from previous meeting**

17

18 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Wulf, to approve the minutes from the previous  
19 meeting as printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

20

21 On voice vote, motion carried.

22

23 **Item 4 – Public Input: (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

24

25 Mayor Chilsen called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

26

27 **Bob Muth, former Second District Alderperson**

28 **317 Spruce Street**

29 **Onalaska**

30

31 “I just wanted to stop in tonight to congratulate those people who were elected. I want to  
32 congratulate the citizens of Onalaska that took the time to vote and understand the issues that are  
33 going on, and I urge those who did not vote to please keep track of what’s going on in local  
34 government and express your opinion at the polls when you have the opportunity. It’s an  
35 American right that we have, and if you forfeit that right it hurts everybody. It’s something you  
36 should be involved in. I want to tell the new members of the Council [to] enjoy yourself. I’m  
37 only going to give one piece of advice, and that is the City of Onalaska has an outstanding City  
38 Administrator, outstanding department heads, and excellent and wonderful employees. Please  
39 rely on them. They have mounds of experience and dedication to this community, and they’ll  
40 help you in any way they can. All you need to do is ask, and I assure you they’ll be right there to  
41 help. God bless all of you. Thank you.”

42

Reviewed 4/17/19 by Cari Burmaster

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

45

46 **Item 5 – Recognition of public service by standing boards and committees**

47

48 Mayor Chilsen said, “I want to thank everybody that has ever served on a board or a committee,  
49 or was an elected official here in the City of Onalaska. The people – and our last speaker can  
50 attest to this – the City of Onalaska really has had great people step up when they needed them to  
51 step up. We really run on the ability of our citizenry to take up issues and to help us dance our  
52 way through the minefield that sometimes is city government. Like a cat, we always seem to  
53 land on our feet. That’s not by accident; that’s by design. It speaks to the quality of the people  
54 that we have serving on our boards and committees, and as elected. So I want to thank  
55 everybody that falls into any of those categories, [and] anybody who ever comes to a Common  
56 Council meeting and gives public input, [and] anybody who ever comes to a committee meeting.  
57 This city is for all of you. I’m fond of saying that. I have little stickers in my office that say, ‘I  
58 am Onalaska.’ That doesn’t mean Joe is Onalaska, but you put in on the lapels of everybody you  
59 see because everybody is Onalaska. When we make decisions, we have to remember that, and I  
60 think we do a pretty good job with that in Onalaska. I want to thank anybody from the elected  
61 [officials] all the way down to all the committee people and all the department heads and  
62 everybody in between. I want to thank them for taking stock in Onalaska. There is an old saying  
63 that says, ‘The reason we don’t pay volunteers isn’t because they’re worthless. It’s because  
64 they’re priceless.’ Seeing the volunteers who work for this city, I would agree with that  
65 statement. Again, thank you, everybody.”

66

67 **Item 6 – Oath of Office for newly elected officials**

68

69 For the Office of First District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Tom Smith to raise his right hand  
70 and repeat the following: “*I, Tom Smith, having been elected to the Office of First District*  
71 *Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution*  
72 *of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to*  
73 *the best of my ability, so help me God.*”

74

75 For the Office of Second District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Dan Stevens to raise his right  
76 hand and repeat the following: “*I, Dan Stevens, having been elected to the Office of Second*  
77 *District Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the*  
78 *Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of*  
79 *said office to the best of my ability, so help me God.*”

80

81 For the Office of Third District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Boondi Iyer to raise her right hand  
82 and repeat the following: “*I, Boondi Iyer, having been elected to the Office of Third District*  
83 *Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution*  
84 *of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to*

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85 *the best of my ability, so help me God.”*

86

87

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

88

**Item 7 – Election of a Council President**

89

90 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by Ald. K. Smith, to nominate and elect Ald. Diane Wulf as  
91 Council President.

92

93  
94 Mayor Chilsen called three times for any other nominations for Council President and closed the  
95 nomination process.

96

97 On voice vote, motion carried, 5-0, with one abstention (Ald. Wulf).

98

**Item 8 – Resolution 26-2019 – To Dissolve the Onalaska Technology Committee**

99

100  
101 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve Resolution 26-2019 – To Dissolve  
102 the Onalaska Technology Committee.

103

104 Ald. Wulf, who chairs the Technology Committee, noted it began in 2002 and said she joined the  
105 committee in 2003 and has been a member all but one year since then. Ald. Wulf thanked all  
106 past and current committee members, including Ald. T. Smith, and she asked that someone in  
107 administration send the committee’s current members a thank-you letter for their service. Ald.  
108 Wulf noted the resolution to dissolve the committee is recent and said the current committee  
109 members assumed there would be a May meeting. Ald. Wulf said she supports this resolution as  
110 various existing committees – the Finance and Personnel Committee, the Board of Public Works,  
111 and the Common Council are named in the resolution – will be able to address IT-related  
112 matters.

113

114 Ald. T. Smith noted he was the first individual appointed to the Technology Committee and said  
115 he believes it is logical to take this action as IT-related decisions may be made within City Hall.

116

117 On voice vote, motion carried.

118

**Item 9 – Resolution 27-2019 – To Dissolve the Great River Landing Committee**

119

120  
121 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. T. Smith, to approve Resolution 27-2019 – To  
122 Dissolve the Great River Landing Committee.

123

124 On voice vote, motion carried.

125

**Item 10 – Resolution 28-2019 – To Create the Onalaska Arts Commission**

126

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127  
128 City Administrator Rindfleisch noted he has spoken with Mayor Chilsen and said there has been  
129 interest in following practices by other communities, citing the City of Appleton’s arts program  
130 as an example of a community with an excellent arts program. City Administrator Rindfleisch  
131 said the arts generates trips to and interest in the downtown district, and the arts also “creates a  
132 good sense of place, which I think is one thing that the people of Onalaska really are taking pride  
133 in and building with both the Great River Landing and support of the Dash-Park area.” City  
134 Administrator Rindfleisch said he believes more can be done, and, “by appointing an Onalaska  
135 Arts Commission, it is a commission that would help guide the oversights of both ... It would be  
136 a clearinghouse for the ideas that may be generated to see if they are good ideas, and if there is  
137 committee support for those ideas, and then the implementation of those ideas perhaps as well,  
138 both on a fundraising basis and partnering with private property owners who may want to partner  
139 with us. I think it is a good idea to create as it will allow some more public input – something  
140 that is outside the realm of the staff that we have ... None of us are really specialists in the area  
141 of public art. It would be a great way to have some input from the community, to staff, and to  
142 the Common Council.”

143  
144 Motion by Ald. T. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve Resolution 28-2019 – To Create the  
145 Onalaska Arts Commission.

146  
147 On voice vote, motion carried.

148  
149 **Item 11 – Appointments to standing committees, boards, commissions, and other**  
150 **committees**

151  
152 Mayor Chilsen said he is pulling all the appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals and will  
153 bring back new appointments at some time in the future.

154  
155 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. Stevens, to approve the appointments to standing  
156 committees, boards, commissions, and other committees, as dated April 16, 2019, with the  
157 exception of the Technology Advisory Committee and the Great River Landing Committee.

158  
159 Cari asked Mayor Chilsen if he is pulling the citizen members of the Board of Zoning Appeals or  
160 the entire list.

161  
162 Mayor Chilsen said he is pulling the entire list.

163  
164 Cari said the appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals will have to come back before the  
165 Common Council at its May 14 meeting as there could be a Board of Zoning Appeals meeting in  
166 May and the board must be in place.

167  
168 Mayor Chilsen asked to pull only the citizen members from the Board of Zoning Appeals.

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169

170 Ald. Wulf asked Mayor Chilsen if it is his intention that she will serve as Chair of the Board of  
171 Zoning Appeals, noting it is a position appointed by the Mayor.

172

173 Mayor Chilsen said he will designate it when he brings back this item to the Council.

174

175 On voice vote, motion carried.

176

177 **Item 12 – Resolution 25-2019 – Public Depositories**

178

179 City Administrator Rindfleisch said the Common Council must approve the Public Depositories  
180 every year at its organizational meeting, noting a copy of Resolution 25-2019 has been included  
181 in Council members' packets.

182

183 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Wulf, to approve Resolution 25-2019 – Public  
184 Depositories.

185

186 On voice vote, motion carried.

187

188 **Item 13 – Review and consideration of stipend for Assistant Fire Chief for Interim Fire**  
189 **Chief duties during the absence of the Fire Chief**

190

191 Hope noted Assistant Fire Chief Troy Gudie has been serving as Acting Fire Chief in Fire Chief  
192 Billy Hayes' absence, and she said she is requesting that Assistant Fire Chief Gudie be given an  
193 additional stipend of \$200 per pay period for assuming the additional duties.

194

195 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve an additional stipend of \$200 per  
196 pay period for Assistant Fire Chief Troy Gudie for Interim Fire Chief duties during the absence  
197 of the Fire Chief starting on April 8, 2019, and extending until the Fire Chief returns to duty.

198

199 On voice vote, motion carried.

200

201 **Adjournment**

202

203 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Wulf, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

204

205 On voice vote, motion carried.

206

207

208 Recorded by:

209

210 Kirk Bey

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