

**Common Council  
Organizational Meeting**

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

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1 The Common Council Organizational Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
2 April 17, 2018. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted at City  
3 Hall.

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5 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Mayor Joe Chilsen, Ald. Jerry Every,  
6 Ald. Ron Gjertsen, Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Kim Smith, Ald. Diane Wulf. Ald. Jim Binash  
7 participated via telephone.

8  
9 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, City Clerk Cari Burmaster, City Engineer  
10 Jarrod Holter, Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, Human Resource Director  
11 Hope Burchell

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

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15 The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

21  
22 On voice vote, motion carried.

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

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

27  
28 **Harvey Bertrand, former Third District Alderperson**  
29 **3334 Augusta Lane**  
30 **Onalaska**

31  
32 “I just want to congratulate Kim and Diane on being selected as [alderpersons], and Jim,  
33 welcome back to you as well. I just want to say that I really enjoyed working with you folks.  
34 Each of you has your special skills, and to the extent that you voted for me, then you voted  
35 perfectly, so I just wanted to tell you that. To the last one of the staff, you folks are stellar in  
36 terms of what you contribute to the city. I’m really sorry for certain people that you’re not going  
37 to have me back. I’m sure Fred and Jim and the Mayor especially will miss my questions. If  
38 you want me to write in, I’ll be glad to do that. It’s been great working with you, Mr. [City]  
39 Administrator. I do want to say that our Fire Chief [Don Dominick] especially will miss me  
40 because he won’t have anybody to accuse all the time of slowing down traffic on Main Street  
41 and [telling me], ‘Harvey, Harvey, you’re holding up traffic.’ Cari, you won’t have anybody to  
42 throw spitballs at to keep away. And then there’s Hope. For some reason she doesn’t like

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Tuesday, April 17, 2018

2

43 people who wear a pinstriped outfit, and she and [former Second District Alderperson] Bob  
44 Muth constantly get on me about my dress and the dress code. It was a pleasure, and you do a  
45 pretty good job, Jarrod. Keep it up; maybe you'll learn how to do things. You guys take care."

46  
47 Mayor Chilsen called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that  
48 portion of the meeting.

49

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

51

52 Mayor Chilsen said, "There comes a time every April for us to thank all the people who work so  
53 hard on behalf of the city. That includes both the paid staff like our firefighters, our police  
54 officers and our new police officer tonight – I'm going to thank you ahead of time – and also the  
55 public officials who serve. I think all that stipend really does is [mess] up their taxes. I don't  
56 think it really pays for much of the time that they put in, especially when they do it right.

57 Around here, I think it's been done right. I want to thank all the people on all the boards who  
58 serve with no pay. I want to thank the people who sit up here who get as close to no pay as you  
59 can probably get, and I want to thank all the staff who are here tonight because this is a group  
60 effort. We couldn't do it without the volunteers, we couldn't do it without the elected officials,  
61 and we couldn't do it without the staff. So on behalf of everybody at the City of Onalaska, I  
62 want to thank everybody."

63

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

65

66 For the Office of First District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Jim Olson to raise his right hand and  
67 repeat the following: "*I, Jim Olson, having been elected to the Office of First District*  
68 *Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution*  
69 *of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to*  
70 *the best of my ability, so help me God.*"

71

72 For the Office of Second District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Diane Wulf to raise her right  
73 hand and repeat the following: "*I, Diane Wulf, having been elected to the Office of Second*  
74 *District Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the*  
75 *Constitution of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of*  
76 *said office to the best of my ability, so help me God.*"

77

78 For the Office of Third District Alderperson, Cari asked Ald. Kim Smith to raise her right hand  
79 and repeat the following: "*I, Kim Smith, having been elected to the Office of Third District*  
80 *Alderperson, swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution*  
81 *of the State of Wisconsin, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of said office to*  
82 *the best of my ability, so help me God.*"

83

84 **Item 7 – Swearing in of Onalaska Police Officer Colin Riley**

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Tuesday, April 17, 2018

3

85

86 Cari swore in Colin Riley as a City of Onalaska Police Officer.

87

88 **Item 8 – Proclamation for Kids to Parks Day**

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90 Mayor Chilsen read the Proclamation for Kids to Parks Day.

91

92 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Wulf, to approve the Proclamation for Kids to Parks Day.

93

94 On voice vote, motion carried.

95

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

97

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

99

100 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Binash, to nominate and elect Ald. Jim Binash as Council  
101 President.

102

103 Motion by Ald. Gjertsen, second by Ald. Every, to nominate and elect Ald. Jerry Every as  
104 Council President.

105

106 Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. Smith, to nominate and elect Ald. Kim Smith as Council  
107 President.

108

109 Cari said the Council normally would vote on the first nomination, vote on the second  
110 nomination if the first one fails, and then vote on the third nomination if the second one fails.

111 Cari said the Council President also can be determined by secret ballot.

112

113 Mayor Chilsen said he would like the Council to do a secret ballot.

114

115 City Administrator Rindfleisch said even though the Council has traditionally voted on the first  
116 motion first, the Council may suspend its own rules and create a ballot.

117

118 Vote on electing Ald. Jim Binash as Council President:

119

120 On roll call vote: Ald. Diane Wulf – abstain, Ald. Jerry Every – abstain, Ald. Ron Gjertsen –  
121 abstain, Ald. Jim Binash – aye, Ald. Kim Smith – abstain, Ald. Jim Olson – aye. Motion failed.

122

123 Vote on electing Ald. Jerry Every as Council President:

124

125 On roll call vote: Ald. Diane Wulf – abstain, Ald. Jerry Every – aye, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – aye,  
126 Ald. Jim Binash – abstain, Ald. Kim Smith – nay, Ald. Jim Olson – abstain. Motion failed.

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Tuesday, April 17, 2018

4

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Vote on electing Ald. Kim Smith as Council President:

On roll call vote: Ald. Diane Wulf – aye, Ald. Jerry Every – nay, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – nay, Ald. Jim Binash – abstain, Ald. Kim Smith – aye, Ald. Jim Olson – abstain. Motion failed.

Mayor Chilsen said the vote for Council President will start over.

City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “A ballot may come into play here. The Council may suspend your own rules, create a rule for the election and go by ballot. The ballots would be public and not be secret ballots. We’re not in Closed Session. The Council could empower Vote No. 7, which would be the Mayor, to cast the deciding vote. If you wanted to eliminate the lowest voter in Round One or Round Two you could create those rules. You’re under Robert’s Rules [of Order]. You have the ability to create your own rules right now unless you wanted to continue doing this. That’s completely the body’s decision to make.”

Ald. Every said he would like to continue with the current procedure.

Motion by Ald. Gjertsen, second by Ald. Every, to nominate and elect Ald. Jerry Every as Council President.

On roll call vote: Ald. Jim Olson – abstain, Ald. Jim Binash – abstain, Ald. Kim Smith – nay, Ald. Diane Wulf – nay, Ald. Jerry Every – aye, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – aye. Motion failed.

Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Binash, to nominate and elect Ald. Jim Binash as Council President.

On roll call vote: Ald. Jerry Every – abstain, Ald. Diane Wulf – abstain, Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Kim Smith – abstain, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – abstain, Ald. Jim Binash – aye. Motion failed.

Motion by Ald. Wulf, second by Ald. Smith, to nominate and elect Ald. Kim Smith as Council President.

On roll call vote: Ald. Kim Smith – aye, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – nay, Ald. Jerry Every – nay, Ald. Jim Olson – abstain, Ald. Jim Binash – abstain, Ald. Diane Wulf – aye. Motion failed.

Motion by Ald. Gjertsen, second by Ald. Every, to nominate and elect Ald. Jerry Every as Council President.

On roll call vote: Ald. Kim Smith – nay, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – aye, Ald. Jerry Every – aye, Ald. Jim Olson – abstain, Ald. Jim Binash – abstain, Ald. Diane Wulf – nay. Motion failed.

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5

169 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to nominate and elect Ald. Jim Binash as Council  
170 President.

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172 On roll call vote: Ald. Jim Binash – aye, Ald. Jerry Every – aye, Ald. Ron Gjertsen – abstain,  
173 Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Kim Smith – abstain, Ald. Diane Wulf – abstain. Vote is 3-0 in favor  
174 of electing Ald. Jim Binash as Council President, with three abstentions.

175

176 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Gjertsen, to cast a unanimous ballot for Ald. Jim Binash  
177 for Council President.

178

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

180

181 **Item 10 – Appointments to standing committees, boards, commissions, and other**  
182 **committees**

183

184 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve the appointments to standing  
185 committees, boards, commissions, and other committees, as stated.

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187 On voice vote, motion carried.

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189 **Item 11 – Resolution 15-2018 – Public Depositories**

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191 Fred noted a copy of Resolution 15-2018 has been included in Council members' packets.

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193 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Gjertsen, to approve Resolution 15-2018 – Public  
194 Depositories.

195

196 On voice vote, motion carried.

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198 **Adjournment**

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200 Motion by Ald. Gjertsen, second by Ald. Olson, to adjourn at 7:24 p.m.

201

202 On voice vote, motion carried.

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204

205 Recorded by:

206

207 Kirk Bey