

**Finance & Personnel Committee  
of the City of Onalaska**

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

1

1 The Meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee of the City of Onalaska was called to order  
2 at 7:40 p.m. on Wednesday, August 8, 2018. It was noted that the meeting had been announced  
3 and a notice posted at City Hall.

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5 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Jerry Every, Ald.  
6 Kim Smith

7  
8 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, Mayor Joe Chilsen, Financial Services  
9 Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, Human Resource Director Hope Burchell, Ald. Jim Binash

10

11 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

12

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

15

16 On voice vote, motion carried.

17

18 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

19

20 Ald. Smith called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion  
21 of the meeting.

22

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

24

25 **FINANCE**

26

27 **Item 4 – Omni Center financials for 2018**

28

29 Fred said the Omni Center financials before committee members this evening are dated July 12.  
30 Fred referred to page 3 of the revenues and noted they are based on through June 30, while the  
31 expenditures – with the exception of payroll, which is through July – also are through June 30.  
32 Revenues totaled \$300,003.51, and expenditures totaled \$328,267.10, meaning there was a  
33 deficit of \$28,263.59.

34

35 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the Omni Center financials for 2018.

36

37 On voice vote, motion carried.

38

39 **Item 5 – General Fund Financials 2018**

40

41 Fred said General Fund Financials before the committee this evening are dated July 25, and he  
42 highlighted the following:

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- Revenues represent three-quarters of July.

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- Regarding the expenditures for each city department, June invoices are paid in July. With the exception of payroll, the majority of operating expenses are approximately 50 percent complete.

57

Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to accept the General Fund Financials 2018.

58

59

On voice vote, motion carried.

60

61

**Item 6 – Revisions to the City of Onalaska Investment Policy**

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64

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68

Fred noted he had presented this policy, a revised copy of which was included in committee members' packets, in 2006 to the Common Council and said staff felt it was necessary to update it. Fred referred to the revised copy and pointed out any changes to the policy either have been italicized or stricken through. Fred noted the changes were recommended by city legal counsel, adding changes also were necessary due to changes in federal law.

69

Ald. Smith asked Fred if City Attorney Sean O'Flaherty had approved this document.

70

71

Fred said yes and told Ald. Smith, "These are the areas that [Sean] recommended we change."

72

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74

75

76

Ald. Every noted Fred had listed some of the items to which the Investment Policy applied, and he asked, "Is there some fund that you feel we could invest or invest differently? Or are we just changing the policy to go along with the new increased limits and things?"

77

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79

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81

Fred said, "The city has in place ... We watch very closely, as our auditors have pretty much indicated to us what we can and cannot [do]. Plus, the resolutions that we passed in April indicate we are very cautious of where and what our expectations are of what we will invest in without jeopardizing any of the city's investments."

82

83

Fred referred to page 4 of the Investment Policy, promised to make a certain correction, and said he can place this item on the Non-Consent Agenda for the August 14 Common Council meeting.

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3

84 Fred added Sean had asked to change a certain section, but had not given him the desired  
85 language.

86

87 Ald. Smith said if the committee chooses to approve this item, it can be contingent upon it  
88 appearing on the Common Council's Non-Consent Agenda so there can be a final review of the  
89 change.

90

91 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve revisions to the City of Onalaska  
92 Investment Policy, contingent upon this item appearing on the Non-Consent Agenda for the  
93 August 14 Common Council meeting.

94

95 On voice vote, motion carried.

96

97 **Item 7 – Gundersen Health System Parking Ramp Financials for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2018**

98

99 Fred noted the bond covenants require the City of Onalaska to pay \$5,000 per year (\$1,250 per  
100 quarter) and said it comes out as an expenditure of the Gundersen Health System Parking Ramp.  
101 Fred said Gundersen Health System is responsible for the rest of the costs of maintaining and  
102 operating the parking ramp. Fred also noted the car count has not changed significantly since the  
103 program began.

104

105 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve Gundersen Health System Parking  
106 Ramp Financials for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2018.

107

108 Ald. Every asked Fred if the cost is \$57,118.37, and if the City of Onalaska's revenue is  
109 \$10,711.84 for the same period.

110

111 Fred explained that the \$10,711.84 is the revenue that comes into the program and noted the City  
112 of Onalaska contributes \$5,000 annually. Fred reiterated that Gundersen Health System bears  
113 the remainder of the costs.

114

115 On voice vote, motion carried.

116

117 **Item 8 – Authorization of a contribution to League of Wisconsin Municipalities in the**  
118 **amount of \$1,200 and funding of the non-budgeted item**

119

120 Mayor Chilsen told committee members he serves on the League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
121 Board, and he said the league has asked its members to pay at least \$1,200 that would be placed  
122 in a legal fund to fight what is called the "Dark Store Issue." Mayor Chilsen said, "We did not  
123 budget for it because it just came up recently. I know everybody on the board, their cities have  
124 come on board, and some of them have given appropriate amounts relative to their population. I  
125 would recommend that we go forward with this because the 'Dark Store Issue' is costing us a lot

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126 of money in taxes.”

127

128 Ald. Every asked Fred if there is a “dark store” in the City of Onalaska.

129

130 Fred described the title as “interesting” and noted there are “box stores” in the city. Fred  
131 explained the box stores are freely hiring legal counsel to save them money, and he said, “If they  
132 save some money, then they split it according to legal counsel and their company. The only way  
133 the municipalities would have to have our legal counsel fight them in court ... For those of you  
134 who have been here in the past know we’ve been down this road with Target, Kohl’s, and Farm  
135 and Fleet, just to name a few. A lot of these we have settled either between the attorneys and I  
136 going to Madison trying to arbitrate it and come up with a settlement. This intent is to try to put  
137 a stop to what I call a ‘rolling snowball.’ ”

138

139 City Administrator Rindfleisch said the issues generally start local when there is an empty big-  
140 box store and the valuations of other box stores in the community are affected. City  
141 Administrator Rindfleisch also explained ultimately there is a disconnect between the price per  
142 square foot for selling a parcel and the price per square foot of assessment. City Administrator  
143 Rindfleisch said it becomes “broader and broader,” and that, “It starts locally. But then as the  
144 value of commercial properties decrease, that becomes regionally and that become statewide.”  
145 City Administrator Rindfleisch cited the example of the now-closed K-Mart store in the City of  
146 La Crosse and said there is value in the commercial marketplace. The tax assessment for the  
147 property will be lower now that it is “dark.” City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “If that starts  
148 becoming used in La Crosse, it starts affecting our own tax assessments within our own  
149 community as well. We’re fortunate enough that we don’t have a lot of ‘dark’ stores right now.  
150 But the issue in other communities will eventually impact us as well with those valuations  
151 because the comparables won’t just be within Onalaska. The comparables will be retail space in  
152 general as tax-added general rate. We’re higher than that, so we’ll drive that down.

153

154 The biggest impact is that the city doesn’t gain that tax valuation. It doesn’t affect the actual  
155 taxes collected. It’s the shift to make up that valuation difference. It goes to the homeowners,  
156 who are already burdened, in my opinion, substantially with the property tax, which is the only  
157 tax valuation that we have. With manufacturing being assessed by the state at a lower rate, and  
158 now with the ‘dark’ store and the Walgreens lease going lower, it’s that burden that gets shifted  
159 to the local taxpayers and the homeowners. That’s the concern.”

160

161 Mayor Chilsen said, “The real issue here is the local taxpayers living in a house on Elm Street  
162 are subsidizing the big-box stores because the big-box stores are able to pay for this big-time  
163 lawyer. We are trying to get it through the [Wisconsin State] Legislature to make a push, and the  
164 push we’re making ... We’re going to make a push in the areas where the Governor [Scott  
165 Walker] is not so strong, and where he needs some help, because the Republicans won’t bring it  
166 to the floor for a vote. There are plenty of votes, including Republican votes, to pass it. But  
167 [Wisconsin Republican State Assembly Speaker Jeff] Fitzgerald won’t bring it to the floor.”

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168

169 Ald. Every said, “I understand the issue here, and I understand how that forces taxes down to the  
170 smaller businesses and the property owners. My question, though, was, precisely how is it  
171 affecting us here? The way I’m understanding it is, nothing yet.”

172

173 Fred said, “It has.”

174

175 Ald. Every noted that while he is not known for voting to approve any nonbudgeted item, he said  
176 he will support Mayor Chilsen’s request.

177

178 Ald. Smith asked Fred to summarize for Ald. Every the situation involving Target, or perhaps  
179 another situation.

180

181 Fred noted he had worked closely with Mayor Chilsen regarding Target and Kohl’s, and he also  
182 noted Target and Kohl’s had between four and five years of contested assessments. Fred said,  
183 “We came up with a settlement. What we did is this Council asked ... When a settlement is  
184 reached, that means the [Onalaska] School District and all of those areas were all looked at.  
185 When we reach a settlement, we challenge the Department of Revenue because as soon as we  
186 reached the settlement – and I filed what they call ‘rescinded taxes’ – the Department of Revenue  
187 came back and said they were going to deny the City of Onalaska’s request for rescinded taxes.  
188 If we would have won the rescinded taxes, that means the school, county, and vocational school  
189 all have to pay their share of the reduced taxes. What happened was, when Onalaska went on  
190 record to challenge the Department of Revenue, they decided to hold our case in advance  
191 because there was another location that was challenging the Department of Revenue and the state  
192 lost. The state appealed, and they lost again. We won without spending a lot of legal costs to  
193 being able to charge back the school and the county. So the cost of the whole process was in the  
194 vicinity of [approximately] \$100,000, but it would have been a lot higher if we would have had  
195 to pay all the money ourselves to those locations. It has affected the city in the past.”

196

197 Fred told Ald. Smith this item had been brought to the floor in 2017, and he asked, “What  
198 happed with the League of Cities? Was it not enough time?”

199

200 Mayor Chilsen said Speaker Fitzgerald refused to bring the item to the Wisconsin State  
201 Assembly floor for a vote. Mayor Chilsen said that while there were a sufficient number of votes  
202 to pass the item, Speaker Fitzgerald controls the Assembly calendar and would not bring it to a  
203 vote. Mayor Chilsen added Governor Walker would not tell Speaker Fitzgerald to bring the item  
204 to the floor for a vote because the Manufacturers Council “is a proponent of the way it is now.”

205

206 Fred said that if the Finance and Personnel Committee goes on record to support the \$1,200, a  
207 portion of the City of Onalaska’s Tourism funds are placed in a Special Projects Fund. This fund  
208 has been utilized for different items, such as the when the city challenged the Badger Coulee  
209 Line. Fred said there would be sufficient funding if the city chooses to contribute to the League

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210 of Wisconsin Municipalities.

211

212 Ald. Every noted there always is a surplus in the Common Council fund and asked if perhaps  
213 that could be a funding source.

214

215 Fred said, “I don’t want to go into the General Fund. I would just as soon go into the Special  
216 Revenue Fund.”

217

218 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to authorize a contribution to League of Wisconsin  
219 Municipalities in the amount of \$1,200 and funding of the non-budgeted item, with funding  
220 coming from the Special Projects Fund.

221

222 On voice vote, motion carried.

223

224 **Item 9 – Approval of Tax Incremental Financing Policy**

225

226 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve Tax Incremental Financing Policy.

227

228 City Administrator Rindfleisch noted he had talked earlier Wednesday with Ald. Every and said  
229 Ald. Every had made some “excellent points” regarding some of the language in the policy. City  
230 Administrator Rindfleisch said he will be crafting a memo, possibly making some changes and  
231 forwarding them to Sean for review prior to the August 14 Common Council meeting. City  
232 Administrator Rindfleisch noted the document that will come before the Common Council either  
233 will have some modifications or there will be a side memo recommending some changes. City  
234 Administrator Rindfleisch said he welcomes feedback from anyone else with concerns and he  
235 will add them to his memo.

236

237 City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “Overall, what we’re looking at is a Tax Incremental  
238 Financing Policy for the city. The reason for it is we have not had one in the past. It has been  
239 project-based. The value I see in having a policy up front is that anybody approaching the city  
240 either create a TID District for their request or to request for funds for a TID District  
241 understanding our general overview of what the city is looking for – not necessarily the process,  
242 but the purpose, the needs that we’re willing to finance, and some of the guidelines that we’re  
243 looking at or we’re willing to participate in with a developer or with a project and establish those  
244 guidelines in general. So the criteria for TIF assistance, what we’re looking for, the purpose of a  
245 TIF, highlighting it needs to pass the ‘but/for test,’ what’s eligible for costs. There are a lot of  
246 important details there that developers will need to have a general sense of where it is that we are  
247 looking for before approaching the city. Another thing that having a TIF policy can do is before  
248 a natural application is made down the road, for any TIF assistance, having a guideline in place  
249 that is a policy means that staff can review that with the developer and either give some direction  
250 and say, ‘No, this does not qualify,’ or, ‘Yes, this does qualify. Here are certain things that you  
251 need to do.’ ” City Administrator Rindfleisch also noted the final paragraph highlights the fact

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252 there will be exceptions that only are allowable by the Common Council. Staff also may suggest  
253 that something does not qualify, but it may go before the Common Council for a possible  
254 exception. City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “It does allow the developers to make plans  
255 without being public, but understand that once we go to the public and ask for public funds it  
256 will be public and here are the guidelines that as a policy we suggest.”

257

258 On voice vote, motion carried.

259

260 **PERSONNEL**

261

262 **Item 10 – Review and consideration of a one-time stipend for the Payroll/HR Assistant**

263

264 Hope said that since former IT Support Specialist Mike DeLine left his position this past May,  
265 Payroll/HR Assistant Amy Hewitt has done an exceptional job and “gone above and beyond  
266 what her job duties are” with the IT functions. Hope said the goal is to hire an IT Systems  
267 Administrator by the end of August, adding she would like to provide Amy with some  
268 compensation to reward her for her work. Hope complimented Amy for working with outside  
269 vendors, completing projects, ensuring tasks are completed in a timely manner, and working with  
270 the IT vendor to ensure that technical difficulties are repaired. Hope noted there are funds in the  
271 unexpended funds due to the IT Support Specialist vacancy. Hope said she had calculated \$600  
272 by doing a comparison of what the city has done with other staff members who have assumed  
273 additional responsibilities.

274

275 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve a one-time stipend of \$600 for the  
276 Payroll/HR Assistant.

277

278 On voice vote, motion carried.

279

280 **Item 11 – Review and consideration of authorization to replace Firefighter/EMT position**

281

282 Hope said another firefighter had tendered his resignation as his spouse had accepted a position  
283 in the Twin Cities and he also had been able to secure employment. Hope said the firefighter  
284 hopes to leave the week of August 12-18, and she noted the city has an eligibility list. Hope also  
285 noted a firefighter had begun employment this week, and she said staff is working on finishing  
286 the background check of another applicant. Hope said a background check on another applicant,  
287 who has been informed there is an opening, will begin once this item is approved and if the  
288 individual still is interested in the position.

289

290 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve authorization to replace  
291 Firefighter/EMT position.

292

293 On voice vote, motion carried.

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294

295 **Item 12 – Review and consideration of changes to City Policies:**

296

297 a. 6.01 Anti-Harassment, Discrimination, Retaliation Policy

298

299 Hope noted Policy 6.01 has not been updated since 2003 and said that with some of the  
300 information the city has received from its insurance carrier, CVMIC (Cities and Villages Mutual  
301 Insurance Company) regarding training, “we’re due for harassment training, but looking at that  
302 and wanting to update our policies. One of the things that is coming up more ... I think people  
303 are pretty understanding of what sexual harassment is and what a hostile work environment is.  
304 But they’re seeing a rise in retaliation cases, so when people have a complaint they bring the case  
305 back and now a staff member or other staff members retaliate against that individual. We’re  
306 trying to get our policy more in compliance to outline some of those changes. There are some  
307 federal and some Wisconsin laws that it addresses. The attorneys reviewed the document as well  
308 and made some changes and moving things like definitions together, similar to some of our other  
309 policies. The biggest changes you’re going to see is some things look like they’ve been crossed  
310 out, but they might have been moved in other locations. They’re not total changes in the policy.  
311 I think the biggest one is the retaliation where it really talks about the different kinds of examples  
312 of what retaliation could be, and then the complaint procedure if you feel you’ve been retaliated  
313 against.

314

315 I think a lot of our policies will be coming to the committee, hopefully in the next few months.  
316 The other part is, with having a City Administrator on staff, a lot of our policies don’t address  
317 people reporting things either to myself, the City Administrator, or the Mayor. A lot of them just  
318 say ‘the Mayor’ or ‘Human Resources,’ and I think we need to add that step on in place with  
319 that. The retaliation is a big portion of adding that, [as is] adding the address and location of the  
320 Equal Rights Division for the state and also federal government. It’s also cleaning up some of  
321 things [such as], who do they report things to? Who does the investigations? What is the  
322 process? [There also are a lot] of definitions. Most of those did not change much. ... Again, [it  
323 addresses] retaliation with work situations, and then basically a form to ... I don’t think a lot of  
324 people are sure what is needed if there is a complaint. [This] is to really outline, ‘Here is what  
325 the situation is, [and] here is what happened’ to really get them some things so they can write  
326 out, ‘What information would Human Resources or my supervisor need if there is some sort of  
327 complaint either on harassment, discrimination or retaliation?’ ”

328

329 Ald. Smith asked Hope if this is something she will be discussing at a future staff meeting.

330

331 Hope said CVMIC typically provides employment practices liability training, and she noted  
332 harassment training is conducted approximately every three years. Hope said she believes that  
333 training for all staff will be conducted September 27 and 28. Hope also said supervisors will  
334 receive more in-depth training, adding, “All the staff will go through this, then with our policy  
335 changes go through all those changes as well. Hopefully, what we’re intending to do is have

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336 somebody from CVMIC come and present to the Council so that [the alderpersons] can hear,  
337 first of all, what CVMIC does for us, and also what kinds of things they're seeing a rise in and  
338 why we're updating these policies."

339

340 Ald. Every noted the word "discrimination" has been crossed out in the policy title, and he told  
341 Hope, "I understand what you said. But then following through there, it mentions  
342 discrimination. It does cover that as well. That's in there."

343

344 Hope told Ald. Every he is correct, also telling him that city legal counsel also had expressed  
345 concerns regarding that language being crossed out. Hope noted she had spoken with a CVMIC  
346 representative and said she was told even though all the different items are not spelled out  
347 individually in the title of the policy it does not mean it does not cover all of those items.

348

349 Ald. Every asked Hope if there currently are any cases of retaliation.

350

351 Hope said no.

352

353 Ald. Every expressed concern regarding the chain of command in terms of reporting an incident.

354 Ald. Every said, "The chain of command, when somebody reports an incident ... For instance, if  
355 they go to the Mayor, is he required to go to you [Hope] and to Eric? Or to a supervisor first and  
356 then to you and Eric and the Mayor? How does that work?"

357

358 Hope said the typical recommendation is if an employee registers a complaint, he/she should first  
359 address it with his/her direct supervisor if he/she is uncomfortable about going to their  
360 supervisor. Hope said, "In that case it could be a department head. It could be the Mayor. It  
361 could be myself. It could be Eric. In most cases, the recommendation is to work with all of us  
362 so if the Mayor gets a complaint [he should] bring it to Eric and I so we can all address it and be  
363 on the same page. More than likely in those situations there are multiple people who are going  
364 to get involved in that. It might not be as crystal clear, it really gives a little bit more direction  
365 on where they can go. But again, if they say something to their supervisor and the supervisor  
366 doesn't bring it to us, they have the option to take it right to the state. That doesn't mean that the  
367 state is going to do anything right away. They're going to ask, 'Did you follow your harassment  
368 policy?' If they didn't, they're going to push it back to follow that policy. It really is important  
369 for people to go through and report it." Hope added she always recommends to employees  
370 during orientation to first approach the individual, if the employee is comfortable doing so,  
371 because he/she might not realize he/she has offended the employee. However, employees should  
372 speak to their supervisor if they are not comfortable speaking to the individual.

373

374 Ald. Every said he is concerned that Hope will end up having to address situations.

375

376 Hope said her role is to serve as a resource and ensure that no difficult situations arise.

377

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378 Motion by Ald. Every, second by Ald. Olson, to approve changes to City Policy 6.01 – Anti-  
379 Harassment, Discrimination, Retaliation Policy.

380

381 On voice vote, motion carried.

382

383 b. 4.13 Unmanned Aerial Devices Policy

384

385 Hope noted the city had received a donation for a drone in 2017, and she said staff members  
386 have been able to participate in required training by the Federal Aviation Administration. Hope  
387 said Nils Housker, the new Public Works Technology Coordinator, had noticed discrepancies  
388 with the training he had attended and what the city’s policy stated. Hope said Nils had worked  
389 with City Administrator Rindfleisch and city legal counsel Amanda Jackson to ensure that the  
390 policy was current.

391

392 City Administrator Rindfleisch highlighted the following changes:

393

- 394 • Under Item No. 2 (“Officer Safety Tactical Applications”) of “Authorized Uses,” the last  
395 sentence should read as follows: *“Use of an UAS in this capacity must be authorized by*  
396 *the Assistant Chief of Police or Chief of Police.”*
- 397 • Item No. 5 (“Air Traffic Control Notification”) under “Authorized Uses,” which reads  
398 *“Prior to launching an UAS, the Authorized Operator shall contact the La Crosse Air*  
399 *Traffic Control Tower for the La Crosse Regional Airport and alert them to the intended*  
400 *flight path of the UAS”* has been deleted.
- 401 • Under “Authorized Operators,” the sentences *“Only personnel who have successfully*  
402 *applied for and received their Remote Pilot Certificate with a small UAS rating from the*  
403 *Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) shall be permitted to operate the UAS. Use of the*  
404 *UAS shall be within the guidelines provided by the FAA”* have been deleted. It should be  
405 replaced with the following: *“Only personnel who have completed the City of Onalaska’s*  
406 *UAS training program and have been approved by the UAS Program Coordinator shall*  
407 *be permitted to operate the UAS. Use of the UAS shall be within the guidelines provided*  
408 *by the FAA.”*

409

410 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to approve changes to City Policy 4.13 – a  
411 Unmanned Aerial Devices Policy.

412

413 Ald. Every said he is troubled by the fact an individual could be operating the drone at an  
414 altitude of more than 300 feet, and he asked, “Are we sure they know what that is?”

415

416 Ald. Every was told yes.

417

418 Ald. Smith noted the city is in the process of establishing a training program.

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419  
420 City Administrator Rindfleisch said the process is taking “far longer” and noted the city must go  
421 back to the 1800s to identify its initial certification as a government entity to the FAA.

422  
423 Mayor Chilsen told committee members the citizens who had made a financial donation for the  
424 drone to the city contact him regularly and ask why the process is taking so long.

425  
426 On voice vote, motion carried.

427  
428 **Item 13 – Closed Session**

429  
430 To consider a motion under Section 19.85(1)(g) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of  
431 conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice  
432 concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely  
433 to become involved:

- 434  
435
  - Ground Round Personal Property Taxes – 2017

436  
437 If any action is required in Open Session, as the result of the Closed Session, the Committee will  
438 reconvene in Open Session to take the necessary action and/or continue on with the printed  
439 agenda.

440  
441 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Ald. Every, to convene in Closed Session.

442  
443 Ald. Every said, “I’ve had concerns about this before, going into Closed Session, and I wish the  
444 Mayor would hear this. It does say we are conferring with legal counsel. I don’t see any legal  
445 counsel here. We do that other times when I don’t think we are, or there are times when I don’t  
446 think we need to go into Closed Session. All I am saying is I wish we would really think about  
447 these Closed Sessions before we go into them. I don’t know of any reason why this would be. If  
448 we were developing a strategy I could understand that. But as far as who owes it and the  
449 amount, that’s no secret. That is known. I did second the motion and I will vote ‘aye’ to go into  
450 Closed Session to hear what the explanation is.”

451  
452 Ald. Smith asked City Administrator Rindfleisch if the wording is taken specifically from the  
453 statute.

454  
455 City Administrator Rindfleisch said he believes that is what Ald. Every is referring to and stated,  
456 “We are taking it strictly from statute, which grants the exception for Open Sessions to go into  
457 Closed Session for conferring with legal counsel. The information given to you this evening will  
458 be from legal counsel, minus the person actually here. I think that’s that line, and that’s to define  
459 if there’s a comfort level that you have or not have. The information given to staff will be  
460 presented. If that’s not something you’re comfortable with, then will have to make different

Reviewed 8/10/18 by Hope Burchell

**Finance & Personnel Committee  
of the City of Onalaska**

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

12

461 arrangements.”

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463 On roll call vote: Ald. Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Jerry Every – aye, Ald. Kim Smith – aye. In

464 Closed Session at 8:25 p.m.

465

466

467 Recorded by:

468

469 Kirk Bey