

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

1

1 The Meeting of the Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday,
2 December 4, 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: Ald. Dan Stevens, Ald. Jim Olson,
6 Ald. Kim Smith, Village of Holmen Trustee Micah Wyss, Village of West Salem Trustee Leroy
7 Brown

8
9 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, Mayor Joe Chilsen, Financial Services
10 Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, City Engineer Jarrod Holter, Human Resources Director Hope
11 Burchell, Assistant Fire Chief Troy Gudie, Ald. Diane Wulf, Ald. Tom Smith

12 13 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

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

17
18 On voice vote, motion carried.

19 20 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

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

24 25 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

26 27 **Item 4 – MASS TRANSIT**

28
29 A. Shared Ride Transit:

30
31 1. Financials (Justin Running or Jeff Burckhardt/Fred Buehler)

32
33 Fred reported the October 2019 statistics:

- 34
35
- 36 • **West Salem Trips:** 610 (an increase of 13 from October 2018)
 - 37 • **Holmen Trips:** 1,181 (an increase of 179 from October 2018)
 - 38 • **Onalaska Trips:** 3,003 (a decrease of 163 from October 2018)
 - 39 • **Total Trips:** 4,794 (an increase of 29, or 0.61 percent, from October 2018)
 - 40 • **MTU Passes:** 626 (a decrease of 92 from October 2018)
 - 41 • **Agency Trips:** 1,140 (an increase of 92 from October 2018)
 - **Year-to-Date Trips:** 44,987 (a decrease of 2,489 from October 2018)

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

2

- 42 • **Revenue:** \$181,452 (an increase of \$20,223, or 12.54 percent, from October 2018)

43

44 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Micah, to accept the Shared Ride Transit Financials and
45 place them on file.

46

47 On voice vote, motion carried.

48

- 49 2. **Resolution 41-2019** – Shared Ride Taxi Program for the City of Onalaska

50

51 Fred said this resolution is to continue the Shared Ride Program, which will put the city in a
52 position to authorize for both federal and state assistance.

53

54 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to approve Resolution 41-2019 – Shared Ride
55 Taxi Program for the City of Onalaska.

56

57 On voice vote, motion carried.

58

- 59 3. Second Amendment to the 2017-18 Shared Ride Taxi Agreement between
60 City of Onalaska and Running, Inc.

61

62 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Micah, to approve the Second Amendment to the 2017-18
63 Shared Ride Taxi Agreement between the City of Onalaska and Running, Inc.

64

65 On voice vote, motion carried.

66

- 67 4. Discussion and possible action relating to transfers occurring at the Center 90
68 location in the City of Onalaska

69

70 Ald. Stevens noted a copy of an email from Andrea Benco, who sits on the Parks and Recreation
71 Board, regarding possibly installing a bus shelter at Center 90 has been included in committee
72 members' packets. Center 90 is currently being remodeled. Upon completion, there no longer
73 will be a series of interconnected stores accessible from a corridor as each business will have its
74 own entrance. Andrea pointed out in her email Center 90 is a Shared Ride transfer point for
75 riders on the No. 9 Onalaska MTU. Andrea also noted Center 90 offered sheltered seating for
76 individuals who were waiting for their connections.

77

78 Fred noted he had spoken with Justin Running, who told Fred he would speak to Richard
79 Running. Fred said he had been told both Justin and Richard Running would attend this
80 evening's meeting, and he told committee members he was unaware Center 90 was a transfer
81 point as it had been located at Valley View Mall. Fred said, "I think there are maybe a few riders
82 between there that may be getting off, but it's not a lot of people getting out and it's not a lot of
83 people getting on."

Reviewed 12/6/19 by Fred Buehler

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

3

84

85 Ald. K. Smith said she had been contacted by residents who utilize the bus, and she told
86 committee members these individuals are concerned that the people who are transferring at
87 Center 90 now have nowhere to shelter inside. Ald. K. Smith said she hopes the city can work
88 with Running, Inc. on creating a semi-protected area for individuals transferring from MTU to
89 Shared Ride, and she expressed disappointment no one from the company is attending this
90 evening's meeting.

91

92 Ald. Olson noted there is an enclosed hallway from the front to the back between Redemption
93 Bookstore and 151 Hair Company.

94

95 Ald. Stevens noted he had spoken to a former MTU bus driver, and he said this individual had
96 told him the sheltered area in Center 90 was incidental and had nothing to do with MTU. Ald.
97 Stevens asked, "If MTU wanted to put a bus stop up there, is that private property? Would they
98 have the ability to do that? I think that is something MTU would need to work with Center 90
99 and come to an agreement. I don't have a problem if there's a bus stop there or not, but I'm not
100 sure we would have the jurisdiction to put a bus stop there."

101

102 City Administrator Rindfleisch said he believes Center 90 is marked as an MTU stop, but it is
103 not a transfer point for Shared Ride. City Administrator Rindfleisch said Fred is correct in that
104 Valley View Mall is the designated transfer point.

105

106 Ald. Stevens asked City Administrator Rindfleisch if he has a recommendation for the
107 committee.

108

109 City Administrator Rindfleisch said he believes the committee already had made a
110 recommendation to contact Center 90 representatives about making Center 90 an official transfer
111 point and having a type of shelter there.

112

113 Ald. K. Smith said she does not believe the committee has sufficient information to make any
114 type of recommendation at this time, and she suggested perhaps referring this item to city staff.
115 Ald. K. Smith said this item may be placed on a future agenda if the committee needs to take any
116 action.

117

118 Mayor Chilsen told committee members Eleanor Thorud owns Center 90 and said he would be
119 happy to contact her and ask any questions the committee might have.

120

121 Ald. K. Smith thanked Mayor Chilsen and said contacting Eleanor Thorud might be the best
122 possible solution. However, Ald. K. Smith also reiterated the city does not have enough
123 information at this time and said she is uncertain what action to take.

124

125 Micah suggested making the official transfer point more known and contacting Andrea to ask if

Reviewed 12/6/19 by Fred Buehler

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

4

126 that is an option for her.

127

128 Ald. K. Smith said she believes the point of Andrea's email was to note there are individuals
129 who utilize Center 90 as a transfer point. Ald. K. Smith said for years Center 90 has been a
130 convenient location for these individuals to wait inside for MTU or Shared Ride, "and now this
131 free service is gone. Do we want to do something about that, or do we not want to do anything
132 about it?"

133

134 Ald. Stevens said it was his understanding this had less to do with whether or not Center 90 was
135 a transfer point to whether or not there would be a shelter available for the individuals who were
136 transferring there. Ald. Stevens also said it seems to him that would be a decision that would be
137 best addressed between MTU and Eleanor Thorud, and he told Ald. K. Smith he agrees with her
138 in that the committee lacks sufficient information to make a decision.

139

140 Motion by Ald. Stevens, second by to direct city staff to obtain more information related to
141 transfers occurring at the Center 90 location, and what the needs and responsibilities of the
142 Utilities Committee should be.

143

144 Motion dies for lack of a second.

145

146 Ald. K. Smith told Ald. Stevens she had not seconded his motion because she believes it is the
147 committee's responsibility to decide if it wishes to help address this problem.

148

149 Ald. Stevens said it was his understanding the committee lacked sufficient information to make a
150 decision, and he asked how the committee should proceed with obtaining more information.

151

152 Ald. K. Smith suggested deferring this item to the January 8 Utilities Committee meeting,
153 thereby giving staff and Running, Inc. time to provide input. Ald. K. Smith also noted Mayor
154 Chilsen will have an opportunity to speak with Eleanor Thorud, and she said that perhaps those
155 parties will come forward on January 8 with more information so that the committee will know
156 how to proceed.

157

158 Leroy said he believes it is important to have an MTU representative attend the January 8
159 meeting.

160

161 B. MTU:

162

1. Transit Financials (Adam Lorentz)

163

164 Fred said that while he does not have a report this evening, he will make sure that Adam presents
165 both the third and fourth quarter financials in January.

166

167 C. Holmen Transit Input (Holmen Rep.)

Reviewed 12/6/19 by Fred Buehler

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, December 4, 2019

5

168
169 Micah said a resident had contacted him and asked him to tell committee members he/she had
170 attempted to call a ride “and found it to be a frustrating situation” as he/she needed to repeat the
171 same information multiple times. Micah said he does not know if that was a one-time event or a
172 common occurrence, and he wanted to bring it to the committee’s attention.

173
174 D. West Salem Transit Input (West Salem Rep.)

175
176 No report.

177
178 E. Onalaska Transit Input (Onalaska Rep.)

179
180 No report.

181
182 **Item 5 – UTILITIES**

183
184 No Report

185
186 **Adjournment**

187
188 Motion by Ald. K. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

189
190 On voice vote, motion carried.

191
192
193 Recorded by:

194
195 Kirk Bey