

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

1

1 The Meeting of the Utilities Committee was called to order at 6:05 p.m. on Wednesday, January
2 2, 2019. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted at City Hall.

3
4 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Ald. Jerry Every, Ald. Kim Smith,
5 Village of Holmen Trustee Brandon Cain, Village of West Salem Trustee Leroy Brown

6
7 Also Present: City Administrator Eric Rindfleisch, Mayor Joe Chilsen, Financial Services
8 Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler

9
10 Excused Absence: Ald. Jim Olson

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

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

16
17 On voice vote, motion carried.

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

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

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

25
26 **Item 4 – MASS TRANSIT**

27
28 a. Shared Ride Transit:

29 1. **Public Hearing: Approximately 6:00 P.M. (or immediately following Public**
30 **Input)** Proposed Increase in Agency Fare

31
32 Ald. Every called three times for anyone wishing to speak regarding the Shared Ride Transit
33 Proposed Increase in Agency Fare and closed the public hearing.

34
35 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Brandon, to approve increasing the agency fare from \$5.00 to
36 \$6.00 effective January 3, 2019.

37
38 Leroy said, “I wish we knew what the impact would be on the agency fare payers. I don’t know
39 how many we have, and I guess I don’t know what the impact toward them is.”

40
41 Fred promised Leroy he will show him when the committee addresses the next item.

42
43 On voice vote, motion carried.

44
45 2. Financials (Justin Running or Jeff Burekhardt/Fred Buehler)

Reviewed 1/4/19 by Fred Buehler

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

2

46
47 Fred referred committee members' attention to the monthly totals on the back of the financials –
48 specifically, the agency trips through November 2018 – and he noted they totaled 10,408. Fred
49 said, “If [the fare increase] is \$5 to \$6, you’ll get a pretty good idea of how much would be
50 generated.”

51
52 Fred reported the November 2018 Shared Ride statistics:

- 53
- 54 • **West Salem Trips:** 569 (an increase of 23 from November 2017)
- 55 • **Holmen Trips:** 1,041 (a decrease of 131 from November 2017)
- 56 • **Onalaska Trips:** 2,921 (a decrease of 282 from November 2017)
- 57 • **Total Trips:** 4,531 (a decrease of 390, or 7.93 percent, from November 2017)
- 58 • **MTU Passes:** 647 (a decrease of 35 from November 2017)
- 59 • **Agency Trips:** 997 (an increase of 15 from November 2017)
- 60 • **Year-to-Date Trips:** 52,007 (a decrease of 1,901 from November 2017)
- 61 • **Revenue:** \$178,007 (a decrease of \$9.340, or 4.98 percent, from November 2017)
- 62

63 Fred predicted there will be “a very positive” in agency trips in January 2020 because there has
64 been an increase in agency trips.

65
66 Leroy said, “My concern is I don’t know who the payers are. I’m worried that the increased cost
67 might ...”

68
69 Fred reminded Leroy that this is a federal program and said someone in a position of authority
70 dictates to each location who the primary carrier is.

71
72 Leroy asked, “So we don’t have a risk of them running out on us?”

73
74 Fred said, “I don’t think so.”

75
76 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Leroy, to accept the Shared Ride Transit financials and place
77 them on file.

78
79 On voice vote, motion carried.

80 81 3. 2017 Audit Results on the Shared Ride Program

82
83 Fred said the Utilities Committee had briefly discussed this item at its December 5 meeting, but
84 no action could be taken at that time as the audit results arrived the same day as the meeting.
85 Fred said he had a December 14 deadline to submit this form to the State of Wisconsin. Fred
86 noted he had discussed this item with City Administrator Rindfleisch, and he said Running, Inc.
87 had crafted a memorandum, a copy of which has been included in committee members’ packets,
88 to explain the audit results. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation also had received a

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

3

89 copy of the memorandum.

90

91 Fred said, "In the eyes of the Wisconsin DOT, it was not a material weakness. It was more of a
92 non-material weakness rather than a severe or something concerning a material weakness.

93 However, it is listed there as to what it consisted of. Other than that, the year was closed out."

94 Fred also noted the City of Onalaska will receive \$20,111.

95

96 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Brandon, to accept the 2017 Audit Results on the Shared Ride
97 Program.

98

99 On voice vote, motion carried.

100

101 b. MTU Transit financials (Adam Lorentz)

102

103 No report.

104

105 c. Holmen Transit Input (Holmen Rep.)

106

107 No report.

108

109 d. West Salem Transit Input (West Salem Rep.)

110

111 Leroy thanked committee members for agreeing to move up the starting time of tonight's
112 meeting so he could attend.

113

114 e. Onalaska Transit Input (Onalaska Rep.)

115

116 Fred said the City of Onalaska will not have a location for Shared Ride for much longer,
117 explaining that the city was utilizing an existing facility and charging a fee. This is accepted
118 through the grant. Fred said, "Then it was kind of offsetting the grant for dollars that the city
119 was receiving." Fred said he utilized assumptions when he was completing the 2019 grant, and
120 he told Brandon and Leroy that Shared Ride is interested in finding locations.

121

122 Ald. Smith inquired about the square footage being sought.

123

124 Fred noted there are 10 Shared Ride vehicles and expressed a desire for a facility to have a
125 restroom.

126

127 Ald. Smith asked, "They just need to physically store the vehicles there?"

128

129 Fred said, "That's pretty much what we're using it for now," adding there also is a restroom
130 facility and space for the dispatcher at the current facility. Fred said City Administrator
131 Rindfleisch is looking at having a new Shared Ride facility prepared by April.

132

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

4

133 **Item 5 – UTILITIES**

134

135 a. Update regarding the La Crosse Area Metropolitan Sewerage District

136

137 City Administrator Rindfleisch said this item was placed on the agenda in the event he had heard
138 when the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources had scheduled a hearing. The hearing has
139 not yet been scheduled, and City Administrator Rindfleisch said he believes this is due to the
140 Christmas and New Year’s schedule. City Administrator Rindfleisch said, “When the DNR does
141 post that hearing, which should occur within 30 days from them getting notice, I will let
142 everyone know when that would be.”

143

144 City Administrator Rindfleisch told committee members the information and resolution had been
145 sent to the Wisconsin DNR, and he said, “We continue to receive support from the surrounding
146 communities.” City Administrator Rindfleisch referred to an article that appeared in the La
147 Crosse Tribune and said it was “fairly accurate” and had spoken to the intentions of the district.
148 City Administrator Rindfleisch also noted he, Mayor Chilsen and all six alderpersons have
149 received a public records request, which will be presented and submitted to City of La Crosse
150 Attorney Stephen Matty.

151

152 Ald. Every said a Town of Campbell Board member had asked to have a conversation, but he
153 had not responded. Ald. Every said his response will be that the request should be directed
154 toward City Administrator Rindfleisch.

155

156 Mayor Chilsen noted a Tribune reporter had contacted both him and City Administrator
157 Rindfleisch for her story, and he said he declined comment after she told him she already had
158 spoken with City Administrator Rindfleisch. Mayor Chilsen said, “Eric and I are on the same
159 page with this, and I don’t feel the need for two of us to be talking. At some point somebody is
160 going to have to sit down and hammer out an agreement.”

161

162 Ald. Every said he believes Ald. Jim Binash, who serves as Common Council President, also
163 should be kept up to date.

164

165 **Adjournment**

166

167 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Ald. Every, to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.

168

169 On voice vote, motion carried.

170

171

172 Recorded by:

173

174 Kirk Bey