

Utilities Committee

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

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1 The Meeting of the Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3,
2 2019. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted at City Hall.

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

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

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10 Excused Absence: Village of Holmen Trustee Brandon Cain

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

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

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17 On voice vote, motion carried.

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

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

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

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26 **Item 4 – MASS TRANSIT**

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28 a. Shared Ride Transit:

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

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31 Fred reported the February 2019 Shared Ride statistics:

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- 33 • **West Salem Trips:** 598 (an increase of 76 from February 2018)
- 34 • **Holmen Trips:** 1,152 (an increase of 13 from February 2018)
- 35 • **Onalaska Trips:** 2,762 (a decrease of 43 from February 2018)
- 36 • **Total Trips:** 4,512 (an increase of 46, or 1.03 percent, from February 2018)
- 37 • **MTU Passes:** 631 (an increase of 53 from February 2018)
- 38 • **Agency Trips:** 1,063 (an increase of 257 from February 2018)
- 39 • **Year-to-Date Trips:** 8,849 (a decrease of 466 from February 2018)
- 40 • **Revenue:** \$34,988 (an increase of \$2,625, or 8.11 percent, from February 2018)

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42 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Leroy, to approve the Shared Ride Transit Financials and place
43 them on file.

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45 On voice vote, motion carried.

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47 2. Triennial Review Closeout Letter

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49 Fred said he is looking for the Utilities Committee to accept the Triennial Review Closeout
50 Letter that shows the City of Onalaska has adequately addressed its deficiencies to the
51 satisfaction of the Federal Transit Administration, which has closed out the last three years of the
52 Triennial Review of the Shared Ride Program.

53

54 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to accept the Triennial Review Closeout Letter and
55 place it on file.

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57 On voice vote, motion carried.

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59 3. Set Date/Time for Program-of-Projects Hearing

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61 Fred said he had received a draft since the March 5 Utilities Committee meeting from the State
62 of Wisconsin. Fred noted he had submitted a budget of \$857,388, and farebox revenues totaled
63 \$214,000 (ridership rates increased by 25 cents). The net operating deficit totaled \$643,388.
64 The final federal share totaled \$263,435, the final State of Wisconsin share totaled \$194,986, and
65 the final local share totaled \$184,967. Fred told committee members the figures listed in the
66 draft are approximately \$4,000 higher than what he had anticipated between federal and state.
67 Fred said, "At this point I wanted to start the process because tonight we're just scheduling the
68 Program of Projects Hearing. I'm pretty confident that next month I'll have the final allocation
69 of Tier B funding distribution for the State of Wisconsin.

70

71 Ald. Every asked about taking action at this time regarding the shortfall.

72

73 Fred told Ald. Every he is not sure what he means by the word shortfall and said, "What this is
74 showing is, if you were to compare this to our budget, we were receiving between federal and
75 state approximately \$4,000 more than I had budgeted." Fred said tonight the Utilities Committee
76 needs to establish the May 8 Program of Projects Hearing.

77

78 Motion by Leroy, second by Ald. Olson, to set the Program of Projects Hearing for 7 p.m. on
79 Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

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81 On voice vote, motion carried.

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83 4. Request for funding by La Crosse County in the amount of \$7,500 for the Scenic

Reviewed 4/5/19 by Fred Buehler

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84 Mississippi Regional Transit (S.M.R.T.) Commuter Bus Service

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86 Fred told committee members La Crosse County Planner Charlie Handy, who oversees the
87 S.M.R.T. program, had contacted him via telephone March 19 and requesting funding. Fred said
88 he told Charlie he would place the request on this evening's Utilities Committee meeting agenda.
89 Fred also said he had told Charlie to submit a detailed explanation of the program, which has
90 been included in committee members' packets.

91
92 Ald. Every asked if the city had budgeted for this.

93
94 Fred said no.

95
96 Ald. Every inquired about the funding source.

97
98 Fred said he is not sure.

99
100 Motion by Ald. Smith to discuss a request for funding by La Crosse County in the amount of
101 \$7,500 for the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (S.M.R.T.) Commuter Bus Service.

102
103 Ald. Every told Ald. Smith the item is on the agenda and she may discuss it.

104
105 Ald. Smith said, "This is something we'd have to plan much further ahead in order to have
106 money available for it. But just in looking briefly at the plan, in [Charlie Handy's] letter it talks
107 about the Onalaska medical campuses. But when I look at the routes, the closest these commuter
108 buses get to Onalaska is WTC [Western Technical College]. I'm not really making the
109 connection." Ald. Smith asked Fred if he can provide any more information.

110
111 Fred told Ald. Smith a new route is being created.

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113 Ald. Smith noted Charlie email states the route is a Green route.

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115 Charlie Handy's email states that the Green route began entering the City of Onalaska via State
116 Trunk Highway 16 on April 1.

117
118 Fred noted the Gundersen Health System and Mayo Health System locations are in the City of
119 La Crosse, and he said, "The closest we would have is the mall [Valley View Mall]."

120
121 Ald. Smith said that while philosophically she likes the idea, the city must think about spending
122 the taxpayers' money on items that would specifically benefit the City of Onalaska. Ald. Smith
123 said, "For lack of information, I would choose to not act on this additionally tonight." Ald.
124 Smith said she would be open to having Charlie or another S.M.R.T. representative attend a
125 future Utilities Committee meeting and convince committee members this is a worthy endeavor.

Reviewed 4/5/19 by Fred Buehler

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127 Ald. Every asked Ald. Smith if she would like to postpone this item to a later date.

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129 Ald. Smith said she believes the committee can choose to take no further action.

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131 City Administrator Rindfleisch recommended filing at this point in time and said staff may
132 extend an invitation to submit a request at a later date if there is a future request. City
133 Administrator Rindfleisch said a motion to file would supersede any motion that is on the floor.

134

135 Motion by Ald. Smith, second by Ald. Olson, to place on file a request for funding by La Crosse
136 County in the amount of \$7,500 for the Scenic Mississippi Regional Transit (S.M.R.T.)
137 Commuter Bus Service.

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139 Leroy said he will abstain from voting as it is a specific request for the City of Onalaska and he
140 does not believe it would be proper for him to cast a vote.

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142 On voice vote, motion carried, 3-0, with one abstention (Leroy).

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144 b. MTU Transit financials (Adam Lorentz)

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146 No report.

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148 c. Holmen Transit Input (Holmen Rep.)

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150 No report.

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

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154 No report.

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156 e. Onalaska Transit Input (Onalaska Rep.)

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158 No report.

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160 **Item 5 – UTILITIES**

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

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164 City Administrator Rindfleisch told committee members he has nothing further to add from his
165 report at the March 5 Utilities Committee meeting.

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168 **Adjournment**

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170 Motion by Leroy, second by Ald. Olson, to adjourn.

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172 On voice vote, motion carried.

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175 Recorded by:

176

177 Kirk Bey