

**Administrative & Judiciary Committee
of the City of Onalaska**

Wednesday, July 6, 2016

1

1 The meeting of the Administrative & Judiciary Committee of the City of Onalaska was called to
2 order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2016. It was noted that the meeting had been
3 announced and posted at City Hall.

4
5 Roll call was taken with the following members present: Ald. Bob Muth, Ald. Jim Binash

6
7 Also Present: Human Resource Director Hope Burchell, Police Chief Jeff Trotnic, Interim Land
8 Use and Development Director Katie Aspenson, Deputy City Clerk JoAnn Marcon

9
10 Excused Absence: Ald. Barry Blomquist

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

13
14 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Ald. Muth, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting
15 as 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. Muth called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

22
23 **Robert Hughes**
24 **416 Irvin Street**
25 **Onalaska**

26
27 “I sent you an email. I don’t know if I sent it to all the committee members. Did you receive the
28 email about changing the ordinances [regarding] the electric, the HVAC and the plumbing?”

29
30 Ald. Muth said he had.

31
32 Robert said, “I’m looking to change the ordinances in this town to reflect the same laws that
33 Wisconsin and federal law has, which allows homeowners to do their own electric, plumbing and
34 HVAC. Basically that’s Wisconsin and federal law. It’s been that way for decades. There
35 aren’t any massive death tolls, so that’s one reason why I feel it should be removed. There’s
36 really no evidence saying it’s actually a hazard to the citizens of Onalaska. The second reason is
37 that there’s inspection regardless, so the inspector is there to make sure everything is up to code
38 and everything is done right. There’s really no reason why somebody would have to hire another
39 individual. Another important part of this is that it’s about personal pride and self-reliance. It’s
40 my personal belief that you not only save money, but it’s also a matter of personal pride to make
41 sure things are done correctly. I come from a generational family that has built their own homes.
42 My father built two of his own homes. The last one we ran 8,000 feet of electric. That’s over a

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43 mile-and-a-half of electric wire. He ran it himself and did it up to code. Everything works great.
44 It's fine. It would have cost him a fortune to hire somebody else. It would improve city revenue
45 because this will deeply cut into my renovation budget, which means I will be able to do fewer
46 renovations, which means I won't be able to improve the value of the property as much. It's a
47 different time we live in than when the laws were made. These were passed back in 1980. Now
48 we have the internet. We have all sorts of do-it-yourself stores like Home Depot. They provide
49 a beginners' class for electricity. The rules are very stringent; they don't even let you change an
50 outlet. It's a little ridiculous. [Regarding] the cost, there's no adequate market control because if
51 all the electricians in the area collude and charge Onalaska residents 20 percent more, there's
52 nothing a homeowner can do about it except pay the additional costs. It incentivizes people to
53 work illegally and not get things inspected, which is the most dangerous thing of all. And it's
54 very important that inspectors are looked at as somebody there to help and not somebody who is
55 looked at as [being] there to hinder, harass or fine. It's very important that people do get their
56 work inspected and that it is affordable to them. In past experience, I was City Falls'
57 representative. We actually removed all mandatory inspection laws, so we went one step further
58 than just removing the requirement to have the licenses. We actually removed the inspections
59 altogether. We had no massive deaths and no massive death tolls. I actually voted against it
60 because I found it was a little overzealous."

61

62 Robert was informed that the three-minute time limit had been reached.

63

64 Robert said, "Basically the reality here is that I couldn't find any evidence to combat these laws
65 because so few people do it and so few municipalities do it. I guess no evidence is the best
66 evidence of all because if there was evidence for the laws we'd see it in the papers. It would be
67 in statistics. There would be studies about it. There's nothing. There are no laws to indicate that
68 this makes Onalaska residents any safer. I think it makes it more dangerous for everyone, and it
69 also makes things more costly for hard-working people like me that want to do their own work
70 and make sure it's done right and make sure it's inspected and make sure it's to code. I thank
71 you for your time, and I was also told by the Mayor that if I got my agenda items to you by the
72 end of the week that you would be able to put them on the agenda. I understand you were not
73 able to. I would request that if you do take kindly to my comments, which I really hope you do,
74 that you will schedule a special meeting so that you can pass this so that it can go to Council so I
75 can get this done because I'm in an active renovation right now."

76

77 Ald. Muth called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that
78 portion of the meeting.

79

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

81

82 **Administrative**

83

84 **Item 4 – Approval of Operator's Licenses as listed on report dated July 6, 2016, with option**

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85 **to leave the application process open until Monday, July 11, 2016 (day before the Common**
86 **Council meeting)**

87

88 Hope said that while she does not have an updated report one will be prepared for the July 12
89 Common Council agenda.

90

91 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve the Operator's Licenses on report dated
92 July 6, 2016, with the additional applications prior to the July 12, 2016 Common Council
93 meeting.

94

95 On voice vote, motion carried.

96

97 **Item 5 – Authorization to allow North American Squirrel Association (NASA) to use**
98 **firearms to hunt deer in the landfill area the first two weekends in September 2016**

99

100 Hope noted that a memo had been included in committee members' packets and said Police
101 Chief Trotnic approves of the hunt.

102

103 **Randy Moore, North American Squirrel Association**

104 **No address given**

105

106 Randy noted he is a member of the Big Game Committee and said he has been part of silent deer
107 hunts, Hixon Forest hunts, and the hunt at Norskedalen. Randy noted that NASA has worked
108 with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and said he has letters from the Wisconsin
109 DNR stating it approves of the hunt. Randy said the hunt will be held in a wooded area owned
110 by the City of Onalaska, and there will be five hunters and five mentors. Randy said each will
111 receive two tags and estimated that 20 to 30 deer will be harvested.

112

113 **Jerry Den Boer, President of NASA**

114 **No address given**

115

116 Jerry said legally there can be one hunter per 40 acres, adding that the five hunters and their
117 mentors will be stationed on the east side against the hill. Jerry said he will be meeting Friday
118 with La Crosse County Landfill officials, who will be taking a formal resolution before the board
119 on Monday.

120

121 Ald. Binash inquired about the type of guns that will be utilized during the hunt.

122

123 Randy said 243 rifles typically are utilized, and participants utilize stands on which to set the
124 rifles.

125

126 Police Chief Trotnic said dispatch will be notified of the hunt.

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127

128 Randy said NASA will place fliers on the doors of individuals who reside near the landfill.

129 Randy also noted that residents had attended a meeting and said they approve of the hunt.

130

131 Ald. Muth asked when the hunt will begin.

132

133 Randy said it will take place in the afternoon and evening hours. Hunters will meet at the site at
134 1 p.m. and following a safety meeting will hunt from 3 p.m. until nightfall. Randy said there will
135 be two separate hunts (Saturday, September 3 and Sunday, September 4, and Saturday,
136 September 10 and Sunday, September 11) because there likely will be different hunters for
137 different weekends. Randy also said NASA always contacts the ambulance service if there is an
138 emergency.

139

140 Ald. Muth asked that dispatch or the Police Department be contacted prior to hunters going out
141 for the shoot.

142

143 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to allow North American Squirrel Association
144 (NASA) to use firearms to hunt deer in the landfill area the first two weekends in September
145 2016

146

147 On voice vote, motion carried.

148

149 **Item 6 – Approval of request from Carol and Gary Skoy for one full body burial with one**
150 **set of ashes in Block 174, Lot 1, Grave 4 in the City of Onalaska Cemetery**

151

152 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve request from Carol and Gary Skoy for
153 one full body burial with one set of ashes in Block 174, Lot 1, Grave 4 in the City of Onalaska
154 Cemetery

155

156 On voice vote, motion carried.

157

158 **Item 7 – Approval of Special Event Permit for Mini Donut Half-Marathon on September**
159 **17, 2016 at 7 a.m. starting at Riders Club Road and 4th Avenue North, Onalaska**

160

161 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve Special Event Permit for Mini Donut
162 Half-Marathon on September 17, 2016 at 7 a.m. starting at Riders Club Road and 4th Avenue
163 North, Onalaska

164

165 On voice vote, motion carried.

166

167 **Item 8 – Miscellaneous licensing reporting**

168

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169 Hope said the miscellaneous licensing report includes recreational burn permits.

170

171 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve the miscellaneous licensing reporting.

172

173 On voice vote, motion carried.

174

175 **Judiciary**

176

177 **Item 1 – Ordinance No. 1559-2016 – to annex land located in the Southwest ¼ of the**
178 **Southeast ¼ in Section 29, Township 17 North, Range 7 West from the Town of Onalaska**
179 **to the City of Onalaska (Third and Final Reading) (Three Amigos Property Management,**
180 **LLC, successor in interest to Bob Stephan, Abbey Road Development, LLC) (Previously**
181 **Ordinance 1469-2014)**

182

183 Katie said staff has a check on file from the applicant that covers the necessary fees. Katie said
184 the land will be annexed into the city and added to the Abbey Road plat upon approval by both
185 the Administrative and Judiciary Committee and the Common Council.

186

187 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve Ordinance No. 1559-2016 – to annex
188 land located in the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ in Section 29, Township 17 North, Range 7
189 West from the Town of Onalaska to the City of Onalaska (Third and Final Reading) (Three
190 Amigos Property Management, LLC, successor in interest to Bob Stephan, Abbey Road
191 Development, LLC) (Previously Ordinance 1469-2014).

192

193 On voice vote, motion carried.

194

195 **Item 2 – Ordinance No. 1560-2016 – to amend Section 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 3 of the Code**
196 **of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to City Budget (Third and Final Reading)**

197

198 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve Ordinance No. 1560-2016 – to amend
199 Section 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to
200 City Budget (Third and Final Reading).

201

202 On voice vote, motion carried.

203

204 **Item 3 – Ordinance No. 1562-2016 – to annex land located in the Southwest ¼ of the**
205 **Southwest ¼ in Section 3, Township 16 North, Range 7 West from the Town of Onalaska to**
206 **the City of Onalaska (Third and Final Reading) (Coulee Golf Bowl Annexation)**
207 **(Previously Ordinance 1468-2014)**

208

209 Katie said she had contacted the attorney who represents Coulee Golf Bowl and informed them
210 that the ordinance had passed the First and Second Reading. Katie noted that the State

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211 Department had granted Coulee Golf Bowl a variance to construct its addition knowing that
212 annexation would occur as soon as possible.

213

214 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve Ordinance No. 1562-2016 – to annex
215 land located in the Southwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ in Section 3, Township 16 North, Range 7
216 West from the Town of Onalaska to the City of Onalaska (Third and Final Reading) (Coulee
217 Golf Bowl Annexation) (Previously Ordinance 1468-2014).

218

219 On voice vote, motion carried.

220

221 **Item 4 – Ordinance No. 1563-2016 – to amend Title 2 Chapter 4 of the City of Onalaska**
222 **Code of Ordinances related to Community Development Authority (Third and Final**
223 **Reading)**

224

225 Katie said this updates who serves on the CDA.

226

227 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve Ordinance No. 1563-2016 – to amend
228 Title 2 Chapter 4 of the City of Onalaska Code of Ordinances related to Community
229 Development Authority (Third and Final Reading).

230

231 On voice vote, motion carried.

232

233 **Item 5 – Ordinance No. 1564-2016 – to amend Section 7 of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Code**
234 **of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to the Impoundment of Animals (Third and**
235 **Final Reading)**

236

237 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to approve Ordinance No. 1564-2016 – to amend
238 Section 7 of Chapter 1 of Title 7 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to
239 the Impoundment of Animals (Third and Final Reading).

240

241 On voice vote, motion carried.

242

243 **Adjournment**

244

245 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Binash, to adjourn at 6:23 p.m.

246

247 On voice vote, motion carried.

248

249

250 Recorded by:

251

252 Kirk Bey

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