

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

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, December 3, 2014. 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. Harvey Bertrand, Ald. Jack
6 Pogreba, Ald. Erik Sjolander

7
8 Also Present: City Clerk Cari Burmaster, City Engineer Jarrod Holter, Ald. Jim Bialecki,
9 Library Director Chris McArdle Rojo

10
11 **Item 2 - Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

12
13 Motion by Ald. Sjolander, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve the minutes from the previous
14 meeting 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. Pogreba called for anyone wishing to provide public input.

21
22 **Diane Oldani Wulf**
23 **910 Orchid Place**
24 **Onalaska**

25
26 “I am here under public input to speak on behalf of Item No. 4 under Judiciary, [which is]
27 Ordinance No. 1491-2014 – to amend city ordinances relating to Library Commission. I don't
28 have anything prepared, but I just wanted to use my three minutes this evening. In talking with
29 some Council members, it's apparent to me that when the 2015 Budget was passed they were not
30 aware that the contractual line was omitted for Library Commission; i.e., it essentially was
31 defunding the Library Commission. When you look at a budget book that is about yay big, it's
32 quite thick. As a former chair of the Library Commission for two years, I was very disappointed
33 to see it being defunded. When I look at past budgets, for 2012 actual dollars used for
34 Transcription: Contractual for the Library Commission was \$301.86. In 2013 it was \$194.87,
35 and year-to-date activity as of November 30 was \$342.73. It was budgeted for \$450 going
36 forward for 2015 – department budget, that's what they put forward. Under the Executive
37 Budget – i.e., the Mayor – he removed the \$450. I would respectfully request that you do not
38 approve Item No. 4, Ordinance No. 1491-2014, or at least at a minimum you forward it to
39 Council next week for further discussion. I personally have never heard anyone at this table or at
40 any meetings publically, unless I've missed it – and I read practically every minutes of meetings
41 that are out there – talk about there not being a Library Commission unless this is going to be
42 like Tourism moving up to the Omni Center and it's all done in private and there's no

Reviewed 12/5/14

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

2

43 transparency once again, which has obviously [angered] an awful lot of people, and I'm one of
44 them. I'm not so much [angry] about the fact it's going up there, but no one knew. I think there
45 are a lot of issues and not very much transparency in the City of Onalaska anymore, and I
46 couldn't be more disappointed. As my husband is very fond of saying, probably the worst thing
47 you can do is disappoint me, because I don't forget it. Thank you."

48

49 **Ward Keil**
50 **426 4th Avenue North**
51 **Onalaska**

52

53 "I would like to apologize to [Diane] for my phone going off. ... I'm also here tonight to talk on
54 Judiciary Item No. 4. I have to agree with [Diane] 100 percent, if not 110 percent.
55 Decommission the Library Commission. I feel that the citizens of this city are owed some type
56 of explanation as to why. Is it money savings? [Diane] pointed out that's an absolute joke, and
57 it should be considered as such. Is it that no other towns or cities have a group as a library
58 commission or whatever? It's amazing, because I believe in the Town of Merrill, the Mayor's
59 hometown and the hometown of the President of the City Council, they do have a library board.
60 They can be called several different names – commissions, boards or whatever else. I cannot
61 comprehend why this commission should be decommissioned – let's put it that way. If a
62 question is, does the city have another plan for communication from interested library people? If
63 they do, let's hear it. We can't get any answers on why. Where is the line of communication
64 going to be? Where is this going? Where is that going? If there is a plan, let's hear it and
65 please, let's hear it publically. Does decommissioning the Library Commission mean this is the
66 start of closing the library? I don't know. We've heard it – you want to save money, close it.
67 You're spending over \$80,000 a year to maintain it. If this is your goal, do it. I would hate to be
68 the one telling the citizens that, however. People are wondering. I try to explain to them that
69 your library card is still good [in] West Salem, Holmen, Campbell, Bangor – even the City of La
70 Crosse City Library will honor the cards that are now used in Onalaska. People shouldn't have
71 to worry where to go for a library if this happens. I don't know much about the Navy, but when
72 you decommission a ship generally it is cut up for scrap as far as I know, but I may be wrong.
73 The Friends of the Library – Larry [Pohja] is here, and I think he can ask his own questions –
74 have to consider what's going to happen now. The city has lost many volunteers over the past
75 couple of years, and you're going to lose five more by decommissioning [the Library
76 Commission]. People are beginning to wonder if they can believe in Onalaska and its amenities.
77 Please, folks – honor [Diane's] request and I think everybody will be happy."

78

79 **Larry Pohja**
80 **626 Gilster Street**
81 **Onalaska**

82

83 "I'm also the President of the Friends of the Onalaska Library. We have told that one of the
84 reasons Ordinance 1491-2014 is being amended is that Onalaska is the only city that has a

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

3

85 system like that. I wonder if that makes a good reason to get rid of a committee who has
86 volunteer citizens from the city who care about the library and turn it over to members of the city
87 who think the library is just another building that puts a financial drain on the city. Public
88 libraries generate \$4 in economic activity for every dollar they receive in taxpayer support. Does
89 the Omni Center do that? This Library Commission, in the years it has been in existence, has
90 accomplished great things for the library. They got it built in a wonderful location, and five
91 years ago they worked to get a beautiful addition to the library which gets nothing but
92 compliments from the thousands of patrons who use it. The county, and yes, the Friends, had a
93 voice in this process. But now this voice will not be heard as loud as it would be if the
94 commission continued. Who is going to do the checking to make sure that agreements that the
95 city has made with the county and the [Master] Gardeners are fulfilled? For example, every year
96 we have to bring forth to the commission items that were in the agreement with the Gardeners to
97 furnish items to these gardens that belong to the city and could be maintained at no cost to the
98 city except for some mulch. We are still waiting for an item that was agreed to by the city to be
99 taken care of after three years. Another reason we were told why the Library Commission is
100 changing is due to the cost of the transcribing, which I believe is about, as Diane mentioned,
101 \$300 a year. But yet the city can waste \$200,000 on a garbage can screw-up by the same people
102 who would take care of the library businesses, and who keep bailing the Omni Center out of
103 debt. Let me close with the following: When businesses look for a place to start or move to, they
104 look at the schools, affordable housing and libraries. The average per capita cost for public
105 libraries is less than the price of hardcover books. One last thing: Everyone associated with the
106 library give their thanks that the personnel we have now were not in a position when the addition
107 was being done because if that was the case it would never have gotten done. Thank you.”

108

109 **Sandra Whiteman**
110 **1221 Fairfield Place**
111 **Onalaska**

112

113 “I’ve been a member of the Library Commission for several years now, and I’ve come to realize
114 that the Onalaska Library is the most used city building on a year-round basis. As we had our
115 last meeting here in this room, across the street was a public hearing on the Waterfront property.
116 As I got to thinking about it, I thought some of the same things they’re projecting in that project,
117 they already have in the library on a year-round basis for much less cost. It is a gathering space.
118 It has outdoor seating and a reading garden. It promotes literacy in our community. My God, as
119 a former teacher we need all of that we can get. It provides computer research for job-seekers as
120 well as allowing people without computers to send in applications to apply for jobs. It provides
121 reading materials that many people in a low economic bracket cannot afford to subscribe to by
122 themselves. The Friends of the Library have not only raised tens of thousands of items for
123 special programming, but they also provide movie night and free popcorn, which is date night in
124 our community for many people that don’t have the economic means or handicap accessibility
125 places to go to for entertainment. They also provide educational programming and speakers.
126 They provide book delivery to homebound. The staff at the library not only welcomes people

Reviewed 12/5/14

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

4

127 who are looking to move into our city and providing education about this community as a good
128 place to live, but one day when I was hiking at Perrot Park I bumped into this couple who
129 happened to be hiking because they stopped at the library and the librarian gave them so much
130 information about things to do and things to see while they stayed here that they booked a hotel
131 room in the city for two nights. They said the librarian had even taken them outside the door and
132 pointed out directions. That is priceless. And the budget amount that is being slashed does not
133 begin to pay for the p.r. that that one librarian did for our city at that time. When Katewin
134 Peterson worked at the library she did research and found out there were three libraries in the
135 United States that had two governing bodies such as a county and a city that were working
136 together. And you know, I thought to myself when I heard that maybe if more cities and
137 counties worked together we wouldn't have the mess in Washington, D.C. that we have right
138 now. I urge you to keep the [Library Commission] in session.”

139

140 **Dan Ferries**
141 **402 9th Avenue North**
142 **Onalaska**

143

144 “I just came from a [La Crosse] County Library meeting, and they were quite astounded that the
145 community would be considering not taking advantage of all the assets our community has,
146 which is volunteers – which we all, I think have to say, is probably our best asset. It's not a great
147 community because of politicians; I'm one of them. It's a great community because of citizens
148 and citizens' input. I think it's really important that this committee votes against this under
149 Judiciary [Item] No. 4, Ordinance 1491[-2014] and keep it as it is. These people are just a
150 wealth of knowledge. They come together. They have great ideas. They've gone through a lot
151 of processes down there with the building. Is it different than the other county library systems?
152 Yes. But all five of them are different and there is not a duplication. Is it a bad system?
153 Absolutely not. So to say it's different than the other communities, it absolutely is. And each
154 other one is different from the other one. I encourage you to vote against this ordinance change.
155 We don't need more people in our community, so to speak, stifled. We've lost enough
156 volunteers – great volunteers – over the last few years for one reason or another. Please keep
157 these folks involved. Thank you.”

158

159 Ald. Pogreba called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that
160 portion of the meeting.

161

162

Consideration and possible action on the following items:

163

Administrative

164

165
166 **Item 4 – Public Hearing: Approximately 6 p.m. (or immediately following public input) –**
167 **for Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for T&J Hospitality of Onalaska, LLC d/b/a**
168 **Ground Round Grill & Bar 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska**

Reviewed 12/5/14

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

5

169
170
171
172
173
174
175
176
177
178
179
180
181
182
183
184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199
200
201
202
203
204
205
206
207
208
209
210

Ald. Pogreba opened the public hearing and called for anyone wishing to speak in favor of the application for a Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for T&J Hospitality of Onalaska, LLC d/b/a Ground Round Grill & Bar 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska.

Tyson Koput
26229 Highland Avenue
Tomah

“I’m the owner of the Ground Round Grill and Bar in Tomah, Wisconsin, and the new one here that’s under construction right now in Onalaska. We’re just requesting a reserve liquor license for the property that includes outdoor dining on the current patio that’s currently in place at the former Ciatti’s location. I did have a discussion with the Fire Chief at one point about the canopy material. I do believe I provided the appropriate information that he was looking for, and we’re working with the Building Inspector right now during the construction process as well.”

Ald. Pogreba called three times for anyone else wishing to speak in favor of the application for a Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for T&J Hospitality of Onalaska, LLC d/b/a Ground Round Grill & Bar 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska and closed that portion of the meeting.

Ald. Pogreba called three times for anyone wishing to speak in opposition to the application for a Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for T&J Hospitality of Onalaska, LLC d/b/a Ground Round Grill & Bar 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska and closed the public hearing.

Cari asked that if the committee approves the license it do so with the condition that it be contingent upon the approval of both the Fire Department and the Inspection Department.

Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Sjolander, to approve a Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for T&J Hospitality of Onalaska, LLC d/b/a Ground Round Grill & Bar 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska with the condition that it be contingent upon the approval of both the Fire Department and the Inspection Department.

On voice vote, motion carried.

Item 5 – Public Hearing: Approximately 6:10 p.m. (or immediately following the 6 p.m. public hearing) – for Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc. d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing Meadows Drive, Onalaska

Ald. Pogreba opened the public hearing and called for anyone wishing to speak in favor of the Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc. d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing Meadows Drive, Onalaska.

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

6

211 Ald. Pogreba called three times for anyone wishing to speak in favor of the Class B Liquor
212 Outdoor Venue License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc. d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing
213 Meadows Drive, Onalaska and closed that portion of the meeting.

214

215 Ald. Pogreba called three times for anyone wishing to speak in opposition to the Class B Liquor
216 Outdoor Venue License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc. d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing
217 Meadows Drive, Onalaska and closed the public hearing.

218

219 Motion by Ald. Sjolander, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve a Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue
220 License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc. d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing Meadows Drive,
221 Onalaska with the condition that it be contingent upon the approval of both the Fire Department
222 and the Inspection Department.

223

224 Ald. Pogreba asked if the outside venue will be stable enough to support more than 35 patrons if
225 no one is counting them and asked if an email by Building Inspector Calvin King – whose
226 conditions of approval include an occupant load of 35 individuals and a sign stating such at the
227 door to the venue, and a gate with an out swing – should be read into the minutes.

228

229 Ald. Sjolander said he does not know if there is any difference on that based off occupancy in an
230 actual building.

231

232 Cari noted that the Fire Department has occupancy signs posted and said this would be
233 enforceable by the department should they be called to the site. Cari noted that the outdoor
234 venue is currently under construction and said the owners will keep Calvin's recommendation of
235 35 patrons in mind.

236

237 On voice vote, motion carried.

238

239 **Item 6– Approval of Operator's Licenses**

240

241 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Sjolander, to approve the Operator's Licenses dated
242 November 24, 2014, and also an updated list of Operator's Licenses dated December 3, 2014.

243

244 On voice vote, motion carried.

245

246 **Item 7 – Approval of Class B Combination Beer/Liquor License for T&J Hospitality of**
247 **Onalaska, LLC d/b/a Ground Round Grill & Bar, 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska**

248

249 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Sjolander, to approve a Class B Combination
250 Beer/Liquor License for T&J Hospitality of Onalaska, LLC d/b/a Ground Round Grill & Bar,
251 9348 State Road 16, Onalaska.

252

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

7

253 Cari said Ground Round Grill & Bar is scheduled to open in January and asked that the owner
254 pick up the license prior to the opening date.

255

256 On voice vote, motion carried.

257

258 **Item 8 – Approval of Class B Combination Beer/Liquor License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc.**
259 **d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing Meadows Drive, Onalaska**

260

261 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Sjolander, to approve a Class B Combination
262 Beer/Liquor License for Shogun Onalaska, Inc. d/b/a Shogun Onalaska, Inc., 1227 Crossing
263 Meadows Drive, Onalaska.

264

265 Cari noted that Shogun is scheduled to open either in late December or early January and asked
266 that the owner pick up the license prior to the opening date.

267

268 On voice vote, motion carried.

269

270 **Item 9– Approval of Class B Beer License for Rohan Enterprises LLC d/b/a Royal Thai**
271 **and Indian Cuisine, 235 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska**

272

273 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Sjolander, to approve a Class B Beer License for
274 Rohan Enterprises LLC d/b/a Royal Thai and Indian Cuisine, 235 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska.

275

276 On voice vote, motion carried.

277

278 **Item 10 – Review and consideration of improvements at City Cemetery along Main Street**
279 **including possible closure of driveway and receiving donations for project**

280

281 Jarrod noted that recent budgets have included proposals for Cemetery improvements along
282 Main Street. Jarrod also noted a number of citizens, including Lois Riniker, George Tabbert,
283 Tom Skogen and Nancy Tolvstad, have been engaged in the process. Jarrod said these
284 individuals have attempted to facilitate improving the Cemetery on the Main Street side. Jarrod
285 noted the city had removed the pillars between eight to 10 years ago because they were unsafe,
286 adding that the wrought iron fence has been gone for many years. Jarrod said Scott Bjorge was
287 hired to create the drawing being presented this evening to the committee. The drawing, which
288 is 20 feet long, includes 13th Avenue South, the two present Cemetery entrances, and 12th
289 Avenue South. Jarrod noted it is very difficult for a motorist to access the Cemetery via the first
290 entrance past the intersection of 12th Avenue South and Main Street as there are safety concerns
291 due to traffic. Jarrod noted that a City of Onalaska employee had been rear-ended at this
292 entrance two years ago while plowing snow and said he is proposing possibly converting this
293 entrance into a pedestrian entrance.

294

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

8

295 Jarrod said, "If you visit the Cemetery at any point in time or spend any time in the Cemetery,
296 you realize that the Cemetery isn't just a grieving spot, but it's actually used as a city park. It's a
297 very unique place in our community. It's in the center of our community. It has mature trees
298 and nice vegetation. Hopefully we maintain it in a good fashion where people really enjoy being
299 in the Cemetery."

300
301 Jarrod noted that parties used to be held at the Cemetery in the late 19th and early 20th centuries
302 to raise funds for improvements. Jarrod said, "It's been a member of our community for longer
303 than almost anything of significance in the community. I think it is time that we try to do
304 something to the front of the Cemetery. There are a couple of questions that I'm posing tonight.
305 One of them is the Cemetery entrance and if the committee thinks that that is something to
306 pursue. The second item is just in generalities if they like the idea of doing improvements to the
307 front of the Cemetery on Main Street. This plan isn't set in stone ... This is just to show us in
308 generalities what we may see at some point. At that time we would bring it forward for final
309 review and approval by the Judiciary Committee."

310
311 Jarrod said Lois Riniker, George Tabbert, Tom Skogen and Nancy Tolvstad would like to
312 fundraise for this project. Jarrod said Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler told
313 him it would be possible to establish a fund and take donations if the Common Council approves
314 this. Donations also could be accepted through the Onalaska Enrichment Foundation if someone
315 chose to make it a tax-deductible donation for the purpose of donating to the Cemetery. Jarrod
316 said his first step is to seek approval for this plan if the committee believes it is feasible. Jarrod
317 said he also wants to determine if fundraising will be allowed on behalf of these improvements.
318 Jarrod said he also wants the committee's feedback regarding the first Cemetery entrance along
319 12th Avenue South. Jarrod noted the Mary Aiken Estate had left approximately \$6,500 for
320 Cemetery improvements and said he believes this would be a good starting point for the project.

321
322 Jarrod said, "Depending on what style of fence and columns, this could be an expensive project
323 if it's done as something that you want to have last 50 to 75 years, such as the columns on Main
324 Street. Those columns were expensive. There are a lot of columns shown on this drawing, but
325 that doesn't mean we have to put all of them in. The columns alone could be \$50,000,
326 \$60,000, \$70,000 just in masonry work. I think this project is going to be a minimum of \$50,000.
327 But it could be up to \$150,000 depending on how sturdy you want to make it that it will last in
328 the future." Jarrod added he believes the Cemetery Capital Improvements Fund could support a
329 portion of the project, noting the wall between the easterly entrance along Main Street and 13th
330 Avenue South is a difficult area to maintain.

331
332 In response to a question by Ald. Bertrand, Jarrod said \$20,000 has been included in the
333 Cemetery budget the last two years for Main Street improvements. Jarrod said he has designated
334 that the first \$6,000 be utilized from the Mary Aiken Estate and noted that he puts under Capital
335 Improvements or Equipment Replacement Budget that an attempt be made to leverage this with
336 other entities. Jarrod said he has met with the Rotary Club about possibly supporting this

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

9

337 project. Jarrod also noted that in years past the American Legion has expressed an interest in
338 partnering on a Main Street improvements project.

339
340 Ald. Pogreba asked if the number of pillars on the illustration equals that of the number of bases.

341
342 Jarrod said he believes the bases are spread out and stated he also believes it is important to
343 include pillars as part of the project. However, Jarrod also said he believes it also will be
344 important to be “frugal” in specifying how the bases are to be put together as well as the number
345 of pillars.

346
347 In response to a question by Ald. Pogreba, Jarrod said the group first would like to concentrate
348 on Main Street and a second phase of the project might be to replace the wall along 13th Avenue
349 South. Jarrod said the project also would include landscaping such as bushes and rocks if the
350 budget allows. Jarrod also said if the vehicle access is closed off at the first entrance the
351 walkway would be narrowed, thereby allowing more room for a lesser slope.

352
353 Ald. Sjolander thanked those involved with the project and said he likes the concept. Ald.
354 Sjolander then asked how closing the first entrance to vehicles would impact funeral processions.

355
356 Jarrod said he realizes most funeral processions utilize this entrance and stated he believes the
357 13th Avenue South entrance is the best one to utilize as it is away from traffic, it is the widest
358 street within the Cemetery, and 90 percent of the burials are in the newer section of the
359 Cemetery. Jarrod said he believes individuals can be trained to utilize a different entrance.

360
361 Ald. Pogreba said he would support establishing a donation aspect and stated he would prefer to
362 see the project supported with donations and fundraisers rather than asking for taxpayer support.

363
364 Jarrod said he believes if a portion of the project is completed, such as installing the wall and
365 fence from 13th Avenue South to the easterly entrance, citizens will take notice and want to see
366 more phases of the project completed. Jarrod said he has stressed to the citizen group it must
367 focus on raising funds. Jarrod noted that more Cemetery land had been purchased along Hickory
368 Street three years ago via the General Operating Fund and said he could see some of the Capital
369 Improvements funds from grave sales could cover some costs for the wall.

370
371 Ald. Pogreba asked if the Board of Public Works would oversee the fencing.

372
373 Jarrod noted that the Judiciary Committee controls the Cemetery, but also said the project would
374 go through the Board of Public Works. Jarrod said he would return before the Judiciary
375 Committee and also appear before the Board of Public Works the same month if he designs a
376 plan and the citizen group raises sufficient funding for a phase of the project.

377
378 In response to a question by Ald. Bertrand, Jarrod said he is attempting to obtain project funding
379 via donations and fundraising as it would be difficult to include the project within the Capital

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

10

380 Improvements Budget.

381

382 Ald. Bertrand asked if other city facilities have been funded via donations.

383

384 Jarrod said attempts have been made to obtain donations for Omni Center building projects.

385 Jarrod said he believes the city has solicited donations for certain projects in years past.

386

387 In response to a question by Ald. Pogreba, Jarrod said he is fairly certain that the funds from the
388 Mary Aiken Estate total less than \$7,000 and are designated for improvements to the Cemetery.

389 Jarrod said he would like to utilize the funds for something that would engage the community
390 and also leverage it to obtain more donations.

391

392 Ald. Pogreba said he favors utilizing \$3,500 to help start a fund.

393

394 Jarrod noted that the funding is in the Cemetery's designated account and is there to be utilized.

395 Jarrod said citizens who wish to make donations either may do so to the city or the OEF.

396

397 Ald. Sjolander recommended that donations be made to the OEF.

398

399 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Sjolander, to approve moving forward with the
400 conceptual improvements at City Cemetery along Main Street as well as fundraising efforts.

401

402 Jarrod said he will meet with the OEF to make sure it will approve coordinating the fundraising
403 efforts.

404

405 On voice vote, motion carried.

406

407 **Item 11 – Miscellaneous licensing reporting**

408

409 Cari noted that there is no miscellaneous licensing for the month of December.

410

411 **Judiciary**

412

413 **Item 1 – Ordinance 1488-2014 – to rezone property located in Section 4 Township 16**
414 **North, Range 7 West in the City of Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin From R-2**
415 **Single Family and/or Residential Duplex to Transitional Commercial (Bronston Property)**
416 **(Third and Final Reading)**

417

418 Motion by Ald. Pogreba, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve Ordinance 1488-2014 – to rezone
419 property located in Section 4 Township 16 North, Range 7 West in the City of Onalaska, La
420 Crosse County, Wisconsin From R-2 Single Family and/or Residential Duplex to Transitional
421 Commercial (Bronston property) (Third and Final Reading).

422

423 On voice vote, motion carried.

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

11

424

425 **Item 2 – Ordinance 1489-2014 – to rezone property located in Section 5 Township 16**
426 **North, Range 7 West in the City of Onalaska, La Crosse County, Wisconsin from R-2**
427 **Single Family and/or Residential Duplex to B-1 Neighborhood Business (Campbell**
428 **Property) (Third and Final Reading)**

429

430 Motion by Ald. Pogreba, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve Ordinance 1489-2014 – to rezone
431 property located in Section 5 Township 16 North, Range 7 West in the City of Onalaska, La
432 Crosse County, Wisconsin from R-2 Single Family and/or Residential Duplex to B-1
433 Neighborhood Business (Campbell property) (Third and Final Reading).

434

435 On voice vote, motion carried.

436

437 **Item 3 – Ordinance No. 1490-2014 – to rezone properties located in Section 8 Township 16,**
438 **Range 7 in the City of Onalaska, La Crosse County Wisconsin from B-2 Community**
439 **Business to M-2 Industrial (Evenson Property) (First and Second Reading)**

440

441 Motion by Ald. Pogreba, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve Ordinance No. 1490-2014 – to
442 rezone properties located in Section 8 Township 16, Range 7 in the City of Onalaska, La Crosse
443 County Wisconsin from B-2 Community Business to M-2 Industrial (Evenson Property) (First
444 and Second Reading).

445

446 On voice vote, motion carried.

447

448 **Item 4 – Ordinance No. 1491-2014 – to amend Chapter 4 of Title 2, Section 8 of the Code of**
449 **Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to Library Commission (First and Second**
450 **Reading)**

451

452 Motion by Ald. Pogreba, second by Ald. Sjolander, to send to the Common Council without a
453 recommendation Ordinance No. 1491-2014 – to amend Chapter 4 of Title 2, Section 8 of the
454 Code of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to Library Commission (First and Second
455 Reading).

456

457 Ald. Bertrand asked for the reasoning behind forwarding Ordinance No. 1491-2014 to the
458 Common Council.

459

460 Ald. Pogreba responded that a motion had to be made so the committee may discuss it.

461

462 Ald. Bertrand asked why the committee simply cannot vote to deny the ordinance.

463

464 Ald. Sjolander said the committee may choose to do so.

465

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

12

466 Ald. Bertrand asked why he, Ald. Sjolander and Ald. Pogreba cannot make a judgment this
467 evening. Ald. Bertrand also asked what the reasoning is behind decommissioning the Library
468 Commission and stated he sees no reason why it should be dissolved. Ald. Bertrand said, “I
469 think it [library] is an institution in the City of Onalaska. ... I just can’t imagine doing away with
470 the institution in which that has been such an incredible investment. ... To me, I think it’s
471 symbolic of our freedom of speech. You can go to the library and you’re free to roam and to
472 learn and contribute.”

473
474 Ald. Pogreba said, “Let’s get something clear totally that’s misrepresented here tonight that has
475 been talked about. There has been no talk about eliminating the library. ... There is absolutely
476 nothing that is going to change at the library as far as the operation of the library. Everything is
477 going to stay exactly, as far as I know at this juncture, absolutely the same. Now 10, 15, 20
478 years from now, things change. I was over to a citizen’s house. She doesn’t go to the library
479 very much, but she’s a member of the Friends of the Library. She doesn’t go to the library
480 anymore because she gets all her books [via] e-books. Maybe 10, 15 years down the road there
481 might be more electronics in the library aspect ... That’s what I mean by change. Those changes
482 are always happening with the library. As far as eliminating the commission, I, as the Chair of it,
483 was asked by the Mayor what I thought and if we should have a commission anymore. I stepped
484 back and thought, ‘Why was he asking this question?’ He [Mayor Joe Chilsen] had talked to
485 Chris [McArdle Rojo], the [Library] Director, about [the fact] we were the only city that had a
486 commission. That’s where the ball started rolling. Now, as far as the duties of the Library
487 Commission and what it’s supposed to do, like it was stated here earlier tonight, some of the
488 things that are conflicts that as far as what has happened in the last few years that have been hard
489 to move through the Library Commission or the Library Director getting answers whether it’s
490 storage or plants or furniture, these things have been talked about that there are questions with.

491
492 The reason that I would move this to Council without a recommendation is because there is no
493 clear plan in this description tonight [as to] where we’re going. That’s what I suggested at the
494 last Library [Commission] meeting – there was going to be something to offset this. I have not
495 seen any communication to what would offset that. I did suggest certain things that would offset
496 it. Chris, or whoever the director may be at that time, would take any things [related to finances]
497 or contracts directly to Finance and Personnel, and it would be directly handled at Finance and
498 Personnel. Things as far as the outside garden ... would be directed right to the Parks
499 Department as far as the maintenance of our facilities and buildings in this community. It’s right
500 at the peoples’ hands that are in direct contact with the people that are doing it. It’s the same
501 thing over here at Finance and Personnel. It’s a little bit, I don’t want to say more work for
502 Chris, but she has a direct link to the Finance and Personnel Committee as far as what would be
503 handled through that. And then she would have a direct link to handle it through the Parks and
504 Recreation Board if it even had to go [that route] for decisions. That’s why I suggested moving
505 it forward [to the Common Council] without recommendation.”

506
507 Cari read “Transfer of duties from the Library Commission,” which has been included on the

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

13

508 back of Ordinance No. 1491-2014: *“Finance and Personnel Committee will coordinate the*
509 *lease for the Library with La Crosse County in the future. Parks and Recreation Board will*
510 *coordinate city uses of the Library with La Crosse County in the future.”* Cari said, “The
511 ordinance itself is just dissolving the wording in our current Code of Ordinances for the Library
512 Commission. As Jack stated, it doesn’t affect the library at all. We’re just talking about just the
513 Library Commission. The attachment to it is defining where those duties that were handled by
514 the Library Commission are going be going in the future should you decide to pass this
515 ordinance.”

516

517 Ald. Bertrand used the example of the library staff deciding to cancel its subscription to the New
518 York Times, stating he would approach the Library Commission and ask why the library no
519 longer subscribes to the newspaper.

520

521 Chris said a situation similar to the one Ald. Bertrand just described would go before the
522 governing County Library Board. Chris noted there is a service agreement in place with the City
523 of Onalaska where the city agrees to provide a facility with furniture and fixtures, while La
524 Crosse County provides staffing and resources. Chris noted that State of Wisconsin Statutes
525 dictate those service must be governed by a library board appointed by La Crosse County. Chris
526 explained that there are five service locations, and it is up to each municipality how it wishes to
527 manage the facility side of things. Chris cited the example of concrete sealant, noting this is a
528 facility issue to be handled by the City of Onalaska.

529

530 Chris said, “What we’ve been determining with this discussion is, where are those facility issues
531 funneled through? It’s been identified here that Finance and Personnel would deal with our
532 service agreement, which if I could ask that reference to ‘lease’ be changed to ‘service
533 agreement’ because we don’t actually have a formal lease. Then the Parks and Recreation Board
534 would coordinate things with us such as the sealant for the concrete or if there were concerns
535 with the heating and air conditioning unit. There’s really no right way or wrong way to do it.
536 It’s truly up to the municipality. We just need to have an identified channel of communication.
537 Who do we make our annual budget request to? Who do we make sure shovels the sidewalk? If
538 someone falls, who do we direct those issues through?”

539

540 Ald. Bertrand said he would want to know where to go if he had a concern regarding the library.
541 Ald. Bertrand cited the example of being told to seek out the Parks and Recreation Board
542 regarding a particular issue and said questions may arise as to how Parks and Recreation is
543 affiliated with the library. Ald. Bertrand said, “There needs to be some avenues and some
544 identifiable means of finding out the answers. I’ve asked the question numerous times tonight:
545 Why on earth would we dissolve [the Library Commission] when it seems to be serving a
546 function? I read through the minutes. There are substantive comments made. It provides a
547 means for the citizens of Onalaska to discuss issues about the library. I don’t think they’re going
548 to come to a Parks and Recreation Board meeting to hear about the library because it’s not going
549 to be discussed.”

Reviewed 12/5/14

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

14

550

551 Ald. Pogreba noted that Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick is in charge of all City of
552 Onalaska facilities. Ald. Pogreba said it is possible decisions regarding the library could be
553 made by the Parks and Recreation Board, citing the example of the construction of a storage
554 shed.

555

556 Ald. Bertrand asked if Dan will be required to learn about libraries.

557

558 Ald. Sjolander pointed out that the Parks Department has been managing the facility.

559

560 Ald. Bertrand said, "What are we trying to fix? Let's have a measure to do away with the
561 Common Council. I don't know what else to say."

562

563 Ald. Sjolander said, "I'm not 100 percent in support of this, but I'm not 100 percent in
564 opposition to this at this point. For me to vote against this tonight would be the wrong thing in
565 my mind to do. I do have concerns with this. I do have a concern with the public aspect of this
566 and making sure that the citizens have a voice in some of the things that does transpire at the
567 library. But in trying to make things a little more efficient, I don't see any harm in entertaining
568 that idea. A lot of [matters] eventually go through [the Finance and Personnel Committee and
569 the Parks and Recreation Board] regardless, so I'm just not ready yet to deny this."

570

571 Ald. Pogreba referenced a study performed on the City of La Crosse's governing agency to
572 determine how that city's government could run more efficiently. Ald. Pogreba noted that study
573 recommended eliminating a number of committees and Council seats and said, "I knew that this
574 [Ordinance No. 1491-2014] was going to be on the agenda tonight, and that's one of those things
575 that to try to streamline some of the decision making that has to happen for things to get done. It
576 can go right to Finance and Personnel and right to the maintenance department to get these things
577 handled faster. We decide at the Library [Commission level] that these things will get done, but
578 sometimes they have to wait a month to get approval from Council to go to Finance and
579 Personnel and you drag that out another month. This way I feel that it's just trying to streamline
580 some of the decision making."

581

582 Ald. Bertrand said it appears to him that both Ald. Pogreba and Ald. Sjolander believe there
583 might be some justification to possibly dissolve the Library Commission. Ald. Bertrand said
584 there are instances where there seems to be a clear reason either to do or not do something and
585 these matters are forwarded to the Common Council when they do not need to be. Ald. Bertrand
586 said he believes this is an instance where the Administrative and Judiciary Committee can vote
587 to deny this ordinance.

588

589 Ald. Pogreba said he made the motion to send the ordinance to the full Council so each
590 Alderperson can discuss this topic.

591

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

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

15

592 Ald. Bialecki suggested that the committee make a decision this evening that will be taken to the
593 full Council instead of forwarding it without recommendation.

594

595 Ald. Pogreba said the motion on the floor is to send the ordinance without recommendation to
596 the Common Council.

597

598 Ald. Bialecki said he does not approve of sending this item to the Common Council without a
599 recommendation.

600

601 Ald. Bertrand said, "This committee is useless if we don't have the power and exercise the power
602 to stop something that shouldn't go to Council."

603

604 Motion and second withdrawn.

605

606 Motion by Ald. Pogreba to approve Ordinance No. 1491-2014 – to amend Chapter 4 of Title 2,
607 Section 8 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating to Library Commission
608 (First and Second Reading).

609

610 Motion dies for lack of a second.

611

612 Motion by Ald. Sjolander, second by Ald. Bertrand, to deny Ordinance No. 1491-2014 – to
613 amend Chapter 4 of Title 2, Section 8 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Onalaska relating
614 to Library Commission (First and Second Reading).

615

616 On voice vote, motion carried, 2-1 (Ald. Pogreba).

617

618 **Adjournment**

619

620 Motion by Ald. Pogreba, second by Ald. Sjolander, to adjourn at 7:18 p.m.

621

622 On voice vote, motion carried.

623

624

625 Recorded by:

626

627 Kirk Bey