

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

1

1 The Meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12,
2 2015. 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: Mayor Joe Chilsen, Ald. Harvey
5 Bertrand, Ald. Bob Muth, Ald. Jim Binash, Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Jim Bialecki, Ald. Barry
6 Blomquist

7
8 Also Present: Deputy City Clerk Elizabeth Eklund, City Engineer Jarrod Holter, Land Use and
9 Development Director Brea Grace, Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler, City
10 Attorney Sean O’Flaherty, Police Chief Jeff Trotnic, Human Resource Specialist Hope Burchell,
11 Parks and Recreation Director Dan Wick, Fire Chief Don Dominick, Tourism Director Jean
12 Lunde

13
14
15

16 **Item 2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

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18
19

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

21
22
23

Mayor Chilsen welcomed public input at this time.

24 **Richard Gilmore**
25 **Pastor, Christ is Lord Lutheran Church**
26 **633 11th Avenue North**
27 **Onalaska**

28
29
30

“I’m here just to raise up the Council in prayer. I had the privilege of praying at the Mayors’
Prayer Breakfast this last Thursday, and I would publically like to thank [Mayor Chilsen] for the
good words he had at the prayer breakfast. But now I would like to pray for the whole Council:
*‘Lord, I would like to lift them up. I would pray for them to have wisdom and understanding and
compassion. Lord, we thank you for them and the service they do. But we should also pray for
our policemen and our firemen and [all] elected officials. Lord, we lift them up and protect
them, and we thank you for all the things they do for us as a city. And we thank you for the
privilege of being able to lift them up in prayer. In Jesus’ name, Amen.’ ”*

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38 **Tom Kennedy**
39 **2841 Prairie Clover Place**
40 **Onalaska**

41
42
Reviewed 5/14/15

“I’ve been a member of this community since 1952. I’ve served on the Plan Commission. I’m
Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

2

43 currently on the Police and Fire Commission. I'm a past board president of the school district. I
44 say that not to brag, but just to show you I have a vested interest in this community. I'm proud
45 of this community, and I'm proud of what's happening on Main Street on both ends. I love what
46 the downtown district has done, both from the city standpoint and the school district improving
47 the school. And on the other end you have the Coulee Golf Bowl, which has [had] a tremendous
48 transformation, and Altra Federal Credit Union, [which is] currently [being renovated]. But in
49 the middle we have the cemetery, and I'm on a fundraising committee to raise \$150,000 to
50 improve the looks of that cemetery [by] putting in a new fence line, and also to include walking
51 paths as opposed to driving areas so people can walk in the cemetery safely. So far we've raised
52 about \$68,000, and I'm here tonight to talk about Item No. 11 for the Onalaska Cemetery Project
53 and the approval of a donation of \$20,000. I ask that you positively consider approval of that
54 donation. Thank you very much."

55

56 **Steve Fordell**
57 **1126 Main Street**
58 **Onalaska**

59

60 "I'm here tonight to represent the new Onalaska Area Historical Society. We wish to thank
61 Mayor Joe Chilsen, our Police Chief and his entire staff for helping us in our time of need. We
62 also thank Randy Erickson [of the Onalaska-Holmen Courier Life] for his accurate reporting.
63 We have totally regrouped as an organization. We've elected new officers and put safeguards in
64 place such as checks and balances. I was also lucky enough to be reelected for a second term as
65 a board member. With the support of all of you in this room as well as the support of the
66 community, we will rebound. This can be accomplished through your memberships and with the
67 support of your constituents as members. As a result, we will come back stronger than ever
68 before. What you do here today is tomorrow's history. We will be there to make it a matter of
69 record. Thank you."

70

71 Mayor Chilsen called three times for anyone else wishing to provide public input and closed that
72 portion of the meeting.

73

74 **Item 4 – REPORT FROM THE MAYOR:**

75

76 A. Library statistics for April

77

78 Mayor Chilsen reported that 5,533 individuals and 19 groups had utilized the meeting room, thus
79 bringing in \$150 of revenue. Mayor Chilsen also reported that 10,207 individuals had visited the
80 library in April.

81

82 B. Announcement of Pete Jakowski's recognition by the State of Wisconsin's Special
83 Olympics Committee as Volunteer of the Year

84

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

3

85 Mayor Chilsen recognized Pete Jakowski for his award.

86

87 C. Proclamation – Police Memorial Week

88

89 Mayor Chilsen read the Proclamation for Police Memorial Week.

90

91 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the Proclamation for Police
92 Memorial Week.

93

94 On voice vote, motion carried.

95

96 Mayor Chilsen recognized Ald. Muth, a retired City of Onalaska police officer.

97

98 D. Appointment of Joseph Davis to the Joint Municipal Court Committee

99

100 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Muth, to appoint Joseph Davis to the Joint Municipal
101 Court Committee.

102

103 On voice vote, motion carried.

104

105 E. Appointment of Jim Binash to the Technology Committee

106

107 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Muth, to appoint Jim Binash to the Technology
108 Committee.

109

110 On voice vote, motion carried.

111

112 F. **Resolution 29-15** – Resolution to convert the Waterfront Committee to the Great River
113 Landing Committee

114

115 Brea said the proposed modifications to Resolution 29-15 are to add an additional citizen
116 member to the Great River Landing Committee. Brea said the modification would allow both
117 Erik Sjolander and Gary Lass, whose term is up for renewal this year, to continue serving on the
118 committee.

119

120 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Blomquist, to approve Resolution 29-15 – Resolution to
121 convert the Waterfront Committee to the Great River Landing Committee.

122

123 On roll call vote: Ald. Harvey Bertrand – aye, Ald. Bob Muth – aye, Ald. Jim Binash – aye, Ald.
124 Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Jim Bialecki – aye, Ald. Barry Blomquist – aye. Motion carried.

125

126 G. Appointment to the Great River Landing Committee – Gary Lass

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

4

127
128 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the appointment of Gary Lass to the
129 Great River Landing Committee.

130
131 On voice vote, motion carried.

132
133 **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL AND/OR POSSIBLE ACTION FROM THE**
134 **FOLLOWING COMMITTEES/COMMISSIONS/BOARDS:**

135
136 All items listed under the consent agenda are considered routine and will be enacted by one
137 motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member requests
138 removal, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in the
139 order of business in the non-consent agenda.

140
141 **Item 5 – Consent Agenda**

142
143 A. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting(s) – no action taken

144
145 **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 146
147 B. Accept 2014 Audit presentation from Hawkins Ash CPAs, LLP
148 C. Accept Omni Center financials for 2015
149 D. Accept City General Fund Financials for 2015
150 E. Denial of waiver to the YMCA regarding a Development Agreement dated 4-12-05,
151 Section 6d
152 F. Accept Gundersen Health System parking ramp financials for 1st quarter 2015

153
154 **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

155
156 G. Approval of 2015-2016 Onalaska School Resource Officer Agreement

157
158 **JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

159
160 H. Approval of **Ordinance No. 1497-2015** to amend Title 6 Chapter 2 of the City of
161 Onalaska Code of Ordinances related to snow and ice removal (Third and Final Reading)

162
163 **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

- 164
165 I. Approval of Class B Liquor Outdoor Venue License for Angelini’s Ristorante, LLC,
166 d/b/a Angelini’s Ristorante and Lounge, 1427 State Highway 35, Onalaska upon
167 installation of guardrail and posting of occupancy sign
168 J. Approval of Operator’s Licenses as listed on report dated May 6, 2015

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

5

- 169 K. Approval of request for burial of three sets of cremains on Block 157, Lot 7, Grave 4 for
170 Michael, Dean and Delpha Blumentritt
- 171 L. Approval of 2014-2015 Class B Liquor License for the following applicants:
172 1. Rohan Enterprises, LLC, d/b/a Royal Thai and Indian Cuisine, 235 Sand
173 Lake Road, Onalaska, Wisconsin, 54650 (currently has Class B Beer
174 License)
175 2. Angelini's Ristorante, LLC, d/b/a Angelini's Ristorante and Lounge,
176 1427 State Highway 35 – transfer to new location
- 177 M. Approval of request for TGI Fridays to amend Class B Liquor License to include outside
178 grounds for Thursday, June 18, 2015 for Summer Block Party Event
- 179 N. Approval of change of agent for:
180 1. Festival Foods, 1260 Crossing Meadows Drive, to Kevin Schnell
181 2. Kwik Trip, Inc., 408 Sand Lake Road, to Joann Ward
182

183 **BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

- 184
- 185 O. Approval of closing access to Main Street right of way at 1st Avenue South
- 186 P. Approval of Mayo Clinic Traffic Impact Study, including request for secondary access
187 within Wisconsin Department of Transportation access control area at US Highway 53
188 and County Trunk Highway S (Sand Lake Road)
- 189 Q. Approval of La Crosse County Trunk Highway SN project letter of support for Surface
190 Transportation Project – Urban and Transportation Alternative program grant programs
191

192 **PLAN COMMISSION**

- 193
- 194 R. Approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) filed by R. Shane Begley, 14114 S.
195 Country Circle, Gordon, WI 54838 on behalf of Elinor Thorud (Sand Lake Development,
196 LLC); Brian Meier (Central States Tower); and Verizon Wireless to allow the
197 construction of a multitenant communication facility and a tower with an overall height
198 of 125' at 111 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska, WI 54650 (FIO)
- 199 S. Approval of a request by Ralph Kloiber of HOM Furniture to host two (2) thirty (30) day
200 tent sale events in 2015 at 9519 State Road 16, Onalaska, WI 54650 (Tax Parcel #18-
201 3625-4)
202

203 **UTILITIES COMMITTEE/MASS TRANSIT**

- 204
- 205 T. Accept Shared Ride Transit update and 2015 financials
- 206 U. Accept the Shared Ride Maintenance Plan Procedure
207
208
209
210

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

6

211 **PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

212

213 V. Accept presentation of 2014 Omni Center Youth Hockey Tournaments Economic Impact
214 Study

215 W. Approve Omni Center Chiller Project #1 – Ice System Replacement

216 X. Approve Omni Center Chiller Project #2 – Building Renovations

217

218 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Binash, to approve the Consent Agenda.

219

220 On voice vote, motion carried.

221

222 **Non-Consent Agenda**

223

224 **Item 6 – RECAP ITEMS PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

225

226 • Plan Commission: Item R – Approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) filed by R.
227 Shane Begley, 14114 S. Country Circle, Gordon, WI 54838 on behalf of Elinor Thorud
228 (Sand Lake Development, LLC); Brian Meier (Central States Tower); and Verizon
229 Wireless to allow the construction of a multitenant communication facility and a tower
230 with an overall height of 125’ at 111 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska, WI 54650 (FIO).

231 • Parks and Recreation Board: Item W – Approve Omni Center Chiller Project #1 – Ice
232 System Replacement

233 • Parks and Recreation Board: Item X – Approve Omni Center Chiller Project #2 –
234 Building Renovations

235

236 **Item 7 – FINANCE COMMITTEE**

237

238 A. Vouchers

239

240 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Olson, to approve the vouchers expended since the last
241 Common Council meeting on April 14, 2015, in the amount of \$1,485,991.26.

242

243 On voice vote, motion carried.

244

245 **Item 8 – BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS**

246

247 A. Approval of installing State Trunk Highway 16 left-turn lane extension at South Kinney
248 Coulee Road and Pralle Center Drive extension, including possible Farm and Fleet
249 access, including impacts to commitments to Wisconsin Department of Transportation
250 Economic Assistance Grant

251

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

7

252 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Muth, to approve installation of State Trunk Highway
253 16 left-turn lane extension at South Kinney Coulee Road and Pralle Center Drive extension.

254

255 On voice vote, motion carried.

256

257 **Item 9 – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

258

259 A. Approval of **Ordinance No. 1498-2015** to amend Title 2 Chapter 4 of the City of
260 Onalaska Code of Ordinances related to the City Plan Commission (First and Second
261 Reading)

262

263 Motion by Ald. Blomquist, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve Ordinance No. 1498-2015 to
264 amend Title 2 Chapter 4 of the City of Onalaska Code of Ordinances related to the City Plan
265 Commission (First and Second Reading).

266

267 On voice vote, motion carried.

268

269 **Item 10 – PLAN COMMISSION**

270

271 A. Approval of an annexation application for Tax Parcel #9-451-0 (1.995 acres) at N4502
272 French Road, applicant Marianne Buchanan, on behalf of Wesley & Florence Spors
273 Irrevocable Trust, W2815 Shorewood Court, West Salem, WI 54669

274

275 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve with the 12 attached conditions an
276 annexation application for Tax Parcel #9-451-0 (1.995 acres) at N4502 French Road, applicant
277 Marianne Buchanan, on behalf of Wesley & Florence Spors Irrevocable Trust, W2815
278 Shorewood Court, West Salem, WI 54669.

279

280 On voice vote, motion carried.

281

282 **The following item was pulled from the Consent Agenda, to be addressed at this time in the**
283 **Non-Consent Agenda.**

284

285 B. Approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) filed by R. Shane Begley, 14114 S. Country
286 Circle, Gordon, WI 54838 on behalf of Elinor Thorud (Sand Lake Development, LLC);
287 Brian Meier (Central States Tower); and Verizon Wireless to allow the construction of a
288 multitenant communication facility and a tower with an overall height of 125' at 111
289 Sand Lake Road, Onalaska, WI 54650 (FIO).

290

291 Mayor Chilsen noted that this item is for information only and thus no action needs to be taken.

292

293 Sean concurred and said Ald. Muth had removed it from the Consent Agenda because he wishes

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

8

294 to ask a question.

295

296 Ald. Muth made the following statement: “As a Second District Council member, I attended the
297 Plan Commission meeting on April 28, and I totally agree with and appreciate the comments
298 made by [Plan Commission members] Craig Breitsprecher and Paul Gleason. I want the citizens
299 of our ward to understand that because of state statutes that changed in 2013, the City of
300 Onalaska is very limited on what we can do about [cell phone] towers now. This tower, even
301 though I don’t agree with it and I don’t like it, there is nothing for us to stand on to stop it. I
302 agree with the comments made at the Plan Commission. I’m disgusted with it. I think the State
303 of Wisconsin has pulled this authority and power away from this community, and I think it’s
304 wrong. To have the state dictate to us what we’re going to do here in the community affects us,
305 and I’m really unhappy with what the state did. I want the citizens of my district to know that it
306 was taken out of my hands, and it was taken out of the rest of the Council members’ hands.
307 Basically, we have no choice. If you’re unhappy – and I’ve heard citizens that are unhappy –
308 understand that we have no choice.”

309

310 Ald. Bialecki, who also serves the Second District, said he concurs with Ald. Muth’s statement.

311

312 **Item 11 – TOURISM COMMISSION**

313

314 A. Approval of donation to Centering Onalaska in the amount of \$5,000

315

316 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Ald. Bialecki, to approve a \$5,000 donation to Centering
317 Onalaska.

318

319 On voice vote, motion carried.

320

321 B. Approval of donation to Onalaska Cemetery Project in the amount of \$20,000

322

323 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Ald. Bialecki, to approve a \$20,000 donation to Onalaska
324 Cemetery Project.

325

326 Ald. Muth noted he had attended the April 29 Tourism Commission meeting and said he believes
327 this is “an extremely important” project. Ald. Muth said, “I would hope that the City of
328 Onalaska government and the city itself can do more to donate to this project to complete it.
329 Twenty thousand dollars is fine, but there is some other way we can assist them in completing
330 their goal to get this done ... It’s the City of Onalaska Cemetery. It’s our cemetery. This group
331 has done a fabulous of trying to raise money to make it look nicer, and it’s something to be proud
332 of. It’s our history, and I think anything we can do to help this group meet that goal so they can
333 get this done, I’m all for it.”

334

335 Ald. Bialecki said he concurs with Ald. Muth in that the cemetery should be maintained, and he

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

9

336 commended the fundraising efforts thus far. Ald. Bialecki also noted that this is a City of
337 Onalaska project and said, "I think we need to do more for it. I'm almost sure we're going to
338 approve another \$20,000 to be reconciled out of our operational fund this year from Tourism to
339 donate to that."

340

341 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Muth, to amend the previous motion to state the
342 Onalaska Cemetery Project Committee will continue its fundraising efforts until July, at which
343 point the amount of money still needed to reach its goal of \$150,000 be given its highest priority
344 in the 2016 Capital Improvements Budget.

345

346 Ald. Bialecki referred to page 53 of the 2014 Audit Report and noted there is \$81,955 in
347 restricted funds under "Cemetery."

348

349 Ald. Bertrand asked Ald. Bialecki for clarification on his amendment to the motion.

350

351 Ald. Bialecki said he believes the Onalaska Cemetery Project Committee's targeted goal is to
352 raise \$150,000. Ald. Bialecki said he believes the committee has \$15,000 in cash and \$15,000 in
353 pledges to accompany tonight's request for a \$20,000 donation. Ald. Bialecki said he believes
354 the city should in its 2016 Capital Improvements Budget be given its highest priority if the
355 committee has not reached its goal of \$150,000 by July.

356

357 Vote on the amendment:

358

359 On voice vote, motion carried.

360

361 Original motion restated:

362

363 To approve a \$20,000 donation to Onalaska Cemetery Project, and the City of Onalaska will
364 include in its 2016 Capital Improvements Budget funds a high priority if not been raised by the
365 end of the Onalaska Cemetery Project Committee's campaign in July.

366

367 Ald. Bialecki noted that the project is a city project involving donations, Tourism funds and City
368 of Onalaska dollars and asked Sean if it is necessary to bid out the project.

369

370 Sean said yes.

371

372 Ald. Bialecki said it is possible the project's estimated \$150,000 cost could decrease if there are
373 competitive bids.

374

375 On voice vote, motion as amended carried.

376

377

Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

10

378 **The following items were pulled from the Consent Agenda, to be addressed at this time in**
379 **the Non-Consent Agenda.**

380

381 **Item 12 – PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD**

382

383 A. Approve Omni Center Chiller Project #1 – Ice System Replacement

384

385 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Ald. Bialecki, to approve awarding the bid to Minnesota Ice
386 for the Omni Center Chiller Project #1 – Ice System Replacement at a cost not to exceed
387 \$414,924.

388

389 Ald. Bialecki said it is his understanding that this project came in substantially less than what
390 had been budgeted.

391

392 Ald. Binash said yes, but also noted it will be necessary to set aside contingency funds.

393

394 On voice vote, motion carried.

395

396 B. Approve Omni Center Chiller Project #2 – Building Renovations

397

398 Motion by Ald. Binash, second by Ald. Bialecki, to approve awarding the base bid and four add
399 alternates to Olympic Builders General Contractors for Omni Center Chiller Project #2 –
400 Building Renovations at a cost not to exceed \$123,803.

401

402 Ald. Binash noted that \$614,200 had been budgeted for the project and said the project had come
403 in under budget. However, Ald. Binash also noted that there will be contingency funding should
404 any unexpected problems arise.

405

406 Ald. Bialecki noted that there will be funding available for other Omni Center projects if the
407 contingency funding is not utilized.

408

409 On voice vote, motion carried.

410

411 **Item 13 – CLOSED SESSION**

412

413 To consider a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(c) for considering
414 employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee
415 over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility:

416

- 417 • OPPA, Onalaska Professional Police Association

418

419 And a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(g) of the Wisconsin Statutes
Reviewed 5/14/15

**Common Council
of the City of Onalaska**

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

11

420 for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral
421 or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in
422 which it is or is likely to become involved:

423

- 424 • Claims against the City regarding cracked windshield at 415 Main Street

425

426 And a motion to convene in Closed Session under Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes
427 for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of
428 public funds or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining
429 reasons require a closed session:

430

- 431 • Discussion of negotiating strategy for Village of Holmen Boundary Agreement
- 432 • Discussion of negotiating strategy for Town of Medary & City of La Crosse Boundary
433 Agreement
- 434 • Discussion of a negotiating strategy for a Development Agreement with Mayo Clinic

435

436 If any action is required in Open Session, as the result of the Closed Session, the Committee will
437 reconvene in Open Session to take the necessary action and/or continue on with the printed
438 agenda.

439

440 Motion by Ald. Bialecki, second by Ald. Olson, to convene in Closed Session.

441

442 On roll call vote: Ald. Harvey Bertrand – aye, Ald. Bob Muth – aye, Ald. Jim Binash – aye, Ald.
443 Jim Olson – aye, Ald. Jim Bialecki – aye, Ald. Barry Blomquist – aye. In Closed Session.

444

445 Motion by Ald. Bertrand, second by Ald. Bialecki to approve a two year contract with OPPA,
446 Onalaska Professional Police Association, with a 1 ½ percent wage increase January 1st, 2015
447 and 1 ½ percent wage increase January 1st, 2016.

448

449 On voice vote motion carried 6-0

450

451 Motion by Ald. Blomquist, second by Ald. Binash to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.

452

453 On voice vote motion carried

454

455

456 Recorded by:

457

458 Kirk Bey

Reviewed 5/14/15