

MONTICELLO CITY COUNCIL

August 23, 2021

Mayor Stoner led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Alderman Burris led the Council in prayer.

Roll Call was taken by City Clerk Jill Potts.

ROLL CALL: Present: MUSE, SEBENS, HARLAN, REED, KOON, BURRIS, BROCK, VOGT

Absent: None

Also Present: Terry Summers, City Administrator; Maura Metcalf, HR/Finance; Chief Carter, MPD; Mindy Condis, Assistant Recreation Director

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Tim Hayes spoke in-person and said it is a joy to be a citizen of Monticello during these turbulent times. He reported that the Summer Singers, which Mayor Stoner directs, gave a \$100.00 donation to the Recreation Foundation.

There was no remote public participation.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Claims Report (Claims dated August 10, 2021 through August 23, 2021)

Meeting Minutes – City Council Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2021; City Council Closed Session Meeting Minutes, August 9, 2021; Historic Preservation Commission Meeting Minutes, May 4, 2021 and July 6, 2021

Budget Report – July 2021

A motion was made by Alderwoman Sebens, and seconded by Alderman Reed, to approve the Consent Agenda items. A voice vote was taken and the motion carried with all present voting yes.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The Mayor reported on upcoming events in Monticello, including Woofstock, an Allerton Concert, Allerton Races, the Sundowners Car Show, and the 9/11 Parade and associated events. The Mayor congratulated Brad and Bridget Peters on their recent retirement. They have owned and operated Three Ravens in downtown since 2009. He also welcomed the new owners, Brandon and Beth Taylor. The Mayor reminded everyone to please be patient and kind to the staff at local businesses. Everyone is dealing with understaffing issues, and are doing their best. Mayor Stoner also asked

that customers be patient when communicating with City Staff in regard to trash hauler complaints. He informed that the complaints are being recorded and will be addressed.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Oberheim Park Development Committee (Formerly the 30 Acre Multi-Use Outdoor Recreation Committee) Recommendations to the Mayor – Discussion Only

Alderman Koon gave a presentation on the recommendations of the Oberheim Park Committee (full report attached to the Agenda). Alderman Koon stated that there are 3 main recommendations of the Committee he would like to emphasize, with the first being to hire outside help for fundraising. The main takeaway from the Sauk City Presentation was that outside help with fundraising is essential. The second recommendation is to add at least one additional staff member to the Recreation Department to be dedicated to running the Oberheim Park facility. The third recommendation is that the City should contribute a certain amount each year. The feeling is that if the City is asking for all of these outside forces to assist financially, the City should itself commit to an annual amount. While Alderman Koon acknowledged the following amount is aggressive, the proposal is that the City contribute \$500,000 annually over the next 5 years, giving a total of 3 million from the City (including the \$500,000 already pledged by the City). Alderman Koon touched on meeting with Brad Curry's high school class to gather ideas to enhance the project. In regard to the look of the park, Alderman Koon emphasized a park feel for everyone, a playground that may include sensory stations for the Special Needs population, and space for pickleball courts. In a revision from the original 2011 plan, due in part to the involvement now of the Oberheim family, hosting softball/baseball tournaments is more of a focus. The Committee feels we would be remiss in not going this route, pointing to the passion of Chris Oberheim and to the money that could be brought in when tournaments are held. In regard to a timeline, the recommendation is the Park could be up and running by Spring of 2025.

The Council held a lengthy discussion following this presentation, primarily focused on funding. Alderman Reed asked if we knew how much Sauk City contributed, and how much was raised in donations, with Alderman Koon stating they did not receive those numbers from Sauk City. Alderman Burris raised concerns regarding the amount of money this project will cost, and feels it realistically may be pushing 20 million when it is all said and done. He feels we need a hard number, and offered that he is against raising taxes for this project. The need for a new rendering was discussed, with some asking why a new one is needed, and what has changed in the last ten years. The idea is that we need a new rendering to determine the actual price tag for this project, as many changes have occurred since the first one was completed in 2011. It was also questioned if we have a monetary amount in mind that we will be receiving from the 703 Foundation, and we do not. Terry Summers stated to the Council that we were given 4 additional acres of land from the Library. When we accept a donation of land, we must be willing to spend the money on our end to

determine what our use for that land will be. In regard to possible grants, it is important to present a “shovel-ready” project, as this will increase likelihood of receiving a grant. Further discussion then occurred on making sure this project is done correctly and does not fail, the importance of remembering the Council is spending the taxpayers’ money, and fundraising. Alderman Koon pointed out that he feels the ability to fund raise for this project is being underestimated. He also stated that the Committee believes this project has good economic development potential for the community. Alderman Brock questioned if we do hire a firm to direct fund-raising efforts, will the Council be able to stipulate a benchmark date (like 6 months) so that we can gauge where the efforts stand and this can be reported to Council. Mayor Stoner assured Alderman Koon that while it may feel like he is getting a lot of heat from Council, it is not because the Council is against the project, but that we want to ensure this comes to completion. He also urged the Council to look to the future and to be creative when considering how we can see this project come to fruition. Alderwoman Muse began a discussion on differing between wants/needs on this project. John Frerichs, former Alderman who served on this Committee, identified to the Council that as a committee, they have given a generalization of needs based on the limited amount of time they were given. He feels these hard conversations are good and essential to moving the project forward. In regard to the earlier question of what has changed in 10 years, he asked the Council what has not changed in 10 years?

Burke Park Master Plan – Discussion Only

Jeff Martin and Emily Jenkins were present from Farnsworth Group to present the Burke Park Master Plan. This plan focuses on the fact that the park is a memorial that pays legacy to PFC Robert Burke, and that the Plan includes ways to capitalize on the memorial. PFC Burke was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the youngest of the Vietnam Conflict to receive that honor (aged 18). His sister, Marilyn (Burke) Barnett, was present at this meeting and shared the story of her brother and their family. The Council and audience were appreciative of her story and her willingness to share. Marilyn loves the park plan, the Memorial Plaza included in the plan, and feels it pays an excellent tribute to her brother. In regard to needs on this park, Jeff Martin identified bike path tie-in, parking to wrap around the park, and sidewalks around the park. Emily Jenkins discussed storm water management and ideas to control that include paving parking areas, directing drainage to retention areas, and possible amenities such as a rain garden to attract pollinators. The following phases were identified:

- Phase 1 Nuts/Bolts
- Phase 2 Basketball Court, Tennis Court, Memorial Plaza
- Phase 3 Playground
- Phase 4 Amphitheater
- Phase 5 Amenity Upgrades

Farnsworth listed and discussed applicable grant opportunities that could help mitigate costs, with the total cost being estimated at around 3 million. In regard to cost the Council discussed grants, connecting the bike paths, and fundraising efforts. Mr. Martin stated to the Council their Master Plan is a vision – what to implement is up to the Council.

ALDERMEN’S/ALDERWOMEN’S REPORT:

None

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT:

Chief Carter reported the two new MPD hires did graduate, and he will be bringing them to a meeting to meet the City Council soon.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Terry Summers informed the Council the City has hired Nicole Stewart as the Utility Billing Clerk. She will begin part-time, and will transition into full-time by August 30th. Mr. Summers also let the Council know that Scott Bailey has been working with residents in the Eastgate/Westwood area in regard to discolored water. Scott has a multitude of experience running the Water Plant, and always goes above and beyond to provide service.

A motion was made by Alderman Brock, and seconded by Alderwoman Vogt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jill Potts

City Clerk