

October 29, 2021

The Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the City of Madison was held Friday, October 29, at 8:30 AM at the City of Madison Public Safety Building Meeting Hall, located at 160 N Main Street, Suite 400. Present were the following: Mayor Fred Perriman; Mayor Pro Tem Richard Blanton; Council Members Ed Latham, Carrie Peters-Reid and Eric Joyce; City Manager David Nunn; City Clerk Ashley Hawk; Information Officer Ken Kocher; Finance Director Karen Stapp; and Planning Director Monica Callahan; Absent: Council Member Chris Hodges and Attorney Carter. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Perriman who welcomed those in attendance. Opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by members of council.

Topics For Discussion

Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) - District Engineers discussion regarding Main St. Traffic

Kendrick Collins, Corbett Reynolds, and Brock Tyson, representatives of GDOT, provided information regarding state highways.

Perriman said that they were invited to the meeting because citizens have expressed concern with truck traffic and various issues on Main St., which is a state highway, and asked that they address those concerns. Tyson addressed the question regarding use of state highways. He said as long as a roadway is designated as a state route GDOT does not have a way to prevent trucks from using the route. Reynolds said unfortunately cities grow up around state routes where trucks are allowed but it doesn't relieve the purpose of the route.

Perriman asked why trucks can't be required to use the bypass. Reynolds said efforts to detour traffic have been made by using signs. Nunn commented on the reduction of truck traffic through downtown since the bypass has been built. He said classification of traffic on the bypass could offer help to GDOT as well. Collins said traffic count and traffic type for state routes is listed on the GDOT website.

Joyce asked for clarification on city trees, specifically who has ownership of the trees. Collins said trees on the right of way are owned by GDOT as well as any other growth that is obstructing signs. Joyce also asked for an update on the 83 Bypass. Reynolds said he did not have an update prepared to review but he can follow up with an email at a later date. Blanton asked if truck traffic can be required to use the 83 bypass when its built. Collins said no if the state route still runs through downtown.

Perriman asked about the speed limit through downtown. Collins said the 85% rule is used when determining speed limits and it requires a study through an engineering and traffic investigation (ETI). He explained that the ETI would examine the 85% ratio (of a sample size). The study would look at side friction (roadside developments), driveway densities, sight distances, five-year crash histories and a test drive administered by GDOT. Reynolds explained that the ETI is a requirement of state law and reiterated the points made by Collins. Nunn asked if the percentage means the percentage of the speed limit that is realistically enforceable.

Nunn asked for an update on the expansion of 441. Reynolds explained that ER Snell is in charge of the project, and they are currently ahead of schedule.

Tree Ordinance and Samples - Planning Director Monica Callahan

Callahan introduced Mayor and Council to the newest Greenspace commission member, Phil Smeltzer. Smeltzer then introduced himself and explained that he has a history in forestry and public health, specifically in obesity and walkability of urban trails.

Callahan said the proposed tree ordinance was presented two years ago, prior to covid, and the re-write was done so for consumeability. She reviewed visuals, provided by Ben Proulx, that accompanied the ordinance. Callahan explained that the images are visual representations of what the ordinance would look like. She said each of the 6 visual examples model different lots throughout the city. Schmeltzer explained that studies were done in the historic district as well as other areas of the city. Callahan did explain that a tree removal permit has not been required in the past but will be needed if tree removal takes a property below the minimum in the ordinance.

Latham asked if a tree will be replaced in the instance a tree has to be removed. Callahan said yes, as long as the minimum is met. Joyce asked about the permitting process. Schmeltzer said the way the ordinance is drafted a resident does not have to submit a request to remove a tree, however new builds or remodels will have to follow the ordinance if it changes the footprint by more than 50%.

Donation of Land - President's Trail Park- Planning Director Callahan

Callahan said the Greenspace Board recommended the acceptance of property donation on Washington St., currently owned by Ken Kocher. Kocher explained that the property currently runs along the president's trail. Perriman asked that the item be added to the consent agenda for November 8, 2021.

CDBG Grant (Boys & Girls Club) - Award Packet - Planning Director Callahan

Callahan said the award packet is for the \$750,000 grant received by the Boys and Girls Club. She said the item is time sensitive and requested that it be added to the consent agenda on the called meeting agenda immediately following the work session. Perriman asked that the item be added to the called meeting consent agenda on October 29, 2021.

Finance Officer Report - Karen Stapp

Stapp reviewed the finance report for the first quarter of 2022. She said general funds revenue will appear a little low for the first quarter but that is because property tax revenue does not come in until late in the 2nd quarter and throughout the 3rd quarter. She said overall expenditures are on budget or below for Q1 throughout all funds. Stapp said hotel motel taxes are up from the same time last year. Nunn asked about the fee being paid to the CVB and if the floor has been met yet. Stapp said the floor (\$88,000) has not been met. She explained that water and sewer revenues appear to be on track however gas seems a little low. Nunn said that the winter months are coming up and the cost of heating with natural gas has increased everywhere. After a brief discussion regarding water and sewer fees, Joyce said water and sewer fees may need to be reviewed in the future.

COVID Safety Protocols - Council Member Joyce

Joyce said there are several upcoming outdoor events and asserted that it is time to revisit COVID safety and protocols. He said events have been canceled in the past and wants to know if cancellations are over and if the protocols are still active. Perriman suggested that it be up to the discretion of individuals and asked that the item be placed on the called meeting agenda for October 29, 2021.

Future of Doublewide Homes within city limits - Council Member Latham

Latham asserted that it is time to review the use of doublewide homes within city limits. Latham asserted that there may need to be some consistency going forward. Joyce said the recently denied application, was a conditional use and allows for discretion based on each circumstance. Latham said he is aware that it was a conditional use but going forward he would have problems approving this specific conditional use in the same area or similar areas. Peters-Reid agreed with Latham. She referenced a previous vote in which a double wide was denied in an underprivileged area and asserted that is why she sided with denial in the most recent vote. She said she thinks there should be consistency as well. Callahan re-iterated the fact that no legal precedent is being set if a conditional use is approved or denied under varying circumstances.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Perriman adjourned the work session.

Approved: _____
Fred Perriman, Mayor

Attest: _____
Ashley Hawk, City Clerk

Date: _____

October 29, 2021

The Called Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Madison was held Friday, October 29, at immediately following the Work Session at the City of Madison Public Safety Building Meeting Hall, located at 160 N Main Street, Suite 400. Present were the following: Mayor Fred Perriman; Mayor Pro Tem Richard Blanton; Council Members Ed Latham, Carrie Peters-Reid and Eric Joyce; City Manager David Nunn; City Clerk Ashley Hawk; Information Officer Ken Kocher; Finance Director Karen Stapp; and Planning Director Monica Callahan; Absent: Council Member Chris Hodges and Attorney Carter. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Perriman who welcomed those in attendance. Opening prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by members of council.

Approval Of Order Of Agenda Items

Peters Reid moved to add CDBG Boys and Girls Club Award packet to the agenda. Blanton second. Approved, vote unanimous (4:0)

Blanton moved to add COVID Safety Protocols to the agenda. Peters-Reid second. Approved, vote unanimous (4:0).

Legal Matters

Carl Vinson Institute Of Government (CVIOG) - Organizational Study - Award Modification

Perriman explained that the modification will allow CVIOG the opportunity to interview employees. Peters-Reid moved to approve the award modification. Latham second. Approved, vote unanimous (5:0).

Contract - Terms and Conditions - Law Enforcement and First Responder Supplement Program Launch

Perriman said the terms and condition need to be approved as the governor has handed down funds to local municipalities so that first responders and law enforcement officers can receive \$1,000 for full time public safety officers and \$300 for volunteers. Joyce asked if the city pays the funds out of pocket and are then re-imbursed. Stapp said the grant will be applied for through the grant portal and then funds will be released. Joyce moved to approve the Terms and conditions. Peters-Reid second. Opportunity for discussion. Approved, vote unanimous (4:0).

Contract - DHS-DFCS - Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Stapp said the LIHWAP will provide assistance to low-income households to help with any past due or disconnected utility accounts for water services. Stapp said the resident would apply through the Department of Human services website, and the funds will then be funneled down to the city. Joyce asked if this program exists for gas customers. Stapp said yes. He asked how many citizens utilize the heating assistance program. Stapp said approximately 25 because it is income qualified. Blanton moved to approve the LIHWAP. Peters-Reid second. Opportunity for discussion. Approved, vote unanimous (4:0).

CDBG Grant (Boys & Girls Club) - Award Packet - Planning Director Callahan

Peters-Reid moved to approve the CDBG Award packet and authorize the mayor to sign. Blanton second. Approved, vote unanimous (4:0).

COVID Safety Protocols - Council Member Joyce

Kocher reviewed the previous protocol put in place for businesses as well as city buildings. Elizabeth Bell spoke in opposition of the item being discusses. The item will be added to the agenda on November 8, 2021.

Nunn provided updates on street paving, holiday decorations, and street detours due to filming.

Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Perriman adjourned the work session.

Approved: _____
Fred Perriman, Mayor

Attest: _____
Ashley Hawk, City Clerk

Date: _____