

Municipal Services Committee

Mon, Nov 21, 2022 4:30PM • 15:04

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 00:18

All right, it's November 21, 2022. It's 4:30pm. I call to order the municipal services committee meeting. We'll do the roll call of membership. Let it record show that all members are present with the exception of Alderson Van Zeeland who is excused.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 00:39

So, we'll do number 22-1492 minutes from November 7 2022 meeting. Do I hear a motion? Chair will move to approve. Do I have a second? Somebody got to second this. All right. Any questions? Any comments? All right, all in favor signify by saying aye. Chair votes aye. one abstention—Alderson Firkus.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 01:14

No public hearings or appearances. So, we'll go to action items 22-1502 Request from Green Fire Management Services LLC for a permanent street occupancy permit for construction site perimeter fencing on Oneida Street 100 block north and Washington Street 100 block east for a period ending on November 1, 2023. Do I hear a motion to approve?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 01:42

Move to approve.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 01:43

Do I have a second?

Alderson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 01:44

Second.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 01:45

Motion has been made and second to approve. Any questions, comments? All in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 01:58

22-1500 Approve Department Public Works 2023 fee schedules. Do I hear a motion?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 02:05

Move to approve.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 02:06

Second?

Alderson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 02:07

Second.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 02:07

All right. Moved and second to approve. Any discussion? Questions? Comments? Alderson Doran.

Mon, Nov 21, 2022 4:30PM

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 02:18

Thank you. I guess this sort of ties in a little bit with kind of our informational item just about the parking utility, just looking at this month, I guess alone, seeing that are, you know, overall, for the—I take it, I guess for the for the month—down again, and now down almost \$200,000 for the year. Certainly, that fluctuates kind of throughout the year. But seems like every month we look at this report. It's the parking ramps that are, where our sort of sticking point is from the financing aspect. And so, this was something I was looking at for the for the budget, but was told that this item was coming up for or had to be handled through committee to look at the ramp permit fees. And then also just looking at the schedule, I guess, I'm also looking through here and seeing a number of our other fees haven't been updated, some of them in 10 years or more. And I guess just from that perspective, curious. Are we still meeting our sort of administrative costs, at least for these things? Is this something that staff looked at? I guess, to just see if we're at least covering the cost to issue these permits and things like that?

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 03:45

What mic are you?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 03:50

Thank you for the question. Yes. Prior to my arrival here, Deputy Director Buetow and Loper had reviewed the fees to, one, ensure that administrative costs were covered. So, I think that answer is yes. I will say that the ramp revenues—you're correct in that they're lagging and that the numbers, you know, pre-COVID, we're not there yet. This increase in the monthly ramp fee here, we're estimating that revenue increased to be \$76,560. So that was where we generated, you know, that \$5 increase thinking that that was reasonable for this year.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 04:39

If I could just follow up, I guess. From our parking utility study, I know you weren't here for that. I don't sure if you know off top your head where that would have recommended we'd be at this point in terms of the ramp rates?

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 04:53

Oh, you mean from the parking study that was done years ago? I don't know that off the top of my head.

Alderman Chad Doran (District 15) 05:00

Okay. I just I said had have concerns that we're—you know, in our goal here is to at least break even with this and even with this, this modest increase, I'm not sure that we're, we're obviously not there if it generates an extra 75,000 or so and we're already 200,000 behind for the year. But I, I guess I have some concerns about that. And I'll leave it at that for now, I guess and just see if anyone else has any thoughts.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 05:33

Well, my one comment to what you were possibly suggesting is, you can only increase it so much. Because it gets to a point where people aren't going to use the ramp; they'll find other options, and then we'll be in a bigger hole. So that's the challenge for staff, you know, how high can you go before somebody starts saying "It's too costly for me to park there?" Yes, Director.

Director Danielle Block (Department Of Public Works) 06:05

Mon, Nov 21, 2022 4:30PM

I believe with this increase, we're still trending roughly the same, you know, not being the lowest but not being the highest in in similar communities and parking utilities within the area or the greater region. But we will continue to monitor it and perhaps small, incremental increases more often is where we need to be.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 06:28

I think one thing that we should probably ask ourselves, and of course, we got, you know, the COVID situation. But the question maybe to ask is, why aren't people using the ramp more? Or are there just less people downtown? That is the question that we should try to answer, because that may then help us determine other things that we can do. Any other questions, comments? Alderson Doran.

Alderson Chad Doran (District 15) 07:04

I guess one more. Just that this is one of the things I was trying to ask I guess about on budget Saturday, but was told that it was not in order for that particular meeting. But just the idea in general of, of whether or not we should be looking at getting out of the parking utility business, and perhaps looking at selling the ramps, which are again, I think, as we look at it, the sticking point for the city. And perhaps the private developers, you know, could operate it more efficiently or perhaps more cost effectively. Certainly, has pros and cons, I'm sure. But just something that that I'm not sure that we have looked at and wonder if it'd be worth looking into.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 07:50

One thing. Look in the future. There is a development going on that might have an impact on a parking ramp. I don't know how many apartments there are going to be in that complex, but somebody if they have cars, they're going to have park someplace so the ramp might—we might have a different story once the apartment complex is done. All right. Any other questions, comments? Thank you, Alderson, Doran. All in favor signify by saying aye. Aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 07:56

Approve downtown parking and meet her bag policy. Do I hear a motion?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 08:40

Move to approve.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:41

Is there a second?

Alderson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 08:42

Second.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 08:43

Okay. Been moved and second to approve. Want to ask the city attorney is—the memo that we got also had the 2-5 parking but that's not on the agenda even though the attachment has it. That something—my suspicion is I can't bring it up because we're talking about the meter bag policy downtown Appleton.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 09:30

You're anticipating my answer correctly.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 09:33

Okay.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 09:34

My advice would be to limit the discussion to what's been noticed on the agenda.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 09:37

That's what I thought you'd say. You disappoint me. All right. All right. A motion has been made and seconded to approve this. All in favor, signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 09:55

22-1503 the municipal services committee is will go went to closed session according to state statute 19.85(1)(e) deliberations or negotiations on the purchase of public properties, investing of public funds, or conducting other specific public business when competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session for the purpose of reviewing the landfill siting committee contract negotiations, and then reconvene into open session. Do I hear a motion?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 10:33

Motion to go into closed session

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 10:34

Is there a second?

Aldersperson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 10:35

Second.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 10:36

Motion has been made and seconded to go in closed session. Any comments? All those in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. We're in closed session so.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 11:55

All right, back in session. Go to 22-1504 approval of the Outagamie County Northwest landfill expansion agreement contingent upon approval by all municipalities. Do I hear a motion?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 12:17

Move to approve.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 12:18

Second?

Aldersperson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 12:19

Second.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 12:20

Motion has been made and second to approve. Any comments, questions? All in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero.

Mon, Nov 21, 2022 4:30PM

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 12:32

We have an information item 22-1499 Parking utility revenue report for October 2022. Any questions? Comments? If not.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 12:44

Chair you have a question.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 12:45

Oh, Alderson Hartzheim. Sorry. All right.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 12:53

Thank you chair. May I ask Dr. Block a question? Director Block? Is it possible that we can work with Finance to come up with a better report? I don't know. I'm an accountant, and I don't know necessarily what I'm looking at here. If I look at the actuals 2022, is that year to date through October 2022? Or is it only the month of October 2022?

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 13:26

Okay, so maybe it's just a matter of better labeling. But what I'm gathering from this is, and it's weird that our revenues are noted in credit. And our expenses are noted in a debit. Although, in some respects as an accountant, that's what you would normally see. But we're showing a deficit of \$112,000, if you're saying that that column is year-to-date, but a deficit should be in brackets or red. So, this is just a very difficult to read report. And I would hope that we could figure out a better way to get a good feel for what we're really looking at. Because that—if you're looking at this and trying to figure out where we are, there's not a good way to do that. So maybe if you can work with? Okay, thank you. I appreciate that. But again, that's kind of telling when you look at \$112,000 year to date, we're behind, and we don't know if that's year to date, just because of the way that the report is presented. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 14:42

Any further comments? Number 7.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 14:49

Move to adjourn.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 14:49

Second?

Alderson Joss Thyssen (District 8) 14:50

Second.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 14:50

Second to adjourn. All those in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero. We are adjourned. Happy Thanksgiving everybody.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 15:02

Thanks, you too, Bill.