

Craig, Sondra

From: Karen Acker <kacker7503@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:49 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Additional thoughts on Pump House funding

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To the Members of the La Crosse Common Council,

I am writing with some follow-up thoughts to my recent email encouraging you to uphold funding for the Pump House Regional Arts Center in the amount of \$13,290.03, in connection with structural issues uncovered during the recent bathroom remodeling (Resolution 24-1151).

Resolution 24-1151 was vetoed by Mayor Reynolds and consideration of that veto will be on the October 10 Council agenda.

Since I wrote my earlier email, I have learned the Mayor's veto of the September 12 Council vote to provide this funding is based on concern that if the City allows a contract holder (i.e., the Pump House as a lease holder) special consideration, others who have contracts with the City will also try for special consideration.

I agree that the City does not want to be perceived as a push-over. If there is concern that contracts have wiggle room that may be interpreted as opportunity to appeal contract expectations, perhaps the writing of contracts needs more scrutiny.

However, in this situation, the Pump House's status as a non-profit is a distinguishing feature. The Pump House is not a for-profit private company. I will repeat my earlier assertion that the Pump House contributes to the well being of La Crosse with outstanding arts programming appealing to both residents and visitors. Further, the Pump House has a long standing reputation of good management and focused mission. The Board and Executive Director undertook the bathroom renovation project with good faith, careful planning, and consideration of their lease responsibilities. Finding problems with the building foundation and discovering an abandoned water tank was unpredictable. I believe the Pump House has a valid argument that these are structural issues, and the responsibility of the City, per the lease.

Please override the Mayor's veto of Resolution 24-1151.

Sincerely,
Karen Acker
313 20th St. S
La Crosse