

Resolution to enter into agreement and transition plan with the La Crosse County Library system for library services.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, within La Crosse County there currently exists two (2) public library systems consisting of the La Crosse County Library (“County Library”) and the La Crosse Public Library (“City Library”); and,

WHEREAS, the County Library has agreements with the Town of Campbell, Villages of Bangor, Holmen and West Salem and the City of Onalaska to provide library services with such services funded primarily through a levy of La Crosse County taxpayers exclusive of the City of La Crosse; and,

WHEREAS, the City Library provides library services in the City of La Crosse with such services funded primarily through a levy of City of La Crosse taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS, the City Library continues to have funding challenges as operation costs increase, and the future of the north and south community branch libraries is still in question; and,

WHEREAS, the City Library’s services are used and enjoyed by residents of La Crosse as well as residents of other municipalities in La Crosse County, for example, 20% of the City Library services are used by patrons who reside outside of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of La Crosse finds that this allocation of resources results in an inequity; and,

WHEREAS, there have been numerous studies, reports, and statements made about eliminating local government duplication and improving local government services by consolidating, merging and regionalizing said services whenever possible; and,

WHEREAS, the “*Assessing City-County Cooperation and Overlap: An Analysis of Municipal-Type Service Provision in La Crosse*” study (“the Study”) identified an existing duplication of library services and funding inequities, and made certain recommendations for improvement; and,

WHEREAS, as recommended by the Study, the City of La Crosse sought local funding changes to eliminate said duplication and improve services, however, its efforts were unsuccessful; and,

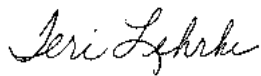
WHEREAS, the Study further recommended that the County Library and the City Library collaborate to eliminate duplication and improve services and efficiencies for the library systems.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse that it hereby requests to enter into an agreement for library services for the City’s main library and two branch libraries with the La Crosse County Library including establishing a transition plan as needed, with such an agreement to take effect by July 1, 2017.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse hereby intends to keep both branch libraries open and operating, as well as the archives department and is prepared to provide funds to supplement the La Crosse County library tax to maintain these services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse hereby directs the Mayor, the City Attorney, the Finance Director and the La Crosse Public Library Director to take the necessary steps to effectuate this resolution.

I, Teri Lehrke, certify that this resolution was duly and officially adopted by the Common Council of the City of La Crosse on September 12, 2016.



*Teri Lehrke, City Clerk
City of La Crosse, Wisconsin*