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City of Racine, Wisconsin  
**COMMON COUNCIL**

**AGENDA BRIEFING MEMORADUM (ABM)**

**COMMITTEE:** Full Common Council    **LEGISLATION ITEM #:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**AGENDA DATE:** April 20, 2020

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**DEPARTMENT:**

Prepared By: James M. (Jim) Palenick, City Administrator

Reviewed By: Cory Mason, Mayor

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**SUBJECT:**

A Communication from Mayor Mason submitting the matter of an extension of the Racine Zoological Gardens Operating Agreement for consideration.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

It is the recommendation of the Mayor, on April 20, 2020, that the term of the Operating Agreement for the Racine Zoological Gardens, between the City of Racine and the Racine Zoological Society, Inc. be extended for the one year period, January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020, and that such extension require compliance with the provision that a majority of Board members be City residents, as well as all other terms of such contract remaining unchanged; and that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute such agreement on behalf of the city.

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**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

The three-year contract between the City of Racine and the Racine Zoological Society, Inc., for ongoing subsidy and operations of the Racine Zoological Gardens, expired on December 31, 2019. The goal for both parties is to negotiate a detailed and comprehensive new, multi-year contract to better define the long-term financing and sustainability of the Zoo, but in the interim it was decided to extend for one year (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020) under essentially the same terms and consistent with the approved City Budget for zoo operating subsidy (set at \$565,000). The one noted change to this

30 extension is a provision detailing the required makeup of the Board of Directors of the Zoo, calling for  
31 a majority of the 15-member Board to be City residents, and that at any time that the Board fails to  
32 meet such requirement, then the Board's powers be limited exclusively to actions necessary to come  
33 into such compliance until the residency requirement is again fulfilled.

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35 **BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

36 No budgetary actions or amendments are necessary as a result of this contract extension since the  
37 Zoo's subsidy was already set and approved within the 2020 City Budget. Specifically, \$500,000 from  
38 the General Fund and \$65,000 from the Room Tax Fund for a total \$565,000, has been allocated for  
39 transfer to Zoo operations. This was essentially the same allocation as provided by contract for  
40 FY2019: \$565,737.00.

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42 **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES:**

- 43 1.) To adopt and approve the Addendum to the Racine Zoological Gardens Operating Agreement  
44 as submitted.
- 45
- 46 2.) To defer action on the Addendum to the Racine Zoological Gardens Operating Agreement as  
47 submitted.
- 48
- 49 3.) To reject and deny the Addendum to the Racine Zoological Gardens Operating Agreement as  
50 submitted.

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52 **RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

53 To adopt and approve the Addendum to the Racine Zoological Gardens Operating Agreement as  
54 submitted.

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56 **ATTACHMENT(S):**

57 An Addendum to the Operating Agreement with the Racine Zoological Gardens.