

**RESOLUTION NO. 10A-18**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR UW-EAU CLAIRE SCIENCE AND HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING PROJECT.**

**WHEREAS**, the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has a significant impact on the recruitment and retention of high-talent students to northwestern Wisconsin; and

**WHEREAS**, UW-Eau Claire's science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and health sciences graduates possess crucial skillsets that meet talent needs for this region; and

**WHEREAS**, UW-Eau Claire's current science building, Phillips Hall, was constructed in 1963 and 1966 and was not designed to accommodate modern scientific instruction and inquiry; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillips Hall's infrastructure is so obsolete and inefficient that, while it is only one of 33 buildings maintained by UW-Eau Claire, it accounts for 27-percent of all annual campus work orders; and

**WHEREAS**, Phillips Hall's teaching and research spaces are inflexible and do not allow for the interdisciplinary collaboration with outside industries that typify a modern STEM education; and

**WHEREAS**, conducting research alongside industry partners provides valuable experience to undergraduates that, in turn, makes them more attractive to prospective employers; and

**WHEREAS**, these experiences also expose students to professional settings and business organizations in the surrounding area, increasing the likelihood that they choose to live and work in this region after graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, the inability to meet the existing demand for academic research and laboratory spaces is a challenge for industry innovation and student recruitment and retention; and

**WHEREAS**, the UW System Board of Regents has approved a plan to replace Phillips Hall with a new UW-Eau Claire Science and Health Sciences building; and

**WHEREAS**, UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building project requires \$109 million in the 2019-21 state budget, including approval for \$13.7 million in private philanthropy; and

**WHEREAS**, this building project requires advanced enumeration of \$147 million in the 2021-23 budget, bringing the project's total budget to \$256 million; and

**WHEREAS**, providing state funding for a new Science and Health Sciences building at UW-Eau Claire would allow for the construction of critical economic infrastructure to support northwestern Wisconsin's talent recruitment and retention needs in STEM and health sciences fields;

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the Altoona City Council supports the inclusion of UW-Eau Claire's Science and Health Sciences building in the 2019-21 Wisconsin State Budget as recommended by the UW System Board of Regents; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that advanced enumeration for funding in the 2021-23 Wisconsin State Budget is essential to ensure this project is completed without additional inflation and that Phillips Hall can be demolished in a timely manner to eliminate ongoing maintenance and operational expenses.

Dated this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2018 at Altoona, Wisconsin 54720

CITY OF ALTOONA

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

*Brendan Pratt*  
Brendan Pratt, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

*Cynthia M Bauer*  
Cynthia Bauer, City Clerk

