

Why doesn't the city council in Onalaska start its meetings with a prayer?

One city resident asked that question of a council member recently, and the councilman tried a prayer at the monthly meeting. Now, an Onalaska council committee is going to study the idea of having a prayer every month, which is opposed by the Freedom from Religion Foundation. Onalaska mayor Joe Chilsen is hearing evenly mixed reactions from the public. At La Crosse city council meetings, a member of the clergy is often invited to speak at the start of the evening.