



MINUTES

Common Council Regular Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 5:30PM

City Hall, 410 E Leffler Street, Dodgeville, WI

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Barry Hottmann called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members present: Shaun Sersch, Roxanne Reynolds-Lair, Tom DeVoss, Jeff “Potsie” Weber, Mike Olson, Jerry Johnson, Julie Johnson-Solberg, Larry Tremelling.

Others present: Brandon Wilhelm (Dodgeville Police Chief), Dan Meuer (Dodgeville resident), Eric Hagen (City Attorney), Steve DeMuth (Dodgeville Resident), Shana Gundlach (Iowa County Humane Society), Dylan Wadzinski (Director of Public Works), John Hess (President of Iowa County Historical Society)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2025.
2. Approval of Claims from December 2, 2025.

Motion by DeVoss, second by Johnson to approve consent agenda. Voice vote 8-0. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT *Citizen or delegation presentations, requests or comments and discussion of same, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.83 (2) and Sec. 19.84 (2). Ten minute limit except by consent of council. No action will be taken on any item that is not specifically listed on the agenda.*

During Public Comment, Dodgeville Resident Steve DeMuth gave kudos to Council Member Tom DeVoss for his assistance with who to contact at Iowa County regarding the horse barn property. DeMuth noted that during his conversations with Iowa County, the owner of the horse barn lot will not be addressed until 2026 due to Iowa County still playing catch-up from cybersecurity breach in April 2025 and now moving into preparing to finalized tax bills for 2025. Other items of concern that DeMuth addressed to council were about when finances that were spent on new city hall would be available to general public, and also asking Council about what the city plans to do with all of the extra space at the new City Hall once the library moves back to their location on Fountain Street. Mayor Hottmann informed DeMuth that finances spent on City Hall would be available to general public after the budget for 2026 was approved. Mayor Hottmann also noted that once the budget process had been finalized for 2026, the city intended to hold steering committee meetings regarding future plans for new City Hall. Mayor Hottmann noted that some of these plans might include: plans for parking lot at new City Hall, potential for City garage to eventually be moved to new City Hall campus, etc. Mayor Hottmann noted that with the tight timeframe of new library completion due to receipt of grant, the steering committee for new City Hall had not been meeting, but plans for this committee to meet in the future will be occurring likely sometime after the new year.

Dan Meuer (Dodgeville resident) addressed Mayor Hottmann and Common Council and stated that standing committees should continue to meet, and that he preferred these over ad-hoc committees. Meuer also questioned Mayor Hottmann about Plan Commission, and asked why Plan Commission meetings were allowed to go into closed session. Mayor Hottmann informed that closed session at Plan Commission meetings was necessary especially when discussing new developments within the city, etc.

V. REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

3. Police Report

During the Police Report, Chief Brandon Wilhelm stated that there were 287 calls for service in November 2025, which brings the current YTD call count for 2025 to 3,336 calls for 2025. Chief Wilhelm also informed council that Home for the Holidays parade event had to be cancelled due to weather, and will not be re-scheduled. Lastly, Chief Wilhelm informed council that he received 8 applicants for the vacant officer position that had been posted recently. Wilhelm noted that of the 8 total applicants, 6 were qualified. Unfortunately, at time of initial time of testing these applicants, none of the 6 moved on due to choose to remove from applicant list, finding other positions, etc. Chief Wilhelm noted that it is becoming more and more difficult to fill officer positions nowadays, and that he and his team along with the Police and Fire Commission are looking at ways to increase applicant pool. With there being no applicants for this last posting, Chief Wilhelm stated that he will need to re-post this position again soon. Wilhelm stated that schedules so far for his current staff are okay, but summer 2026 may become more difficult due to vacations, time off, etc, so Wilhelm would like to get this position posted sooner rather than later to increase the applicant pool.

4. Clerk/Treasurer Report

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Wolfe informed meeting attendees that candidacy papers for the April 2026 election had now been handed out to those council members who are up for re-election in April 2026, and asked any of the council members who do not intend to re-run for the April 2026 election to please turn in non-candidacy papers by Tuesday, December 23rd, due to City Hall being closed at 12NOON on Friday, December 26th.

5. Mayor Report

During the Mayor Report, Mayor Hottmann informed the council that the third reimbursement had been received for the library grant award, in the amount of \$387,422.17. Mayor Hottmann also noted that he had spoken with Dodgeville School about the statue in honor of Archie Hahn, and that members from the Dodgeville Schools would get in contact with Hahn's family.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

6. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from Admin & Personnel committee to approve retainer agreement with Boardman & Clark, LLP for 2026 legal services.
Motion by Sersch, second by Johnson to approve recommendation from Admin & Personnel committee to approve retainer agreement with Boardman & Clark, LLP for 2026 legal services. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.

7. Discussion and possible action to approve the 2026 Stray Animal Contract with the Iowa County Humane Society.
Motion by Olson, second by Reynolds-Lair to table memo of understanding (MOU) until 12/16/25 common council regular meeting, but to approve the 2026 Stray Animal Contract with the Iowa County Humane Society. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.
8. Discussion of the 2026 Preliminary Budget and CIP
Motion by Reynolds-Lair, second by DeVoss to approve payment of \$5,000 to Iowa County Historical Society and to add as additional line item to 2026 budget. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.

Additional motion made by Johnson-Solberg, second by Reynolds-Lair to approve payment of \$12,000 to Care of Senior Citizens program. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

9. Discussion and possible action regarding an appeal submitted by the applicant following the denial of a driveway permit application, including review of the original application, the basis for denial, and any supporting documentation provided by the applicant.
Motion by DeVoss to affirm denial of driveway permit appeal based on Public Works opinion and information provided by City Attorney Hagen and Public Works Director Wadzinski, second by Johnson. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.
10. Discussion and possible action to approve a no cost of living increase request from the Police Chief for 2026
Motion by Reynolds-Lair, second by Weber to approve a no cost of living increase request from the Police Chief for 2026. Voice vote 8-0. Motion carried.
11. Discussion and possible action on oversight regarding any ongoing or future capital improvements to the new City Hall (Administration Building)
Motion by Olson to direct all new city public property projects to the Public Works Committee prior to approval at Council, second by Johnson. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.
12. Discussion and possible action to approve a contract with JF Ahern for an annual inspection of one / Notifier / NFW-50X fire alarm control panel and associated components per National Fire Protection Association Code 72.
Motion by Sersch, second by Weber to approve a contract with JF Ahern for an annual inspection of one / Notifier / NFW-50X fire alarm control panel and associated components per National Fire Protection Association Code 72. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.
13. Discussion and possible action on an HVAC preventative maintenance contract with JF Ahern.

Motion by Weber to approve 1-year HVAC preventative maintenance contract with JF Ahern in the amount of \$10,300.00, second by Johnson. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.

14. Discussion and possible action to allow the Dodgeville Area Chamber of Commerce to update the sign at Ley Pavilion.
Motion by Johnson-Solberg to allow the Dodgeville Area Chamber of Commerce to update the sign at Ley Pavilion, second by Weber. Voice vote 8-0. Motion carried.

A revised was then made by Johnson-Solberg, seconded by Weber to allow the Dodgeville Area Chamber of Commerce to update the sign at Ley Pavilion including activities at the pavilion as well as Harris Park. Voice vote 8-0. Motion carried.

15. Discussion and possible action to approve a change order for the library project to install a new sanitary sewer lateral on E. Fountain Street.
Motion by DeVoss, second by Johnson-Solberg to approve a change order for the library project to install a new sanitary sewer lateral on E. Fountain Street. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.
16. Discussion and possible action to approve recommendation from Admin & Personnel to move forward with City Administrator role with a part-time Mayor.
Motion by Johnson, second by Olson to approve recommendation from Admin & Personnel to move forward with City Administration role with a part-time Mayor. Roll call vote 8-0. Motion carried.

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AS ALLOWED BY LAW

IX. ADJOURN

17. Motion to Adjourn
Motion by Reynolds-Lair, second by Weber to adjourn.
Time: 7:57pm

