

**RESOLUTION
REGARDING AD HOC AQUATICS COMMITTEE REPORT
AND SETTING CONDITIONS FOR
POSSIBLE PLACEMENT OF A REFERENDUM QUESTION
SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL TO EXCEED THE CITY'S LEVY LIMIT
TO HELP FUND OPERATION OF A COMMUNITY POOL**

WHEREAS, in response to community concerns about the closing of the private, not-for-profit Two Rivers Family Swim Center, the City Council by resolution adopted in February 2024 authorized creation of an *ad hoc* citizen committee to address community aquatics needs and options to help fill the void created by the closure of that nearly sixty year-old facility; and

WHEREAS, that resolution identified several topics to be researched by that ad hoc committee, working with Parks and Recreation staff, with deliverables intended to assist the City Council and the community in making decisions on meeting community aquatics needs; and

WHEREAS, appointments to a ten-member citizen committee were proposed by the Parks and Recreation Director and the City Manager and were approved by the City Council in March 2024; and

WHEREAS, the *ad hoc* committee began its work in April 2024, completed that work expeditiously, and presented a report to the City Council on June 24, 2024; and

WHEREAS, that report supports the concept of building a new community pool, as a major quality of life asset for Two Rivers that will benefit residents of all ages and be especially beneficial in attracting and retaining young families in the community; and

WHEREAS, while the committee's recommendations include relying on private fund-raising and grants to provide capital funding for a community pool, a key issue to be addressed in advance of any capital drive is whether the residents of the City of Two Rivers support paying additional property taxes to help fund the ongoing operation and maintenance of such a facility; this is because research shows that community pools almost without exception require significant taxpayer support for operations and maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, the committee's report also includes a recommendation that the City Council "direct a professional feasibility study to be completed to provide certain key information prior to going to referendum," with the cost of such study to be funded by a local 501(c)3 organization: a friends group. Some members of the ad hoc committee, along with area residents associated with the Family Swim Center, have expressed willingness to create such an organization and pursue the funding needed for such a study;

NOW, THEREFORE, in the interest of providing more complete information to the community to aid in its decision-making, the City Council hereby states its concurrence with the ad hoc committee

recommendation that a local not-for profit organization be encouraged to pursue such funding , estimated at \$20,000 to \$40,000, to undertake a professional feasibility study regarding a community pool; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby states its intent to cooperate with any such community organization in determining the scope of services for such a feasibility study, and in reviewing the results of that study, with the intent to determine whether it is appropriate to place on the Spring 2025 Election ballot a measure seeking voter approval to exceed the City’s statutory tax levy limit, as provided in Section 66.0602(4) Wis. Statutes, to provide a specified amount of property tax support (estimated at up to \$100,000) for a community pool operating budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in order for the City Council to consider action placing such a measure on the Spring 2025 ballot, the scope of services for said feasibility study must be agreed upon by July 31, 2024, a consultant must be selected and under contract by August 31, 2024, and the study completed and presented to the City not later than October 15, 2024; otherwise, the target date for such ballot measure must be postponed to a later date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this action in no way represents a commitment by the City Council to use taxpayer funds for the construction of a community pool, nor to ask the voters to support such a commitment; rather, it represents a further commitment to engaging with advocates for a community pool to gauge the financial feasibility and community support for what would be a major investment by the Two Rivers community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council expresses its thanks to the members of the ad hoc Citizen Committee on Community Aquatics and to City staff who have assisted that committee in advancing this issue to date.

Adopted this 1st day of July, 2024.

Council Member

Gregory E. Buckley
City Manager