CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   President Stechmesser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK**
   Councilmembers: Mark Bittner, Doug Brandt, Katherine Dahlke, Shannon Derby, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski, Tim Petri (arrived at 6:06 PM)

   Also Present: Parks and Recreation Director Mike Mathis, Community Development Director Jeff Sachse, Library Director Terry Ehle, Finance Director Kassie Paider, Public Works Director Matt Heckenlaible, Tech Manager Dave Dassey, Police Chief and Acting City Manager Ben Meinnert, City Attorney Sean Griffin (via telephone)

4. **CONSIDERATION OF ANY COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING FROM A REMOTE LOCATION**
   None.

5. **INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC**
   Limited to 3 minutes per person - Resident addresses are requested but are not required to be given

   A resident on 26th Street asked about the schedule for filling in the street following water line replacement and whether the areas disturbed by the work would also be restored. Director Heckenlaible indicated they hope to complete much of the pavement work before snowfall, with remaining restoration work anticipated later this year or in early spring, weather permitting.

6. **COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS**
   Letters and other communications from residents

   Council members shared resident concerns regarding the library budget for the upcoming year and questions about the Hansen the Florist property. Several members also reported receiving calls from residents expressing concerns about escalating threatening messages and the City's ordinance regarding sex offenders, including questions about the number of offenders permitted to reside in the community and concerns about public safety. One resident requested that these concerns be considered before action is taken on the ordinance.

7. **COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES**

   Council members provided updates from several boards and committees. The Personnel and Finance Committee reviewed the budget, including a 1% reduction in the Parks and Recreation budget, with no service cuts anticipated. The Community Development Committee reviewed the City's TID districts and related development and TID matters. The Advisory Recreation Board

discussed the concession stand, Riverside Park improvements, goals, concert schedules, and budget items. A Library Board update is forthcoming, and the Environmental Advisory Board was scheduled to meet the following day. Main Street also clarified that murals, festivals, and related projects are funded through grants and donations, not City tax dollars, and that Main Street operates independently of the City.

*Clerk note: Councilmember Petri arrived at 6:06 PM.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

These titles will be read by the Council President and approved by a single Voice Vote. Any item may be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote by any City Council member.

A. 26-177 Presentation of Minutes

1. City Council Regular Meeting, September 8, 2026
2. City Council Work Session, September 28, 2026
3. City Council Regular Meeting, October 5, 2026
4. City Council Special Meeting, October 6, 2026

B. 26-178 Minutes of Meetings

1. Library Board, September 8, 2026
2. Plan Commission, October 12, 2026

C. 26-179 Finance Reports, July 2026

1. Debt Service
2. General Fund
3. Lester Library
4. Utilities Report

D. 26-180 Summary of Verified Bills for September 2026 of $2,759,615.20

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CONSENT AGENDA
Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Motion made by Wachowski, seconded by B. LeClair
Motion carried with a voice vote.
All in favor.

9. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

A. 26-176 An Ordinance Repealing and Recreating Section 9-9-3 of the Municipal Code of the City of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, Regarding Sex Offender Residency Restrictions, to Replace the Citywide Residency Prohibition with a 1,000-foot Protected-location Restriction (tabled from October 5, 2026 meeting)

Recommended Action:
Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Motion made by Dahlke, seconded by Bittner
Motion carried with a roll call vote.
Voting Yea: Brandt, Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair, Bittner, Derby, B. LeClair

10. CITY COUNCIL - DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Department Updates

1. Community Development
2. Public Works
3. Finance
4. City Clerk
5. Electric Utility
6. Fire Department
7. Tourism/Explore Two Rivers
8. Lester Library

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Mathis provided an update on annual programs, events, and Senior Center participation. Highlights included revenue from beach concessions and paid parking, the Riverside Park renovation, a $177,000 DNR grant along with about $200,000 out in other grants for Phase 2 of the skate park, and upcoming community programs. The 2027 budget fully funds traditional cemetery flowers, with native perennial plantings being explored as a potential alternative.

Community Development Director Jeff Sachse provided updates on proposed business assistance grants, brownfield redevelopment efforts, the Hansen the Florist and Hamilton properties, and planned residential and industrial expansions. Building permit activity generated approximately $380,000 in revenue through September, with construction values totaling $20.2 million.

Library Director Terry Ehle provided updates on new memory care kits developed in partnership with the Two Rivers Rotary Club, successful school book talks, and ongoing fall reading challenges. The Fall dramatic play center has welcomed approximately 446 children and families. Upcoming programs include a documentary discussion and an environmental education series on invasive species.

Finance Director Kassie Paider provided an update on the 2027 budget process, noting that General Fund budget reviews are nearing completion, with utility budgets scheduled for review on November 5th and the public budget hearing set for November 30th. The transition to the new assessor, Municipal Group, is underway, with data conversion progressing well.

Public Works Director Matt Heckenlaible provided updates on ongoing street, sidewalk, water main, and lead service lateral projects, along with planned 2027 improvements. Wastewater operations have improved through maintenance, while biosolids disposal and PFAS treatment remain challenges. The department also reported budget pressures related to storm damage and disposal costs, reduced leaf collection, and planned traffic signal repairs.

Deputy City Clerk Valerie Vanderlinden reported that preparations are underway for the November 3, 2026, General Election. In-person absentee voting hours were reviewed, and residents were reminded that voter registration by mail, email, and online has closed. Residents must now register in person at the Clerk's Office or at their polling location on Election Day. Absentee ballots by mail remain available upon request.

Police Chief and Acting City Manager Ben Meinnert finished the department reports stating Electric Utility reported using drones to inspect utility poles and power lines along Memorial Drive. The annual food drive will take place November 2nd-13th, with participants receiving a lighting item in exchange for nonperishable food donations. The Fire Department continues providing paramedic-level EMS coverage for the Mishicot ambulance service area through the end of the year while long-term arrangements are explored. Explore Two Rivers reported that 28 local businesses will advertise in the 2027 visitor guide. Chief Meinnert commended the Police department staff and other City departments for their teamwork, dedication, and

extended hours in response to a recent serious incident, noting that two individuals were in custody.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

12. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- **City Council Work Session**, Monday, October 26, 2026, 6:00 PM
- **City Council Regular Meeting**, Monday, November 2, 2026, 6:00 PM

Upcoming Events

- **In-Person Absentee Voting**, Tuesday, October 20 through Friday October 30, 2026
- **Chatting with the Chiefs**, Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 10:00AM-11:00AM, at The Hook Lanes & Games
- **Mainstreet Fall Wine & Beer Walk**, Friday, October 23, 2026, 5:00PM-8:30PM, in downtown Two Rivers
- **Downtown Trick or Treat**, Saturday, October 24, 2026, 11:00AM-2:00PM, in downtown Two Rivers
- **Zombie Zoom**, Saturday, October 31, 2026, 9:00AM, starting in Central Park East
- **Community Trick or Treat**, Saturday, October 31, 2026, 4:30PM-7:00PM, in Two Rivers neighborhoods
- **General Election**, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, polls are open from 7:00AM-8:00PM, Visit myvote.wi.gov to find your polling location

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn at 7:18 PM.

Motion made by Wachowski, seconded by Derby
Motion carried with a voice vote.
All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie L. Vanderlinden
Deputy City Clerk