



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Stechmesser called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK

Councilmembers: Mark Bittner, Doug Brandt, Shannon Derby, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski

Absent: Tim Petri

ALSO PRESENT: Matt Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Dave Murack, Fire Chief; Dave Dassey, IT Support Specialist; Kassie Paider, Finance Director; Ben Meinnert, Police Chief; Sean Griffin, City Attorney (via Phone); and Kyle Kordell, City Manager

4. CONSIDERATION OF ANY COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING FROM A REMOTE LOCATION

5. INTRODUCTION OF INVITED GUESTS

A. Oath of Office for Firefighter Paramedic Nathan Sekora
City Clerk administered the Oath of Office, followed by a badge pinning

B. Oath of Office for Firefighter Paramedic Hunter Decker
City Clerk administered the Oath of Office, followed by a badge pinning

C. 25-223 Proclamation Honoring Lieutenant Karen Elsenpeter on 32 Years of Public Service, read by Police Chief Ben Meinnert
Police Chief Ben Meinnert read the proclamation honoring Lieutenant Karen Elsenpeter and the City thanks her for her 32 years of dedicated service to our community.

6. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

Katherine Dahlke (3727 Adams Street) – Spoke about the Maritime Metro Transit route in Two Rivers. She stated Two Rivers is averaging 120 rides per day currently. Ridership has increased to about 90% pre-COVID numbers. The funding of the routes are complicated due to having federal funding for transit. Manitowoc receives 80% reimbursed if approved by the DOT. To operate Route 1 in Two Rivers in 2026 it will cost roughly \$205,378.30. The \$156,000 that Manitowoc is requesting from Two Rivers is to cover 76% of the operations cost. Cutting that funding will reduce the service in the city including paratransit.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from residents

Councilmember D. LeClair is encouraging everyone to use Contact the Council. In the past few days the council received numerous encouraging emails.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Councilmember Shimulunas reported on the listening session stating that the perpetual care flower fund was talked about; there were questions about property taxes; the MMT bus funding; parking fees at Neshotah Beach. She then reported on the Main Street Committee stating there are five major events for Main Street and had a positive year with the events.

Councilmember Bittner reminded the public they are welcome to attend the Personnel and Finance Committee meetings. The next one will be held on Wednesday, November 19.

Councilmember Wachowski reported on the Advisory Recreation Board reporting they spoke about boat launch fees, Neshotah Park signage and a designated swim area.

Councilmember Derby reported the Environmental Advisory Board is continuing their Winter Education Series, the next one is on Thursday, November 20 at 6:00 PM.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 25-224 Presentation of Minutes

1. City Council Work Session, October 27, 2025
2. City Council Regular Meeting, November 3, 2025

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the minutes

B. 25-225 Minutes of Meetings

1. Business and Industrial Development Committee/Community Development Authority, October 28, 2025
2. Room Tax Commission, October 29, 2025
3. Public Works Committee, November 5, 2025
4. Plan Commission, November 10, 2025
5. Explore Two Rivers Board of Directors, November, 11, 2025
6. Advisory Recreation Board, November 12, 2025
7. Architectural Control Committee, November 13, 2025

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

C. 25-226 Summary of Verified Bills for October 2025 of \$2,222,607.06

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the various actions recommended

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Wachowski, seconded by Derby

Voting Yea: Bittner, Brandt, Derby, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

10. CITY COUNCIL - DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. City of Two Rivers Financial Contribution to Maritime Metro Transit Route One

Summary: The City is exploring alternative models to reduce the amount of Two Rivers property tax dollars used to subsidize MMT Route 1, which has increased 44% over the past five years. The goal is to keep the route operating while shifting toward a more sustainable funding model that relies less on local taxpayers.

11. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

A. 25-227 Ordinance to Amend Section 4-1-6 of the Municipal Code, Regulating Snow and Ice Removal

Summary: The amendment broadens the interpretation of when sidewalks and corner ramps shall be cleared by. That being a 'reasonable' timeframe, presumed to be within 24 hours after the snow ceases to fall. This provides both property owners and the City some latitude and not an absolute time period. It also provides a clearer path for the City's ability to recover all reasonable costs when it must clear a sidewalk itself (including inspection, documentation, and billing time at a set per-foot rate), adds escalating penalties for repeat violations, and authorizes additional City staff, beyond Public Works, to enforce these rules.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Motion carried with a roll call vote

Motion made by Bittner, seconded by Brandt

Voting Yea: Bittner, Brandt, Derby, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

B. 25-228 Ordinance to Amend Chapters 1-2-1 of the Municipal Code, Fees

Summary: This ordinance updates the City's master fee schedule by increasing some fees, including short-term rental licenses, a new harbor sludge tipping fee that can be charged to the Army Corps of Engineers, and restructuring how building permit fees are calculated. These adjustments modernize the fee structure, improve fairness and consistency, and reduce reliance on property taxes to support these operations.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by D. LeClair, seconded by Shimulunas to table this item to a future work session agenda.

Voting Yea: Derby, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Shimulunas Wachowski

Voting Nay: Bittner, Brandt, Stechmesser

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kordell reported at last week's Plan Commission meeting, commissioners reviewed an ordinance that would limit future installations of large billboards within Two Rivers. The proposed change would make owners of future billboards apply for a conditional use permit. Rush Logistics has officially opened at their new facility on Browns Drive. The City has launched recruitment for the next Tourism Director. Lastly, he invited Police Chief Meinnert to provide an update of a recent drug bust in the City of Two Rivers.

13. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- City Council Work Session, Monday November, 24, 2025, 6:00 PM

- City Council Regular Meeting, December 1, 2025, 6:00 PM
- Public Hearing for an Ordinance to Amend Municipal Code Section 10-1-15 I (3), entitled "Height and Area Exceptions" to regulate fence setbacks in the front yard, Monday, December 1, 2025, 6:00 PM
- Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit for Starbucks located at 1509 Washington Street, for the operation of a drive through, submitted by FrontView REIT (owner), Monday, December 1, 2025, 6:00 PM

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn this meeting at 8:06 PM

Motion carried with a voice vote

Motion made by Wachowski, seconded by Derby

Voting Yea: Bittner, Brandt, Derby, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Baryenbruch
City Clerk