



**TWO  
RIVERS**  
WISCONSIN

# CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, November 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM

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

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## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Council President Wachowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

### 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 3. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers: Jeff Dahlke, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Tim Petri, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski. Absent and Excused: Tracey Koach.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dave Buss, Finance Director; Matt Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Dave Dassey, Info Systems Assistant; Elizabeth Runge, Community Development Director/City Planner; Andrew Sukowaty, Water Director; Brian Dellemann, Electric Director; Jeff Dawson, Library Director; Greg Buckley, City Manager

Motion to take item number 5 out of the agenda order.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, seconded by B. LeClair

Voting Yea: Dahlke, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

### 5. DISCUSSION WITH KIP GOLDEN, CR STRUCTURES, REGARDING STATUS OF THE CONFLUENCE PROJECT ON THE EAST TWIN RIVER

Mr. Buckley introduced Kip Golden, CR Structures for an update on The Confluence project. Mr. Golden reviewed his company's most recently proposed amendments to the previously-approved development agreement with the City. The amendments would include changing the developer's submission of the project cost breakdown to February 1, 2024, the developer's submission of proof of project financing to March 25, 2024, the project commencement to May 1, 2024 and the project completion to December 1, 2025.

### 4. PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2024 CITY BUDGET

#### A. REVIEW OF RESOLUTIONS TO BE ACTED UPON AT THE DECEMBER 4, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Manager Greg Buckley reported that a public hearing notice was published in the Herald Times Reporter and posted at locations throughout the City as required. The proposed 2024 budget has been available for review and inspection online at [www.two-rivers.org](http://www.two-rivers.org) and in person at City Hall and the Library. Mr. Buckley briefly reviewed the budget highlights and resolutions to be brought to the Council for adoption on December 4, 2023 before the public hearing was opened.

With all funds taken into account, Two Rivers city government is \$40 million annual operation. Three of the major funds included in the City Budget are funded in part by property taxes:

The General Fund, with individual budgets for Police, Fire, EMS, Public Works, Parks and Rec and Administration; This budget totals \$12,236,497 for 2024, up 6.9 percent over 2023, primarily due to increased personnel costs. No tax increase is required for the 2024 General Fund Budget, thanks to a substantial increase in State Shared Revenues approved by the WI Legislature and Governor in the most recent State Budget. Taxes in support of this fund will total \$2,250,000, unchanged from 2023. The Debt Service Fund, which covers most principal and interest payments on General Obligation (non-utility) debt issued by the City in past years to fund capital projects.

The 2024 Debt Service Fund Budget totals \$2,984,708 (up 6.5 percent over 2023) and the tax levy for this fund in 2024 is proposed at \$2,589,571 (up 2.82 percent from 2023).

The Lester Library Fund, with a 2024 operating budget of \$962,879, up 7.85% over 2023. City property taxes in support of the Library are proposed to be increased by \$50,503, up 8 percent, mostly to address compensation for staff.

Bottom Line: City share of the tax bill is proposed to increase by 2.41 percent, or \$27 on a \$100,000 assessed home (from \$1,122 to \$1,149).

Budgets for the City's Utility Funds, supported mostly by fees charged on monthly bills, total over \$17 million and include:

Electric Utility, with a total budget of \$9,591,070, down 2.7 % from 2023. Most of this budget (just over \$7,000,000) is for the purchase of electricity wholesale, for resale to the utility's customers. No rate increase is planned for 2024.

Water Utility, with a total budget of \$3,065,055, up 3.8% from 2023. No rate increase is planned for 2024.

Sanitary Sewer (Wastewater) Utility, with a total budget of \$3,102,098, up 4.4% from 2023. A 4 percent rate increase, effective January 1, 2024, is proposed for this utility.

Solid Waste Utility, with a total budget of \$835,076 to pay for trash and recyclables collection and disposal and Fall leaf collection. An increase in the price of garbage stickers, from \$2.50 to \$3.00, is planned to meet the funding needs of this utility, to address increased costs for contractor charges and landfill tipping fees. Final details on the sticker price increase need to be addressed by City Council; effective date is expected to be March 1, 2024.

Storm Water Utility, with a total budget of \$808,142 for storm water treatment measures and maintenance, repair and replacement of storm water infrastructure. That's up 37% (\$217,850) over 2023, in part because of the proposed transfer of Street Sweeping to this fund from the Solid Waste Utility, at an added cost of \$106,000. No rate increase planned for 2024.

Discussion took place regarding the GIS proposed position and the two new police squads in the budget. Police Chief Meinnert will report back on the rebuilding of squad car power trains, suggested by Council member Dahlke, as an alternative.

## B. PUBLIC HEARING

Council President Wachowski opened the public hearing and made the first call for input from the public on the proposed budget.

Stanley Palmer, President of the Library Board, 331 23rd Street, thanked the City Council and the Two Rivers residents who wrote statements in support of increase funding for Library staff wages. Mr. Palmer stated the Two Rivers Public Library has received state and national awards for the StoryWalk® and Garden Walk at the Library and at Zander Park. Also at the

national level, the American Library Association named Lester Public Library in Two Rivers one of 15 libraries in the country to host a museum-quality exhibit examining human migration. The new touring exhibit was developed by the American Anthropological Association and the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage. Lester joins institutions including Houston, San Jose, and Kansas City, Kansas public libraries in hosting the exhibition.

Council President Wachowski then made the second and third calls for input from the public. There was no one from the public present wishing to comment on the proposed budget. The Council President closed the public hearing.

**6. DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO RIVERS FAMILY SWIM CENTER, REGARDING PLANNED CAPITAL CAMPAIGN AND POSSIBLE CITY OPERATING ASSISTANCE TO THE CENTER**

Discussion was postponed until the January 2024 Work Session.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE IN OR "OPT OUT" OF CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENTS RELATED TO PFAS IN DRINKING WATER SOURCES FROM AQUEOUS FILM FORMING FOAMS, REPORT FROM CITY ATTORNEY**

--SETTLEMENT INVOLVING DUPONT DE NEMOURS, INC. AND OTHERS  
--SETTLEMENT INVOLVING 3M COMPANY

City Attorney Jack Bruce reviewed the notices of proposed settlements of class actions to participate in or opt out of the class action related to PFAS in drinking water sources.

Water Director Andrew Sukowaty stated at his time the City has minimal PFAS concentrations in its drinking water, well below the levels of concern to USEPA and Wisconsin DNR. The entirety of Lake Michigan would have to raise in PFAS levels substantially before Two Rivers Water would have to have remediation. At this time that scenario seems unlikely with the amount of water that makes up Lake Michigan.

Motion by Stechmesser, seconded by Shimulunas to opt out and endorse the resolution authorizing and directing filing of request for exclusion from both the 3M and the Dupont Public water system settlements.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski. Voting Nay: Dahlke

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn the meeting at 8:16 PM.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, seconded by B. LeClair

Voting Yea: Dahlke, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kuehn, Deputy City Clerk