



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 18, 2024 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 Wachowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER HERB BUNKE (JUNE 3, 1932 - MARCH 8, 2024), WHO WAS ELECTED TO TWO TERMS ON THE CITY COUNCIL (2002-2007) AND LATER APPOINTED TO SERVE A ONE-YEAR TERM (2012-13)

4. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK

Councilmembers: Jeff Dahlke, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Tracey Koach, Tim Petri, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski (there is one vacancy on the council at this time).

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Mathis, Parks and Recreation Director; Jeff Dawson, Library Director; Dave Murack, Fire Chief; Elizabeth Runge, Community Development Director/City Planner; Matthew Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Andrew Sukowaty, Water Utility Director, Joe Metzen, Tourism Director; Ben Meinnert, Police Chief; Dave Buss, Finance Director; Rick Powell, IT Supervisor; and Greg Buckley, City Manager

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

None

6. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

Andre Robitaille (2313 Jefferson Street) – expressed his concerns with the second revision of the sidewalk decal ordinance. He spoke of the following concerns: limits on sign content, number of decals allowed, and indemnification section contrary to State law. He also recommended that only one sign to be permissible per address.

William Otto (1800 Jefferson St) – requested for the elevator in the St. Lukes Apartment Complex to be extended by 2” on each side. Council President Wachowski stated that development is over twenty years old and the City will reach out to the building inspector to refer to State codes. Mr. Otto also requested for the Two Rivers Baseball Team to play at Walsh Field. City Manager Greg Buckley stated Walsh Field will be converted to a softball diamond but the Pony League will play at Walsh Field.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from citizens

Councilmember Shimulunas reported a large tree down in Riverside Park. Parks and Recreation Director Mike Mathis stated that he was aware of the situation and it will be cleaned up.

Councilmember Dahlke reported that he had the following communications:

- He received a concern about an individual known as the “candy man” is walking around selling candy bars and becoming a nuisance to downtown businesses.
- He received a question regarding the status of removal of the scoreboard at the former Neshotah Park ball diamond, now that it is no longer being used as a diamond.
- He received several calls regarding limiting vacation rental properties

8. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Councilmember Dahlke reported on the Personnel and Finance Committee. The Committee is currently evaluating the City Goals and Objectives.

Councilmember D. LeClair reported on the following boards:

-- Environmental Advisory Board: they are having issues finding volunteers for various projects causing some projects to be delayed

-- Main Street: they applied for several grants and were awarded one that will cover the cost of the first mural. The mural is in a great location and is awaiting contract signatures. The Ornithological Society is having a meeting at Woodland Dunes. More information will soon be provided regarding banner art, the yarn bomb and hanging baskets downtown.

Councilmember Koach reported on the Library Board. The Library has searchable records from newspapers back to 1872 available online. This service is free and can be accessed from the Library computers or personal computers while at the Library.

9. CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

A. Invited Guests

1. Shanda Stachurski and Colin Loughrin, Accurate Appraisel, Regarding 2024 Revaluation Project

Shanda Stachurski and Colin Loughrin spoke regarding the upcoming revaluation period and provided background information about the necessary revaluation.

B. Status Update/Reports

1. Update on Search for Elijah Vue

Mr. Buckley reported Elijah Vue was first reported missing on February 20, 2024. The Police Department and supporting agencies have been doing an excellent job of updating the public on the ongoing search efforts.

2. Staffing Updates

Mr. Buckley reported on the current ongoing recruitments: Electric Meter Technician – announcement pending; Finance Director – reviewing applications.

3. Final Pricing for 2024 Capital Projects Borrowing

Mr. Buckley reported the City’s issuance of \$3.02 million in 10-year notes to finance 2024 capital projects secured an interest rate of 3.59 percent. That is less than the rate of 4.00 percent that was used in financing illustrations presented to the Finance committee and City Council earlier this year and is lower than the rate of 3.78 percent for the City’s 2023 10-year borrowing.

4. Veterans Memorial Flags in Central Park East

Mr. Buckley reported the American Legion Post 165 and VFW Post 1248 of Two Rivers are funding banners that will be placed in Central Park around Memorial Day, listing the names of

all Two Rivers residents who were killed in action serving our nation in all conflicts, from the Civil War to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

5. In-Person Absentee Voting Starts Tuesday, March 19, City Hall Customer Service Department

6. Spring Election & Presidential Preference Primary April 2, Polls Open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

7. MEUW to Hold Training Session in Two Rivers on March 19

Mr. Buckley reported 36 attendees, representing municipal utilities from all across Wisconsin will attend a day-long session on locating underground facilities, to be held in the Behringer Room of the J.E. Hamilton Community House .

8. Upcoming Events:

a. IAFF Local 423 Annual Fish Boil, Friday, March 29, Two Rivers Fire Station

b. World on the Move Exhibit, March 20 to April 23, Lester Public Library

c. Van der Brohe Arboretum & Bird Sanctuary Tree/Shrub/Plant Sale, Order by April 26

d. Batty for Bats, Wednesday, March 27, 10:00 AM, Woodland Dunes Nature Center

e. "Curbing Carbon Emissions", Thursday, April 4, 6:00 PM, Behringer Room Community House--Environmental Advisory Board Educational Series

9. Other

C. Legislative/Intergovernmental Update

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Presentation of Minutes

1. City Council Work Session, February 29, 2024

2. City Council Regular, March 4, 2024

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the minutes

B. Minutes of Meetings

1. Lester Public Library, February 13, 2024

2. Public Utilities Committee, March 5, 2024

3. Public Works Committee, March 4, 2024

4. Plan Commission, March 11, 2024

5. Explore Two Rivers Board of Directors, December 12, 2023

6. Room Tax Commission, March 14, 2024

7. Personnel and Finance Committee, March 14, 2024

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

C. Department Reports, February 2024

1. City Clerk

2. Community Development

3. Electric

4. Inspections

5. Library and 2023 Annual Report

6. Parks & Recreation

7. Police

8. Public Works

9. Safety

10. Water

Recommended Action:
Motion to receive and file

- D. Summary of Verified Bills for the Month of February for \$7,112,093.58

Recommended Action:
Motion to receive and file

- E. Recommendation from Plan Commission Meeting of March 11, 2024:
Set Public Hearing on an Amendment to Section 10-1-15, Height and Area Exceptions as it Relates to the Placement of Garages in Front and Street Side Yards

Recommended Action:
Motion to set the public hearing for April 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

11. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

- A. Manitowoc County ARPA Voluntary Program Deadlines--Staff Report to County

Recommended Action:
Motion to receive and file

Mr. Buckley noted the recent letter from County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer, included in the agenda packet, asking local units for updates on their plans to make timely use of the ARPA funding being shared by the County. He also pointed to the response to that letter from City Engineer Matt Heckenlaible, affirming the City's commitment to use the funding for continued lead water service replacement activity. He requested a vote to "receive and file," so the City's response is of record.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, Seconded by Petri.
Voting Yea: Dahlke, Koach, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

- B. Resolution Authorizing Application to WDNR for Urban Forestry Grant Funded Through Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Recommended Action:
Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Mathis reported on this opportunity to apply for grants from a one-time DNR grant program totaling \$4 million, with priority placed on serving disadvantaged communities.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Koach, Seconded by D. LeClair.
Voting Yea: Dahlke, Koach, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

- C. Resolution Amending 2024 City Budget to Provide Increased Funding for General Fund Budget Contingency--to Help Offset Extra-Ordinary Police Department Costs Associated with the Elijah Vue Search and Investigation

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and approve the resolution, as recommended by the City Manager and the Personnel and Finance Committee

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, Seconded by Shimulunas.

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

- D. Consideration of Ordinance Amendments Related to Replacement of "Private Side" Lead Water Service Laterals

A. Ordinance to Repeal and Recreate Section 5-1-8 of the Municipal Code, Entitled "Water Service Replacement," as it Relates to the Mandatory Replacement of Illegal Lead and Galvanized Water Service Laterals

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Stechmesser, Seconded by Koach.

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

B. Ordinance Creating a New Section 5-1-8(F) of the Municipal Code, to Facilitate Loans to Property Owners to Replace Private Lead and Galvanized Water Service Laterals by Treating Principal and Interest Repayments, Fees and Other Charges for These Loans as Special Charges Eligible for Inclusion on the Tax Bill for These Properties. and Establishing a Segregated Fund for the Purpose of Accounting for Such Loans and Repayments

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Staff explained that this ordinance, by creating a segregated fund for making loans to property owners and collecting repayments in the form of special charges, would allow the City to access low-interest loan funds through WDNR to assist property owners with lead lateral replacements. This program will not involve the City's Water Utility Fund.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, Seconded by B. LeClair

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

- E. Stormwater Annual Report

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Koach, Seconded by D. LeClair.

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

F. Additional Appointee to Ad Hoc Pool Committee: Ryan Kroiss

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve the appointment

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Stechmesser, Seconded by Koach.

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

G. Consideration of Proposed Sign Code Amendment to Allow Private Business Signage (Decal Signs) on the Public Sidewalks in Business-Zoned Districts as a Trial Program

Recommended Action:

Council Discretion

Discussion took place regarding the proposed draft ordinance pertaining to the placement of signs advertising private businesses on public sidewalks. This item will be discussed at the next scheduled City Council Work Session meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

No action was taken.

12. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. City Council Work Session, Monday, March 25, 2024, 6:00 PM

2. City Council Regular Meeting, Monday, April 1, 2024, 6:00 PM

3. Spring Election & Presidential Preference Primary, Tuesday, April 2, 2024, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn this meeting at 7:52 PM.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Dahlke, Seconded by Petri.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Baryenbruch
City Clerk