



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, July 07, 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 6:15 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK

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

Absent: Mark Bittner

ALSO PRESENT: Kassie Paider, Finance Director; Jeff Dawson, Library Director; Mike Mathis, Parks and Recreation Director; Matt Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Dave Murack, Fire Chief; Rick Powell, IT Supervisor; Andrew Sukowaty, Water Utility Director; Ben Meinnert, Police Chief; Brian Dellemann, Electric Utility Director; Sean Griffin, City Attorney (via Phone); and Gregory Buckley, City Manager

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

None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. 25-126** Public Hearing Regarding Ordinance to Amend the District Map, Section 10-1-3(a)(1) of the Zoning Code to Rezone the Property Located at 1608 Monroe Street from I-1 Industrial to R-3 Single and Double Family Residential, as Requested by Applicant and Owner Mark Bami

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Council President Stechmesser opened the first call for public input for the public hearing. No one spoke. Council President Stechmesser closed the first call and opened the second call for public input for the public hearing. No one spoke. Council President Stechmesser closed the second call and opened the third and final call for public input for the public hearing. No one spoke. Council President Stechmesser closed the third and final call for public input. Mr. Buckley noted that the applicants, Mr. and Mrs. Bami, were present if the Council had any questions.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by B. LeClair seconded by Brandt

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

6. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from citizens

Councilmember Wachowski reported receiving several citizen communications. Residents expressed concerns regarding garbage and maintenance issues at the beach, as well as tree clearing activity along downtown Washington Street. He also received a concern regarding difficulty viewing the events calendar on Explore Two Rivers.

Council President Stechmesser addressed a complaint from a resident about speeding on Jackson Street. He noted the council's participation in the Snowfest Parade and shared positive feedback received from the public on the Fourth of July fireworks. In addition, he extended thanks to the City Band and Clipper City for their performances on July 4.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

None.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Invited Guests

Electric Utility Director Brian Dellemann introduced Tom Hanrahan, General Counsel for WPPI Energy, noting the importance of regular engagement with WPPI. Tom explained that WPPI aims to meet with member communities' governing bodies approximately every other year. He shared that WPPI is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2025, having been officially formed in 1980, though its origins date back to the 1970s when a committee was established to explore municipal energy cooperation. Two Rivers was involved in those early discussions and played a role in the formation of WPPI. Today, the organization includes 51 members, with over 40 located in Wisconsin. Tom delivered a presentation on WPPI's power supply portfolio, highlighting their primary energy resources and ongoing efforts to ensure reliable service to member communities. He also discussed WPPI's focus on future initiatives, including evolving energy technologies, sustainability goals, and maintaining a resilient power infrastructure.

B. Status Update/Reports

1. Staffing Updates

Mr. Buckley reported on the ongoing recruitments: City Planner / Community Development Director – accepting applications

2. Welcome New Employees

a. Finance Accounting Clerk, Michelle LeClair

Finance Director Kassie Paider introduced Michelle LeClair to the Council. Michelle was born in Kewaunee and grew up / graduated from Two Rivers. Michelle brings a wealth of experience facilitating financial transactions while working in Brokerage Firms, Home Mortgage Sectors, both Kewaunee & Point Beach Nuclear Plants and most recently Eis Implement Inc. She has also served in the Army National Guard for 22 years and retired in 2018.

b. Police Clerk/Evidence Custodian, Betsy Olson

Police Chief Meinnert introduced Betsy Olson to the Council. Betsy worked 3 years at Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center and Manitowoc County Emergency Operations Center, and most recently 3 years at Brown County Joint Dispatch Center as a dispatcher and supervisor.

3. New City Manager Kyle Kordell begins work August 4

Mr. Buckley reported that Mr. Kordell is set to start on August 4, 2025. Retiring City Manager Buckley will be wrapping up his duties by August 15.

4. Update on July 4th Weekend

Chief Meinnert reported 8 parking tickets this is from the fireworks at the beach, 24 warnings for parking; 3 vehicles that were towed; 40 contacts related to glass bottles, 4 fireworks; 15 dogs on beach; 1 traffic warnings; 1 traffic incident; 1 owi arrest and resisting officer; 1 jetski safety issue; outside of all that – overdose incident, 6 person fight with firearm; suspicious person with long guns; numerous firework complaints; hit and run; another owi 1st and owi 7th; 50-70 toys to children and tons of k9 cards. He noted that, even though there were many visitors in Two Rivers over the holiday weekend, all of the arrests were local residents.

5. Council Chambers Audio/Video System Update

Mr. Buckley reported the audio/video system upgrade project will begin on Wednesday, July 9, and is expected to be completed by mid-next week. The system should be fully operational in time for the upcoming Council meeting scheduled for July 21, 2025.

6. Public Meeting on "Planning a Resilient Shoreline," Wednesday, July 23, 6:00 PM, City Council Chambers—this will be a joint meeting of the City Council, Plan Commission, Advisory Recreation Board and Environmental Advisor Board.

7. Bridge Maintenance Projects

Mr. Buckley reported the 17th Street Lift Bridge was closed July 2 for cleaned accumulated dirt and salt off structural members; will be closed on July 10 for scraping / grinding rusted areas for priming and painting. WisDOT will provide the services of a "snooper truck" to assist in the work on July 10. Time permitting, that unit will also be used to clean the outer walls of the 22nd Street Bridge.

8. Monroe Street Closure to Through Traffic, 16th Street to 22nd Street, July 7 - August 15

Mr. Buckley reported that, due to upcoming lead lateral replacement work on Monroe Street, between 16th and 22nd Street, the street will be closed to through traffic but will remain open to local traffic for access to driveways and businesses.

9. Business Facade Improvement Projects Assisted With City and Main Street Grant Funds

Mr. Buckley reported The Hook Lanes and Games, and the Violet Inn both are improving their business façade with city and Main Street grant funds.

10. Tannery Condominiums Project

Mr. Buckley reported new condos are under construction on Tannery Road. The first of what will eventually be four new duplex condominium structures (eight units total) is under construction in the 4400 block of Tannery Road.

11. Sandy Bay Highlands Subdivision Phase 3

Mr. Buckley reported Sandy Ridge Drive, Rawley Court, and Orchard Lane are all graded and graveled. The new segment of Rawley Point Trail on the east side of Orchard Lane is completed. Electric and fiber utility installation is ongoing. The final restoration is ongoing. As of June 1, properties are now listed with Weichert Realtors/Cornerstone

12. Water Main Flushing Continues

Mr. Buckley reported flushing will continue until the end of July. Signs are placed near the areas where the flushing is occurring. Flushing hydrants is an important process to help clean and maintain our water distribution system. During this time, residents may experience low water pressure and discolored water. The Utility recommends waiting to use the water until after crews have left the area.

13. Lead Service Laterals Replacement

Mr. Buckley reported the following replacements as of Wednesday, July 2 under the contract awarded to Mammoth Construction in 2024: public side water services – 251; public side sanitary laterals – 175; private side water services – 95; private side sanitary laterals – 36.

14. State Highway 42/Memorial Drive Project

Mr. Buckley reported the guard rail replacement along the lake side of the highway is taking longer than expected. It was largely completed by July 3 with the trailside rub rail being installed the week of July 7. The pavement marking contractor has been backed up for other projects, so the permanent markings are not anticipated to begin until possibly the week of July 7 for both southbound and northbound traffic. As such, the traffic control devices will not be removed, and traffic remains limited to one lane in each direction alongside the center median. Crews have completed restoration work in some small areas, like the new crosswalk connection along Mariners Trail at Madison, Columbus and Taylor Streets. A new end wall is being installed on the lake ward end of the box culvert that Forget Me Not Creek flows through, beneath the highway at the Spirit of the Rivers wayside. That work will wrap up this week.

15. Neshotah Park - Pierce Street Resurfacing and Parking Improvements

Mr. Buckley reported the resurfacing and parking improvements have been completed.

16. Upcoming Events

a. Concerts in the Park, (Central Park West)

Thursday, July 10, Dave Steffen Band, 6:00PM-8:00PM

Thursday, July 17, TR Community Band, 6:30PM-8:00PM

Sunday, July 20, Lakeshore Wind Ensemble, 6:00PM-8:00PM

b. Bryan Lee Memorial Blues Festival, Saturday, July 12, 1:00PM-9:00PM, in Central Park West

c. Bands on the Beach, Sunday, July 13, The Electric Cars, 2:00PM-5:30PM on the Rotary Pavilion at Neshotah Beach

d. Coffee with a Cop, Tuesday, July 15, 9:00AM-10:00AM, at Rissa's Cafe & Gifts

e. Lester Public Library: July Activities

f. Downtown Friday Night Live, Friday, July 18, The Droors, 7:00PM-9:00PM, in Central Park West

g. Really Big Prints: Steamroller Printing, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, July 16, 17, 18, 8:00AM-5:00PM, Saturday, July 19, 8:00AM-12:00PM at Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum

h. 46th Annual Kiwanis Fish Derby & Festival, Saturday & Sunday, July 19 & 20, 9:00AM, at Walsh Field

i. Kayak Series: Great Lakes Education, Saturday, July 19, 9:00AM-11:30AM, on the West Twin River

j. Harmony Lives on the Schmitt Brothers Stage, Saturday, July 19, 6:00PM-7:30PM, in Central Park West

k. Kid's Night: Chalk it Up! Tuesday, July 22, 6:00PM-7:30PM, at Washington Park

l. SnowFest, Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, July 25, 26, & 27, at Neshotah Park

m. Visit exploretworivers.com for future events

17. Other

C. Legislative/Intergovernmental Update

1. State Budget Deal Reached Between Governor and Legislative Leadership

Mr. Buckley reported significant developments at the state level with the recent adoption of a compromise budget for Wisconsin, reached by legislative leaders and the Governor's office at the start of the new fiscal year. He noted that this budget includes a second consecutive

increase in shared revenue for municipalities—Two Rivers' largest single general fund revenue source. The city currently receives approximately \$4.7 million in shared revenues, and will see an increase of about \$160,000, reflecting a 3.4% rise for the upcoming year. This increase, slightly lower than originally projected due to the state's removal of sales tax on utility bills, remains a positive improvement compared to the stagnant funding of prior decades. Further increases are projected in subsequent years.

He also highlighted the continuation of interest rate subsidies for water and wastewater utility borrowing through state environmental loan programs. These subsidies are expected to reduce borrowing costs to about 2.45% for planned projects. General transportation aids will increase by 3% in each year of the biennium, providing an estimated \$18,000 annual boost for Two Rivers. Mr. Buckley noted that the city's own investment in street maintenance and reconstruction has contributed to additional gains under the state's distribution formula.

Transit funding also appears to be trending positively, with potential benefits for Two Rivers' partnership with Maritime Metro Transit. The state's harbor assistance program remains funded at \$15 million annually, and Two Rivers may consider applying given the need to address shoaling issues in the harbor.

In terms of economic development, Mr. Buckley pointed to new talent recruitment grant opportunities intended to attract workers from out of state, along with a \$50 million local project grant fund for initiatives serving statewide public interests. These could be relevant for advancing NOAA marine sanctuary-related infrastructure. Additional funding opportunities may also become available for EMT training programs. Mr. Buckley added that reauthorization of the state stewardship program remains pending.

He concluded by noting that, unlike in some previous cycles, the new state budget does not appear to include major unrelated policy changes inserted late in the process.

- 2. Budget Implications for WI Cities
- 3. Other

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 25-127 Minutes of Meetings

- 1. Committee On Aging, June 2, 2025
- 2. Environmental Advisory Board, June 17, 2025
- 3. Business and Industrial Development Committee and Community Development Authority, June 24, 2025

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

B. 25-128 Finance Reports, March, 2025

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

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

C. 25-129 Applications and Petitions

- 1. Request for road closure on Jackson Street from 21st Street to 22nd Street from 8:00am on Friday August 8, 2025 to 10:30pm on Saturday, August 9, 2025 for annual event, Rogers

Street Days

2. Temporary Class "B" Beer License for Rogers Street Fishing Village for Rogers Street Days on August 8 & August 9 at 2102 Jackson Street
3. Temporary Class "B" Beer License for Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve Inc. for Heiknbrew on September 5, 2025 at 3000 Hawthorne Ave
4. Temporary Class "B" Beer License for Woodland Dunes Nature Center & Preserve Inc. for Chamber After Hours on August 21, 2025 at 3000 Hawthorne Ave.
5. Renewal 2025-2026 for Two Rivers Hotel Group LLC located at 1407 16th Street for Combination Class "B" Beer/"Class B" Liquor License expiring June 30, 2026.

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve the request and applications and authorize road closure and issuance of the licenses

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 seconded by

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

11. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

A. 25-130 Proclamation Naming July 12, 2025 as Bryan Lee Day

Recommended Action:

Motion to read and adopt the proclamation

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Shimulunas seconded by B. LeClair

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

Mr. Buckley read the proclamation.

B. 25-131 Resolution Amending the 2025 City Budget to Provide Funds for Proposed Property Purchase

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution (NOTE: Budget amendment requires a two-thirds vote of the City Council)

Mr. Buckley noted that the budget amendment would make \$30,000 available for the purchase of a parking lot on the west side of Adams Street, in the 1700 Block. This matter has been discussed in closed session at recent meetings, as the City has negotiated a purchase price with lot owner Wine Not LLC. He noted that budget amendments require approval by a 2/3 majority vote.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Brandt seconded by Petri

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

Voting Nay: Wachowski

C. 25-132 Agreement With Wine Not, LLC for City Purchase of Parking Lot Parcel Located at SW Corner of Adams and 18th Streets

Recommended Action:

Motion to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the City

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by B. LeClair seconded by Petri to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the agreement on behalf of the City with correction of the parcel number and language change on pages 3 & 4 to clarify that the cost of title insurance is the responsibility of the Seller.

Voting Yea: Brandt, Derby, B. LeClair, D. LeClair, Petri, Stechmesser

Voting Nay: Shimulunas, Wachowski

D. 25-133 Authorization to Re-Allocate Funds in the 2025 Water Utility Budget to Fund Consulting Services Associated with Development of a DNR-Mandated Water Supply Service Area Plan

Recommended Action:

Motion to authorize re-allocating \$30,000 from water plant soffit project to fund consulting services contract

Water Utility Director Sukowaty explained the need to complete this new plan by the end of 2025. It was noted that this matter has been reviewed with the Utilities Committee, which supports the proposed re-allocation of budgeted capital funds.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Derby seconded by Shimulunas

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

E. 25-134 Ordinance to Amend Section 6-4 of the City Code to Eliminate Requirements for City Licensure of Massage Establishments and Massage Technicians

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Mr. Buckley and Police Chief Meinnert expressed support for the amendment, noting that there is a State licensing requirement for massage therapists, and the City has never, to anyone's knowledge, enforced the current ordinance licensing requirements for massage therapists and massage establishments. Both also noted that ordinances prohibiting illicit activities under the guise of "massage parlors" remain in effect and enforceable.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Petri seconded by Derby

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

12. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- Personnel and Finance Committee Meeting, July 10, 2025, at 8:00AM

- City Council Regular Meeting, Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6:00PM
- City Council Work Session, Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00PM
- City Council Regular Meeting, Monday, August 4, 2025, at 6:00PM

13. 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, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser, Wachowski

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Baryenbruch
City Clerk