

CITY OF TWO RIVERS

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO COMMUNITY POOL FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Two Rivers Family Swim Center (formerly Swim Club) is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization that for nearly 60 years has operated a facility at 3612 Bellevue Place, providing an outdoor pool and gathering place for the enjoyment of local families and offering swim lessons to three generations of Two Rivers children; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Swim Center at the end of the 2023 Summer season announced that the Swim Center will not be re-opening for 2024 or future seasons, due to the age and condition of the facility and the financial challenges associated with its continued operation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, City Manager and Parks & Recreation Director have recently engaged in discussions with representatives of the Swim Center, regarding a possible new community pool to serve the residents of Two Rivers; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the Swim Center has been an important community amenity, especially for families with young children—a demographic the City wishes to attract and retain; and

WHEREAS, Swim Center representatives have proposed to spearhead a capital campaign to raise the money needed for a new swim facility, estimated at \$3-5 million, if the City would agree to take responsibility for the operation and maintenance of such a facility; and

WHEREAS, such a commitment by the City would almost certainly involve the expenditure of additional taxpayer funds, to properly staff and maintain an aquatics facility; even with revenue from season and daily passes and other user charges, virtually all municipally-operated pools require tax support; and

WHEREAS, an increase in the City's operating tax levy to support such operations would likely require voter approval, based on Wisconsin's levy limits law; and

WHEREAS, significant additional information and analysis is needed before the City Council or the voters can be asked to consider such an investment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council, recognizing that this is a community quality of life issue that warrants further consideration, hereby directs the following:

1. That the City Manager and Parks and Recreation Director develop a list of proposed citizen appointments to an *ad hoc* committee on community aquatics, to include representatives of City staff, the Family Swim Center, Advisory Recreation Board and interested citizens, for presentation to the City Council not later than the March 4 Council meeting;
2. That the Parks and Recreation Director and any staff designated by the Director shall provide staff support to this *ad hoc* committee;
3. That the matters to be considered by such committee shall include, but not be limited to:
 - A. The availability of other, existing area facilities to serve the aquatics needs of the community (such facilities to include the Two Rivers High School pool, Manitowoc Aquatics Center and YMCA pool)

- B. How the budgets for community pool facilities in other Wisconsin communities are funded, including the extent of municipal tax support
- C. Identifying the scope of programs and services to be offered at a new community pool
- D. Evaluating the current location and possible alternative locations for a new community pool
- E. Identifying the extent of the capital facilities that would be desirable for a new public pool; including indoor/year-round versus outdoor only/seasonal facility
- F. Providing cost estimates for such facilities
- G. Developing a *pro forma* operations and maintenance budget for such facilities, providing detail on both projected expenses and revenues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as the committee's work proceeds, there will likely be the need to secure the services of a design professional to assist in developing preliminary plans, construction cost estimates and operational cost estimates. Should such need arise, it is the City's expectation that the budget for such services will be funded from community sources.

Approved this 5th day of February, 2024.

Council Member

Gregory E. Buckley, City Manager