



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 05, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Stechmesser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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

Also Present: Dave Murack, Fire Chief; Brandon Burke, Acting Fire Captain/CC Paramedic; Joseph Ewert, Fire Fighter/Paramedic; Ben Meinnert, Police Chief; Jeff Sachse, Community Development Director; Matt Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Rick Powell, IS Supervisor; Kyle Kordell, City Manager; Sean Griffin, City Attorney (via telephone)

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

None.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

A. 26-001 Public hearing for a request for a Conditional Use Permit for the operation of self-storage units, located at Columbus Street, Parcel No. 202-201-010-9, in Industrial District I-2, submitted by Brian Backler

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve the request for a conditional use permit, as recommended by the Plan Commission

Council President Stechmesser opened the first call for public input on the public hearing. No one spoke. Council President Stechmesser closed the first call and opened the second call for public input on the public hearing. No one spoke. Council President Stechmesser closed the second call and opened the third and final call for public input on the public hearing. No one spoke. Council President closed the third and final call.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by D. LeClair, seconded by B. LeClair.

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

6. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

Limited to 3 minutes per person - Resident addresses are requested but are not required to be

given
None.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from residents

Councilmember Shimulunas stated she received several concerns from residents. One regarding an alleged home-based business on Parkway Boulevard operating without a conditional use permit. City Manager Kordell noted that the city has issued multiple citations on this property and the matter is currently in municipal court. Councilmember Shimulunas expressed concern about perceived inconsistency and fairness in how conditional use permits are applied and enforced, with a request to discuss this issue further in a work session. Additional complaints included the safety of e-bikes and bicycles on sidewalks, particularly impacting wheelchair users, and ongoing issues with stray cats in neighborhoods, with a request to consider forming a committee and addressing the matter in a future work session.

Council President Stechmesser stated he also received concerns about the Parkway Boulevard property. He also mentioned receiving an email "giving kudos" to the Police and Fire departments on their amazing job responding to the recent fire on 18th Street.

Councilmember Petri reported he received concerns about the flock cameras regarding who has access to them and what exactly their purpose is.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Councilmember Bittner reported some statistics that were shared from the Committee On Aging. In 2025 the Two Rivers Senior Center was able to provide 3,488 rides with the TRUST car. There were 14,149 sign-ins for a series of safety classes that were offered. There were 5500 sign-ins for the fitness and exercise programs. There were over 14,021 volunteer hours given by members in the community. Lastly, the Senior Center served over 17,542 meals.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

These titles will be read by the Council President and approved by a single Voice Vote. Any item may be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote by any City Council member.

A. 26-002 Presentation of Minutes

1. City Council Regular Meeting, December 1, 2025
2. City Council Regular Meeting, December 15, 2025

B. 26-003 Minutes of Meetings

1. Business Improvement District Board, November 20, 2025
2. Architectural Control Committee, December 19, 2025

C. 26-004 Applications and Petitions

1. Temporary "Class B" Wine license for Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, for Cork and Canvas on January 20, 2026 at 1520 17th Street.
2. Temporary "Class B" Wine and Class "B" Beer license for Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, for Cribbage Tournament on January 18, 2026 at 1520 17th Street
3. Temporary Class "B" Beer license for Knights of Columbus Co. 1957 for K of C Cornhole Tournament on January 31, 2026 at 1710 W Park Street

D. 26-005 Agreement Between the United States of America, Army Engineers District and City of Two Rivers

Summary: This item authorizes a letter agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the City to fund the administrative review and processing of a federal grant related to an easement and bulkhead connection at the Two Rivers Harbor. Approval allows the Corps to complete the necessary environmental review, appraisal, and legal documentation so the City can move forward with the project on federally owned property.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Derby, seconded by Bittner

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

10. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

A. 26-006 Resolution Adopting Proposed Settlement Agreement Between Two Rivers Fire Fighters IAFF Local 423, AFL-CIO and the City of Two Rivers

Summary: The tentative agreement includes scheduled wage adjustments and targeted updates to benefits, training compensation, and lateral hiring provisions to help the City recruit and retain qualified firefighter-paramedics. The agreement was negotiated to remain competitive in the regional labor market while maintaining responsible, predictable long-term costs for taxpayers.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by D. LeClair, seconded by Shimulunas

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

B. 26-007 New Class "B" / "Class B" License for Spices of the East LLC, dba The Spices Restaurant & Bar Two Rivers, 1210 Washington Street, Basudev Adhikari, Agent for a period ending June 30, 2026

Summary: This license will allow Spices Restaurant to serve fermented malt beverages, liquor, and wine in their establishment.

Recommended Action:

Motion to authorize the City Clerk to issue the license pending approval of inspections and background check

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Shimulunas, seconded by Petri.

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

11. CITY COUNCIL - DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review of 2025 Goals and 2026 Goals

Summary: The City Council will hold a discussion on proposed goals and priorities for 2026 and review goals from 2025, focusing on organizational stability, service delivery, and long-term community outcomes.

B. Tax Increment Finance Strategy for 2026

Summary: The City of Two Rivers operates 12 Tax Increment Districts with a recent staff review of their performance to ensure the continue to meet development and fiscal goals. Based on 2025 data, City staff recommend the early termination of underperforming districts and amendments to active TID's to reflect recent State law changes.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kordell reported a strong increase in construction activity, noting that building permits rose 37% from 2024, with more than 300 permits issued in 2025, signaling confidence and investment in the local market. Updates included the adoption of a revised building permit fee schedule, the first update in 15 years, and the addition of a full-time building inspector, positioning City Hall to manage higher permit volumes efficiently. Announcements were also made regarding the posting of a part-time City Hall custodian position in anticipation of a long-serving employee's retirement, and the implementation of a new school bus safety ordinance effective January 1, 2026, requiring all buses to use red flashing lights and stop arms at every stop, with drivers required to stop whenever they are activated.

13. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- City Council Regular Meeting, Monday, January 19, 2026, 6:00 PM
- City Council Work Session, Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM
- City Council Listening Session, coming in February

14. ADJOURNMENT

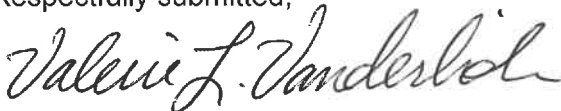
Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn at 7:13 PM.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by B. LeClair, seconded by Petri

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

Respectfully submitted,



Valerie L. Vanderlinden
Deputy City Clerk