



Common Council Meeting

Whitewater Innovation Center, 1221 Innovation Dr.,
Whitewater, WI 53190 *In Person and Virtual

Tuesday, August 04, 2026 - 6:00 PM

**Citizens are welcome (and encouraged) to join our webinar via computer, smart phone, or telephone.
Citizen participation is welcome during topic discussion periods.**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/257239925410445?p=gnbnMqwcYBf1iT93u>

Meeting ID: 257 239 925 410 445

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Dial in by phone

+1 929-229-5663,,759665657# United States,

Phone conference ID: 759 665 657#

Please note that although every effort will be made to provide for virtual participation, unforeseen technical difficulties may prevent this, in which case the meeting may still proceed as long as there is a quorum. Should you wish to make a comment in this situation, you are welcome to call this number: (262) 473-0108.

AGENDA

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Singer called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Council President Patrick Singer
Councilmember Michael Smith
Councilmember Orin Smith
Councilmember Steven Sahyun
Councilmember Brian Schanen
Councilmember Neil Hicks
Councilmember Gavin Kelleher

City Manager John Weidl

City Attorney Steven Chesebro
Public Works Director Brad Marquardt
City Clerk Heather Boehm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A councilmember can choose to remove an item from the agenda or rearrange its order; however, introducing new items to the agenda is not allowed. Any proposed changes require a motion, a second, and approval from the Council to be implemented. The agenda shall be approved at each meeting even if no changes are being made at that meeting.

Motion to approve the agenda with removing item #19 from the agenda and bringing it back after late September made by Councilmember Artsmith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Kelleher

Voting Nay: Councilmember Hicks

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the Consent Agenda will be approved together unless any council members requests that an item be removed for individual consideration.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with moving item #6 to resolutions and adding items #11, #12 and #13 made by Councilmember Artsmith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher

1. Library Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes from June 15, 2026.
2. Finance Committee meeting minutes from June 23, 2026.
3. Community Development Authority meeting minutes from June 18, 2026.
4. **Approving Policy Change: 2026-R-35** Resolution approving addition to Employee Handbook regarding Employee Lateral Transfer Language for Vacation Credited Service.
5. **Approving Policy Change: 2026-R-36** Resolution approving amendment to Employee Handbook regarding City Manager vacation carryover.
6. **2026-R-38** Resolution authorizing the placement of the Shared-Ride Taxi bus on Wisconsin Surplus for Auction.

Motion to approve resolution 2026-R-38 made by Councilmember Artsmith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher

Voting Nay: Councilmember Smith

CITY MANAGER REPORT

7. City Manager Report.

City Manager Weidl gave his bi-monthly update of City events and accomplishments, including reports from the following departments: Public Works, IT, Police, Fire & EMS, Library, Community Development, Parks & Recreation, Human Resources.

STAFF REPORTS

8. Review and Discuss Fire Department Turnout Times - **Fire Department**
Assistant Fire Chief Dion gave an update.
9. Review and Discuss hunting in city limits.- **Police Department**
Police Chief Meyer gave an update.
10. Review and Discuss Flock Guardrails.- **Police Department**
Police Chief Meyer gave an update.

HEARING OF CITIZEN COMMENTS

No formal Council action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Council discusses that particular item.

To make a comment during this period, or during any agenda item: On a computer or handheld device, locate the controls on your computer to raise your hand. You may need to move your mouse to see these controls. On a traditional telephone, dial *6 to unmute your phone and dial *9 to raise your hand.

Madison Sweetman (432 W Geneva St, Elkhorn) spoke against consolidating polling locations.

Bill Chandler (369 Lakeview Dr)

Keep the Campus Polling Station Open During the School Year

According to the 2025 censuses, the total population of Whitewater is 16,038 and 12,075 students attend UW-Whitewater. Therefore, a large portion of our population is comprised of voting aged students. They deserve a voice in government.

I worked the campus polling station several years ago and Sue, my wife, worked the campus polling station in the last election. There was a steady stream of voters. In fact, according to the supplied statistics there were 2,812 campus voters in the 24 presidential election, 1,323 campus voters in the spring 25 election, and almost 1,000 campus voters in the spring 26 election. The turnout of voters on campus during the school year is not low.

Of course, we do not know how people voted, but the large student vote may have been why the school and police referendums passed, and young people are now serving on our school board, common council, and county board of supervisors. This civic engagement bodes well for the economic future of Whitewater. However, if closing the campus polling station during the school year is the intent, it is voter suppression for political gain.

Young people are our hope for the future. They need to be encouraged to vote to instill a lifelong habit of participating in democracy. Voting should be easier, not harder. It is a worthwhile investment of effort and money. Therefore, when students are on campus, keep the campus polling station open.

Paul Waelchli (647 S Wisconsin St) spoke against consolidating polling locations.

Sadie West (1007 W Starin Rd)
Hello everyone,

My name is Sadie West, and I am a current student at UW-Whitewater, and live at 1007 W Starin Road. Living at this address puts me in Voting Ward 9, meaning my polling location is currently on campus.

I'm here to ask you to keep that voting location, not only for myself, but the hundreds, sometimes thousands, of students who rely on it to participate in our local, state, and national elections.

UW-Whitewater is a major part of the Whitewater community. Students may go to school on campus, but do life throughout the city, including in the wards which currently have on campus voting. Many of these students live here year round, they work here, shop here, and participate in events. They are residents of this community, and their voices deserve the same hearing and consideration as every other voter.

UW-Whitewater has always taken pride in being an accessible and inclusive campus. The campus works hard to remove barriers students may be facing, and voting should not be an exception. The armory may not seem far away for many, but it is inaccessible to many students. Lack of transportation, mobility challenges, and other circumstances prevent many of our students from travelling off-campus to vote.

I would also like to point out that this discussion is taking place during the summer, when many students are away from campus, or at their jobs, and haven't been made aware that this topic is being discussed. The people who are the most impacted by this issue are not present to share and explain why this particular location matters to them. If this meeting were taking place during the semester, you would be able to see how much students care about keeping the on-campus polling location.

In fact the OW-Whitewater student body has cared enough to create partnerships between the city and the university to make elections more accessible. Our student Government has contributed resources and funds towards election efforts in the past, and many members have helped on election day. As the student government Clerk, I intend to help on election day this fall, as I have done in the past, and I know many other members would love the opportunity to do so as well.

We don't only want to help for specific elections, we would like to help during all the elections that take place during the academic year, as there are no small elections. No matter the type of election, every decision made during one impacts our community. Across Wisconsin, every UW System campus has at least one polling location on campus or is in the process of getting one. In addition many private universities across the state have on-campus polling locations as a convenience to their students and community. However, keeping the campus polling location is more than just convenience. It's about accessibility, civic engagement, and understanding that students are a part of this community.

I ask that you keep the campus polling location for all elections that take place during the academic year and to continue the wonderful partnership which has mutually benefitted the city and university communities for years.

Thank you.

Lisa Huempfnr (976 W Charles St) spoke against consolidating the polling locations.

Tyler Schneider (160 S Whiton St) spoke against consolidating the polling locations.

Jan Bilgen (178 n Park St) spoke against consolidating polling locations.

Bob Gehrenbeck (212 N Franklin St) spoke against consolidating polling locations.

Ella Jordane (809 Grant St, Madison) spoke against consolidating polling locations.

Gregory Stewart (815 w Highland St) spoke against consolidating polling locations and spoke to give praise for out Whitewater EMS department.

Kevin Green (365 W Ann St) spoke about the spillway guardrails and the speeding on Ann St, spoke about the University helping fund the polling location on campus.

Isaiah Wilson (120 S Cottage St) spoke against consolidating polling locations.

Chuck Mills (336 S Whiton St) spoke about flock.

Allysun Euhardy (441 Koshkonong Dr)
Dear Whitewater City Council

This attempt to take away our access to polling is extremely concerning. Because who do we vote for in our "low turnout" or our spring elections? Yes, statewide elections like supreme court, but more importantly, our local nonpartisan elections like city council, county board positions, and school board.

When you take away our ability to an accessible voice, accessible input, it sends a broader message that Whitewater doesn't accept students as a part of the community and that it doesn't want students to participate in the community.

Being such a large portion of the Whitewater community, our campus and students DESERVE to be heard. We DESERVE to have a voice in our community, and we deserve to have equitable access to voting.

Allysun Euhardy

UWW Student

These were submitted to the clerk on behalf of those who couldn't make it to the Council meeting.

Hi there,

My name is Lys Dobbs, and I am the Community Development Programing Specialist at UW-Whitewater and co-owner of Stellar Vintage. I wanted to submit a word of support regarding an on-campus polling place. Many of my student interns and plenty of others do not have cars on campus, nor do many know that they can register to vote with their Hawk Card. A polling place on campus would greatly help with this barrier, and I hope you find this issue equally important to address!

All my best,
Lys Dobbs

Dear Members of the Whitewater City Council,

I am writing to respectfully urge you to continue providing a polling location on the UW-Whitewater campus during odd-year elections.

As a graduate of UW-Whitewater, I can personally attest to the value of having an on-campus polling location. For students, being able to vote where they live and study makes civic participation significantly more accessible. That convenience matters, especially for first-time voters who are developing lifelong voting habits.

I also write from the perspective of a former municipal clerk. I understand firsthand the logistical and staffing challenges that come with operating polling places. Running an election is no small undertaking, and when turnout is expected to be lower, it is natural to look for ways to reduce costs and simplify operations.

However, I believe eliminating a campus polling location would be the wrong solution.

Wisconsin's odd-year elections are no longer the "low-turnout" elections they once were. In recent years, Wisconsin Supreme Court elections have drawn record-breaking turnout and unprecedented public attention. The Wisconsin Supreme Court decides issues that have profound impacts on the lives of students, including voting rights, reproductive freedom, education, environmental protections, civil rights, and the interpretation of our state constitution. These are issues that directly affect young people and the future of our state.

Removing a polling location from campus creates an unnecessary barrier for students who may not have reliable transportation or who are voting for the first time. Rather than making participation more difficult, we should be looking for ways to continue encouraging civic engagement.

I also believe there are practical ways to address the staffing concerns without eliminating the polling place. UW-Whitewater has numerous civically engaged student organizations whose members would likely welcome the opportunity to serve as election inspectors. Students can be excellent poll workers, and involving them provides valuable civic experience while helping reduce staffing burdens on the City.

Campus organizations can also assist with voter registration and voter education efforts leading up to Election Day, helping ensure voters arrive prepared and keeping lines moving efficiently.

Maintaining a campus polling location demonstrates that the City of Whitewater values civic participation and is committed to ensuring all eligible voters-including students-have reasonable access to the ballot box.

Thank you for your service to the City of Whitewater and for considering these comments. I respectfully ask that you vote to retain the UW-Whitewater campus polling location for future odd-year elections.

Sincerely,

Samuel E. Liebert
Wisconsin State Director
All Voting is Local

The UW-Whitewater College Democrats, alongside other organizations on campus and within our community, have spent years advocating for an accessible and consistent polling location on our campus. The upcoming City Council discussion on whether to remove our polling location is disappointing, and we strongly urge our representatives to oppose this proposition.

On Tuesday, August 4th, the Whitewater City Council will have discussion considering the "potential of consolidating polling locations for low turnout elections". As elected officials, they should champion increasing voter accessibility. One way we can make elections more accessible for students is by consistently having an on campus polling location. If students can't rely on having a polling place every election, our voter turnout will fall for every election, even our elections with a traditionally higher voter turnout.

Our organization stands for creating a more socially and civically accessible campus. By removing our polling place, our campus will be less accessible to all students, especially, but not limited to, our students with disabilities, students who lack reliable transportation, and our students who have busy class schedules, jobs, and other responsibilities outside of university.

The way to solve our "low turnout" is not by taking away our polling location. It is not by taking away our voices. We are disheartened by our representatives' attempts to do so.

In Unity,
The UW-Whitewater College Democrats Executive Board

Dear Common Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal by Councilmember Neil Hicks to consolidate or close polling locations, specifically the campus polling station. At a time when we must

defend against voting suppression and encourage civic engagement, we cannot afford to implement policies that make it more difficult for citizens to vote.

It is vital that we keep young people engaged in the political process, as the future of our democratic republic depends on their participation. Every single vote is sacred and consequential.

I want my tax dollars to support access to and participation in voting. I am gladly willing to volunteer my time to support keeping this voting site open, and I have spoken with other community members who are equally willing to support this effort.

Please do not approve any effort to reduce polling places. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Respectfully submitted,
Penelope J Alwin

Dear Whitewater Common Council

I am a disabled student at UW-Whitewater. Before the 2024 agreement, I struggled to vote in Whitewater. I cannot walk to the armory, so for each off campus election, I had to hope I could find someone with a car to drive me. I spoke to multiple disabled students during this time who wanted to vote but could not because they couldn't get to the polling place.

UW-Whitewater has the highest population of disabled students of any UW system school, with one in five students having a disability. The polling place on campus has given students, especially disabled students, access to utilize their constitutional right to vote.

Mary Young
375 N Harmony Ln #123

RESOLUTION

11. **Approving Map: 2026-R-33** Resolution approving the updated Child Safety Zone Map-IT/GIS

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

12. **Budget Amendment: 2026-R-34** Resolution to amend 2026 Budget Resolution for Downtown Activation Initiative - **Finance**

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda and will be a future agenda item.

13. **Approving Policy: 2026-R-37** Resolution approving Vacation Cash Out Policy.- **Human Resources**

This item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

ORDINANCES

First Reading

14. **Amending Ordinance: 2026-O-20** an ordinance amending 5.20.025 Alcohol License Review Committee to add review of and advising on public safety concerns to the duties of the Committee. - **City Attorney**
- Redraft and bring back on a future meeting.
15. **2026-O-15** an Ordinance to repeal chapter 2.52.100 Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Commission. - **Parks**
- Bring back after Ordinance 2026-O-20 is decided.
16. **Zoning Ordinance: 2026-O-17** Zoning Ordinance Change for Family Child Care Centers-**Community Development**
- Motion to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-O-17 made by Councilmember Schanen, Seconded by Councilmember Artsmith.
- Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher
- Motion to waive the second reading of Ordinance 2026-O-17 made by Councilmember Artsmith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.
- Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher
17. **Amending Ordinance 2026-O-19** Ordinance Amending Municipal Code 11.16.150 – Street Index of Parking Restrictions for Elizabeth Street and Highland Street and 11.22.010 – No Stopping, Standing or Parking.- **Public Works**
- Jim O'Halaran (1104 W Highland St) spoke about the amendment.
- Motion to approve the first reading of amending Ordinance 2026-O-19 made by Councilmember Hicks, Seconded by Councilmember Artsmith.
- Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher
- Motion to waive the second reading of amending Ordinance 2026-O-19 made by Councilmember Hicks, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.
- Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher

Second Reading

18. **Amending Ordinance: 2026-O-14** Amendment to Ordinance 9.04.010 - Injury to Squirrels and Pets - Permission Required- **Parks**
- Motion to approve the second reading of amending Ordinance 2026-O-14 made by Councilmember Schanen, Seconded by Councilmember Hicks.
- Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith,

Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher

CONSIDERATIONS

19. Review, discuss, and direct staff regarding the potential of consolidating polling locations for low turnout elections. - **City Clerk**

This item was removed from the agenda to be brought back at the second meeting in September.
20. Review, discuss, and direct staff regarding purchase of department training vehicle. - **Police Department**

Motion to approve made by Councilmember Kelleher, Seconded by Councilmember Artsmith.
Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher
21. Councilmember Requests for Future Agenda Items or Committee items. Questions

Councilmember Sahyun - Primary election on campus.
Councilmember Smith - Guardrails for the dam. Stop sign on Ann St.
Councilmember Artsmith - End of year report from Assistant Fire Chief Dion on consistent times.
Councilmember Hicks - Extending hours on the ATV/UTV Ordinance.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

22. Whitewater Comparative Analysis. - **Finance August**
23. Helmets for Scooters and E-Bikes- *Parks & Rec* - **M. Smith Q2**
24. Update on Food Pantry Lease- *Parks & Rec*. -**O. Artsmith October**
25. Explore Flock guardrails- September 1, 2026
26. Ethics Boards and Surrounding Cities.- **Hicks - August 18, 2026**
27. Ethics Complaint from Brad Ceranske- **Special Meeting August 31, 2026**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:54pm made by Councilmember Artsmith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.
Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Artsmith, Councilmember Sahyun, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Kelleher

Anyone requiring special arrangements is asked to call the Office of the City Manager / City Clerk (262-473-0102) at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

The City of Whitewater's strategic goals for 2026–2028 are: Expand Housing Opportunities and Support Responsible Community Growth; Enhance Communication, Transparency, and Community Engagement; Support Economic and Downtown Development, Business Growth, and Tax Base Expansion; Foster a Vibrant, Engaged, and Welcoming Community; Ensure Long-Term Financial Stability and Strategic Investment.

This agenda may include quasi-judicial items addressing the specific outcome for an individual or property, such as zoning appeals, conditional use permits, land use decisions, licensing, or ethics decisions. For quasi-judicial items, Council Members are only able to consider information presented by interested parties or the public on the record during this meeting. Council Members should not conduct their own investigation but may request additional information from the interested parties.