



Special Common Council Meeting

Whitewater Municipal Building Community Room,
312 West Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190
*In Person and Virtual

Wednesday, May 01, 2024 - 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:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87127076222?pwd=wxPtUDQztDcWQ_ntZqbYyE73IWWujw.RvK1-Rz-fAlmtbk_

Telephone: +1 (312) 626-6799 US (Chicago) (Houston)

Webinar ID: 871 2707 6222

Passcode: 095330

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.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present

Council President Patrick Singer

Councilmember Neil Hicks

Councilmember Lisa Dawsey Smith

Councilmember Brienne Brown

Councilmember Brian Schanen

Councilmember Greg Majkrzak

Councilmember Orin Smith

City Manager John Weidl

Economic Development Director Taylor Zeinert

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 made to approve the agenda by Councilmember Schanen, Seconded by Councilmember Hicks. Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith

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.

CONSIDERATIONS

1. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Interviewing and Appointing of Interim Municipal Judge.-**City Manager**

City Manager Weidl explained that Municipal Judge Patrick Taylor is set to resign June 1, 2024. As a result the Council needs to fill this role until November 5, 2024 at which time a Special Election will take place to elect a Municipal Judge until the term expires April 2027. Council President also explained that there were three applications which were in the packet along with some sample interview questions. The candidates are Art Coleman, John William Nelson, and Johnathan McDonnel. Applicants are given three minutes for an introduction followed by the Council questions. After all three candidates gave their introductions and answered all the Council's questions, Judge Patrick Taylor spoke regarding the Council's task of appointing a Municipal Judge. He stated that

In his five years in this role, he has learned a lot about the significance of being a municipal judge. While he won't recommend any specific candidates, he wants to highlight a few key points. Many people underestimate the importance of this position, thinking it only involves handling minor municipal violations. However, the municipal

judge embodies the face of community justice and often makes a lasting impact on individuals' perceptions of the justice system.

This role requires understanding the broader consequences of legal decisions on people's lives. For example, those charged with THC or drug paraphernalia offenses need to be aware of how a guilty plea might affect their future employment prospects. Migrant workers, who might not have driver's licenses, need to understand the serious legal ramifications of repeated violations.

The judge must know the law, preside over trials, and ensure evidence is handled correctly. The goal is not to generate revenue but to change behavior and support individuals, particularly juveniles, who might be dealing with mental health issues or challenging family situations.

It's crucial to choose a judge who is well-prepared, impartial, and compassionate. The new judge should aim for creative solutions that go beyond mere punishment. I'll be available to support the new judge and ensure a smooth transition. Additionally, there's a statewide municipal judge orientation on May 7th, which would be beneficial for the new appointee if decided swiftly.

The Council then chose which candidate they wanted to appoint Municipal Judge via ballot. City Clerk Boehm read the ballots. Councilmembers Schanen, Smith, Majkrzak, Brown voted for John William Nelson. Councilmembers Dawsey Smith, Hicks, and Council President Singer voted to appoint Jonathan McDonell.

Motion made to appoint John William Nelson to Municipal Judge by Councilmember Majkrzak, Seconded by Councilmember Brown.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith

2. Oath of Office of Newly Appointed Municipal Judge-**City Clerk**

City Clerk Boehm gave the Oath of Office to John William Nelson effective June 1, 2024.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 6:58 pm by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Majkrzak.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith

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.

2023-2025 City of Whitewater's 5 strategic goals: Build single-family homes, Communicate with the community without the newspaper, Support a thriving business community, Recruitment and retention efforts with a focus on diversity, and Prioritization of expenditures with available resources.