



Common Council Meeting

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

Tuesday, May 07, 2024 - 6:30 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:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81914940238?pwd=tYl97riyLo4kl5RS_Fg1w21zex-Now.BINRMCzgtNj9T41o

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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 Patrick Singer called the meeting to order at 6:31 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 Attorney Jonathan McDonnell

City Manager John Weidl

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 made to approve the agenda with moving items 30 and 31 to right after item 3 by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

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

1.

Jason Dean, the EMS Chief for Whitewater Fire and EMS Department in Wisconsin, recognized several team members for their heroic actions on January 21, 2024. The team responded to an emergency involving an unconscious person who was in cardiac arrest. Thanks to immediate CPR, early defibrillation, and advanced life support (ALS) interventions, the patient regained a pulse and was transported to the hospital. The crew members, FF/EMT-P Tanner Stark, FF/EMT-P Mikayla Fehl, FF/AEMT Ashley Dodd, FF/AEMT Braden Burger, FF Captain Andy Beckman, and EMS Chief Jason Dean, received a life-saving award for their efforts. The patient, Mr. Paul Jones, was present to express his gratitude.

Paul Jones expressed his deep gratitude to the Whitewater Fire and EMS team for saving his life. He thanked his wife, Margaret, for calling 911 after finding him unconscious, and the EMTs for reviving him. Despite ongoing rehab, he is nearly back to normal. He also thanked the citizens of Whitewater for supporting the referendum that created a 24/7 emergency medical service, reducing response times significantly. He humorously noted that his eyesight improved after multiple defibrillations, though he wouldn't recommend it as a treatment. Paul concluded by expressing his heartfelt thanks to the EMS team and invited Chief Freeman to speak.

RESOLUTION

2. Resolution recognizing Judge Patrick Taylor's Contributions to the City of Whitewater-**City Manager**

Motion made to approve the resolution recognizing Judge Patrick Taylor's contributions to the City of Whitewater by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown,

Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith.

Judge Patrick Taylor expressed deep gratitude for the recognition he received and shared how he has felt a strong sense of belonging in Whitewater during his seven years there. He attributed this connection to three main factors: the numerous opportunities to make a difference through various community groups and activities, the community's need for involvement, and the kindness and generosity of the residents. He emphasized the welcoming nature of the people in Whitewater and stated that he will cherish the proclamation and use it as motivation for future contributions.

GUEST SPEAKER

3. Jessie Dugan from Bethel House is presenting a recap of their Emergency Assistance Program that will highlight the needs of the families they are serving-specifically as they relate to housing, income equality and the overall cost of living expenses.

Jesse Dugan, a 16-year Whitewater resident and board chair of Bethel House, addressed the council to highlight the organization's efforts in supporting families at risk of homelessness. She acknowledged board member Jim Winship and stressed the importance of transparency and data collection to understand the challenges faced by lower-income families. Dugan highlighted the "household survival budget," showing that many working families still face financial shortfalls. She pointed out common issues such as childcare, transportation, and lack of paid sick leave that contribute to these families' struggles. She also noted that recent successful Bethel House families had to move out of Whitewater due to the lack of affordable housing. Dugan urged the council to prioritize affordable housing initiatives and use Bethel House as a resource for systemic change. She expressed hope that with community and council support, significant progress could be made in addressing homelessness and poverty in Whitewater.

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 made to approve the Consent Agenda by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Hicks.

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

4. Approval of Common Council Minutes from March 19, 2024, April 1, 2024, and April 4, 2024.
5. Library Board Minutes from March 18, 2024
6. Ethics Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024.
7. CDA Minutes from March 21, 2024.
8. Landmarks Commission Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2024 and February 7, 2024.

9. Park Board Minutes from March 20, 2024.
10. December 2023 Financials
11. January 2024 Combined Financials
12. February 2024 Combined Financials
13. March 2024 Combined Financials

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, Neighborhood Services, Library, Parks and Recreation, Police, and Human Resources.

14. Arbor Day Proclamation

City Manager Weidl read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

STAFF REPORTS

15. Update on the Library Renovation- **Library Director**

Library Director Jaroch of the Irving Young Memorial Library began by introducing herself and discussing her tenure at the library. She expressed excitement about the upcoming building project, which has long been a community dream. Groundbreaking for the new library is scheduled for July 29th. With a 4,400 square foot expansion and redesign of existing space, the library aims to better serve the community's needs. She thanked the community, former director Stacy Lunsford, and various committees and individuals for their support. She outlined the construction timeline, including pre-construction activities and phases of the project. During construction, efforts will be made to maintain library services. Updates will be provided on the library's website and through information flyers.

16. Economic Development Update- **Economic Development Director**

Economic Development Director Zeinert was not present at this meeting, so this was rescheduled for the May 21, 2024 Common Council meeting.

17. TDS update regarding completion date and when it will enable us to start broadcasting.- **Finance**

City Manager Weidl explained that TDS won't be able to access City Hall until December 2024, when the fiber connection reaches the building. The plan is to check in then to ensure the project is on schedule before starting broadcasting with them.

18. Update on Ordinance 2081, An Ordinance amending subsection 5.20.030 Alcohol Licensee-Conditions, specifically the requirement for a "clear view into the entire licensed premises"- **PD**

Police Chief Meyer discussed the enforcement of Ordinance 5.20.030, which pertains to window visibility for Class A and B alcohol establishments. He explained the importance of this ordinance for ensuring businesses comply with regulations and for law enforcement to have visibility during critical incidents. He highlighted challenges with the previous vague language of the ordinance and how it was updated in early 2024 to

provide clearer guidelines, adopting language similar to that used in Milwaukee's ordinance. Chief Meyer also provided examples and photos illustrating the difficulties faced in enforcing the ordinance consistently.

Motion made to refer this to the Alcohol Licensing Committee to discuss and invite businesses serving and selling alcohol by Councilmember Majkrzak, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

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

Voting Nay: Councilmember Dawsey Smith

19. Update on the Fire Department Bunk Room.-**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Freeman explained that they did not get any bids for the Fire Department Bunk build. He explained that he will put this out to rebid in late fall.

20. Safe Haven Baby Box Update- **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Freeman explained that they did not get any bids for the Safe Haven Baby Box. He explained that this will go out to rebid this month with bid openings May 24, 2024.

21. Parks New Recreation Software-**Parks Department.**

Parks Director Boehm discussed the transition from RecDesk to CivicRec for recreation software. He highlighted issues with RecDesk, such as difficulties in managing memberships and missed payments, which CivicRec addresses automatically. CivicRec offers features like flagging duplicate information, attaching photographs to memberships for identification, generating a wide range of customizable reports, and simplifying the registration process. He demonstrated how CivicRec streamlines registration for programs and enables language translation. He also mentioned plans for a soft launch and full launch of CivicRec soon. During the Q&A session, it was clarified that the library uses a separate system for room reservations but could potentially integrate with CivicRec in the future. Additionally, he confirmed that background checks for coaches can be integrated into the registration process with CivicRec.

22. Non-Financial Strategies for Enhancing Recruitment and Retention.- **Finance**

This was rescheduled to the Special Common Council meeting scheduled for May 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

23. Update on Special Common Council May 28th Draft Agenda- **HR**

Councilmembers looked over the agenda for the May 28, 2024 Special Common Council meeting. They all agreed that everything listed was what they wanted to discuss at the meeting.

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.

No one came forward to talk during this time.

RESOLUTION

24. Authorizing Official Depositories- **City Manager**

Motion made to approve Official Depositories by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Council President Singer.

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

25. Authorizing Official Newspaper- **City Manager**

Motion made to approve the Official Newspaper to be the Whitewater Register by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Hicks.

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

ORDINANCES

First Reading

26. Ordinance 2024-O02 an ordinance amending 16.14.825 Violations of Regulatory Provisions-**Neighborhood Services**

City Manager Weidl explained this ordinance was originally written where the violation said it was a misdemeanor, so this is to clean that up and make it state that a violation was now a forfeiture.

Motion made to approve Ordinance 2024-O-02 by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Majkrzak.

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

27. Ordinance 2024-O03 Amending Section 1.21.010 Schedule of Deposits to Provide for a Bond Amount for Violations of Chapter 16.14 Sewer Charges.-**Neighborhood Services**

Motion made to approve Ordinance 2024-O-03 by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen

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

Councilmember Schanen.

28. Ordinance 2024-O04 updating 14.04.10 to adopt the correct Wisconsin Building Codes.-
Neighborhood Services

Motion made to approve Ordinance 2024-O-04 by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

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

Motion made to waive 2nd reading by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

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

CONSIDERATIONS

29. COPS Hiring Program Grant Solicitation. -**PD**

Police Chief Meyer proposed submitting a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office for the Fiscal Year 24 COPS hiring program. The grant aims to fund additional sworn officers to enhance community policing and crime prevention efforts. The city's share of the funding would increase progressively over a three-year period, and the maximum federal share per officer is \$125,000 over three years. The grant application would cap the number of requested officers at 20% of the current sworn force, and quarterly and semi-annual reports would be required if awarded. He highlighted the need for approval and potential budget adjustments in the future.

Motion made to approve COPS Hiring Program Grant by Councilmember Majkrzak, Seconded by Councilmember Hicks.

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

30. Discussion and possible action regarding UWW MOU Polling Place on Campus. -**City Clerk**

Chancellor King addressed the Council and expressed support for students advocating for more voting opportunities and the ability to express their voices. As Chancellor, he supports the Warhawk Vote efforts and emphasizes the importance of this initiative for both the students and the university community.

Angelina Izzo (110 S Boone Ct) the student body president for UW Whitewater, briefly addressed the Council, highlighting that since 2008, the Whitewater Student Government (WSG) has consistently provided workers and volunteers to support polling efforts. She emphasized that students support having a polling place on campus, at least for the

presidential election, and ideally more frequently, while acknowledging that logistical details need to be resolved.

Evelyn Schmidt (1024 W Starin Rd) expressed strong support for on-campus voting from September to May, emphasizing its importance for disabled students. She highlighted that despite accessible transportation, many students face emotional and physical barriers on election day. Evelyn believes on-campus polling for all elections would benefit student engagement with the city council and increase awareness of their representatives. She reiterated the need for equal voting access for students and underscored the importance of educating them about their representatives and options.

Alyssa Wahlborg (771 W Lauderdale Dr) expressed enthusiastic support for on-campus voting, echoing the sentiments of the Whitewater Student Government (WSG). They committed to providing volunteers and supplies to support community members who come to campus to vote. The student emphasized the importance of the community being able to visit and vote on their campus.

Mary Young (771 W Lauderdale Dr) expressed gratitude for the efforts made to support on-campus voting, acknowledging numerous prior meetings. She emphasized the importance of accessibility for disabled students, noting that their campus has the highest population of disabled students in the state. The speaker highlighted the difficulty students face in reaching off-campus polling locations and advocated for holding all elections on campus to ensure accessibility for all students.

Sue Chandler (369 Lakeview Dr) urged the council to designate the campus as a permanent polling place for wards 8 through 13, including Jefferson County residents. She highlighted the convenience of having a consistent voting location, avoiding confusion about changing venues. She also suggested that once people experience the campus facilities, they would prefer voting there permanently.

Anita Loch (W799 Shagbark Rd) emphasized the importance of education and supported the student group's efforts at the university. She agreed with Sue Chandler on the need for consistent polling locations for all wards in every election, noting the confusion caused by changing venues. She highlighted the significance of spring elections, such as the 2023 Supreme Court justice election, and mentioned a student elected to the common council due to student advocacy. She argued that universities with over 5,000 students should always have on-campus voting and urged the council to approve this to facilitate easy voting for students.

Stephanie Hicks (1254 Tower Hill Pass) A long-term resident of Ward 11 and UW-Whitewater graduate expressed support for on-campus voting while also valuing the community experience of voting at the Armory. She emphasized the importance of accessibility for all, including older residents who have consistently voted at the Armory. She advocated for maintaining both voting options to accommodate different community members' needs, supporting on-campus polling but also recognizing the significance of traditional community polling locations.

Motion made to hold all elections September 1st through May by Councilmember Hicks, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown,

Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

Motion made add in Wards 11 and 12 by Councilmember Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Brown.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith

Voting Nay: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

Motion to add in Wards 11-12 failed.

Motion made to approve MOU with UWW so that Wards 8,9,10,and 13 will vote on campus for all elections September through May (no August elections) by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

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

31. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Starin Road Safety.- **City Manager**

City Manager John Weidl explained that UW-Whitewater (UWW) proposed a solution to manage pedestrian traffic by using timed, rather than permanent, gates to control vehicle traffic. After discussing the idea in a meeting and gathering information, they are now seeking the Common Council's interest in pursuing this further. They invited a UWW representative to speak on the matter.

Brenda Jones, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Affairs at UW-Whitewater, along with Chief Matt Ketterlin from the UW-Whitewater Police Department, addressed the council regarding pedestrian traffic concerns on campus. They presented findings from a traffic study conducted on Starin Road, revealing high daily car counts, particularly during peak class times and events. Speed was not identified as a major issue, but the volume of vehicles posed challenges. Temporary measures like flashing pedestrian signs and campus safety officers were implemented but faced staffing difficulties. Brenda proposed exploring a long-term solution, suggesting movable gates east of Warhawk Drive and west of Prairie Street. These gates could be programmed for specific times, aiding traffic flow during events and peak periods. Brenda sought the council's interest in investigating this solution further, clarifying that funding would be handled collaboratively.

Angela Izzo (110 S Boone Ct) Stated that she is the UWW student body president, who also served on the safety committee and task force, highlighted numerous near-miss incidents on Starin Road and emphasized the need for action due to potential safety hazards for faculty, staff, and students. She suggested that road closure could improve traffic flow and safety, particularly at the crosswalks. Additionally, she noted that the Prairie and Starin intersection, while not as concerning due to being a four-way stop, still posed risks. She thanked the council for considering the issue and expressed confidence in future efforts to explore solutions.

Sara Marquardt (1346 Tower Hill Pass) shared her experiences traveling on Starin Road and expressed concern about visibility, particularly at night, for students crossing outside of designated crosswalks. She highlighted the importance of adequate lighting to improve safety and requested that this factor be considered alongside other proposed solutions.

Lee Lovall (515 E Milwaukee St) shared his experiences on Main Street and Starin Road, noting instances where drivers failed to stop for yellow lights and pedestrians crossed without looking up. He suggested increased law enforcement presence during busy times to enforce traffic rules, emphasizing the importance of pedestrian responsibility, including for students.

Council suggested Brenda Jones to gather more data and look into all the options and come back to Council.

32. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Approval of Proposed Scope Work to be performed by SEWRPC for phase one of the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Cravath and Tripp Lakes-**Parks Dept**

Assistant Parks Director Dujardin discussed the need to update the 2011 comprehensive plan with SWRPC to facilitate grant acquisition and goal achievement. The plan was presented to the Lakes Advisory Committee. SWRPC will be involved in advancing the plan in May, potentially conducting a plan management survey.

33. Councilmember Requests for Future Agenda Items or Committee items. Questions

Councilmember Dawsey Smith would like the ordinance on the Central Count brought to next Council meeting.

Council President Singer would like an update on the Vimeo to YouTube for video recording platforms.

Councilmember Hicks would like the RV Parking ordinances brought back to Council and cleaned up.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

34. Brown Cab update-**Finance Q2**
35. Staff update on Procurement Policy. - **Finance Q2**
36. Tentative date to hold Common Council meeting at UWW Campus 9/17/24-**City Manager/Hicks Q3**
37. Mobile Home Community understanding of special assessment.- **Finance/Hicks Q2**
38. Review Accurate Appraiser's contract-**Finance/Brown Q2**
39. Spring Splash Task Force-**City Manager Q2**

CLOSED SESSION Adjourn to closed session, to Reconvene in Open Session, Chapter 19.85(1)(c), Wis. Stats. for purposes of "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."

In particular, this closed session will be to discuss Stipend for Economic Development, Negotiation of City Manager Employment Agreement, and Performance Expectations for the City Manager.

As well as Chapter 19.85(1)(d): Except as provided in s. 304.06 (1) (eg) and by rule promulgated under s. 304.06 (1) (em), considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision or parole, or considering strategy for crime detection or prevention.

In particular, this closed session will be to discuss PD Critical Incidents.

Motion made to go into Closed Session at 9:00 pm by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

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

Motion made to come back into Open Session at 10:40 pm by Councilmember Brown, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

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

CS-40. Police Department Critical Incidents-**PD**

CS-41. Stipend for Economic Development, Negotiation of City Manager Employment Agreement, and Performance Expectations.- **City Manager**

CONSIDERATIONS

42. Discuss and Possible Action regarding Police Department Critical Incidents-**PD**

No Action was taken on this item.

43. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Stipend for Economic Development, Negotiation of City Manager Employment Agreement, and Performance Expectations.- **City Manager**

Motion made to approve the \$16,000 stipend to cover the City Manager's Economic Development Director duties by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 10:45 pm by Councilmember Majkrzak, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

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

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.