



## Landmarks Agenda Item

Meeting Date:	December 4, 2024
Agenda Item:	Water Tower
Staff Contact (name, email, phone):	Taylor Zeinert <a href="mailto:tzeinert@whitewater-wi.gov">tzeinert@whitewater-wi.gov</a> 262-473-0149

### BACKGROUND

(Enter the who, what, when, where, why)

On the November 5<sup>th</sup> Ballot a non-binding referendum question was asked:

“The City of Whitewater Water Utility has decommissioned the Starin Park Water Tower, meaning it is no longer part of the water system. The Water Utility can spend up to \$600,000 (the cost of demolition) to maintain it as a City-owned Historical Landmark. The remaining costs, approximately \$1,000,000 for repairs and \$250,000 every 10 years for maintenance would need to come from City tax dollars or donations. Should the City of Whitewater use tax dollars to repair and maintain the Starin Park Water Tower?”

The response to the question is 2,209 votes (44%) to keep the tower and 2,836 votes (56%) in favor of not using taxpayer money for the restoration.

The Common Council discussed the results of referendum question and the City Manger’s memo. The Memo is attached to this memo. The City Manager recommends to the Council that this matter be brought to the Landmarks Commission for approval.

### PREVIOUS ACTIONS – COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(Dates, committees, action taken)

N/A

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

(If none, state N/A)

N/A

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That Landmarks committee provide direction for how to proceed with the water tower.

### ATTACHMENT(S) INCLUDED

(If none, state N/A)

- A memo from the City Manager’s office to the Common Council