COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was called to order by Chair Penterman on Monday, November 9, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Members present: Antoine, DeCoster (Zoom), Eggleston, Kilgas, Moore, Schell, Schumacher, and Thiele.

Also present: Mayor Penterman, Attorney Greenwood, DPW/Eng. Neumeier, Police Chief Graff, Mark. and Com. Manager Fencl, HR Director Hodge, Accountant Schomaker, Planning Director Kittel, Com. Enrich. and Rec. Director Vosters, Superintendent Van Gompel, IT Manager Taplin, Fire Chief Carrel, and interested citizens.

1. **Correspondence** – none.

2. **Discussion Topics.**
   a. **2027 Budget Presentation.**

Mayor Penterman read his 2027 budget letter, dated November 9, 2026, to the Committee of the Whole. The proposed 2027 budget will increase the city's assessed tax rate by $0.15 per $1,000 of assessed value which is a 2.11% increase. The city's tax levy increased $549,024 or 3.97%. Under state law, the levy is allowed to increase 3.04%, plus increased debt service requirements. This levy increase is less than the maximum permitted under state law. Budgeted general fund expenditures for 2027 are $21,784,950, which is an increase of 5.2%. This allows the city to continually qualify for the State Expenditure Restraint Program Aid. The general fund balance is projected to be $6,925,383 on December 31, 2026. This fund balance exceeds the Council's objective of $6,535,485 at year end, which allows the city to continue to receive excellent bond rating resulting in lower interest rates when issuing future debt.

Motion made by Antoine, seconded by Moore to receive and place on file the Mayor's 2027 budget letter to the Common Council.
All members voted aye.
Motion carried.

   b. **2027 Budget Deliberation.**

Alders asked various department heads about their sections of the 2027 budget. Kaukauna Area School District (KASD), Director of Operations and Finance, Chris McDaniel, explained the KASD total tax levy.

3. **Strategic Plan**
   a. **Request to establish a philanthropic community improvement program in cooperation with (KASD) Kaukauna Area School District.**

As part of the city 2024-2026 Strategic Plan, a key objective was to Create a Community of Choice. One specific goal identified was to establish a philanthropic community improvement program. The Kaukauna High School Civic Engagement class recently approached city staff to inquire if we would help them form a 501(c)(3) to be able to apply for grants for city improvement projects. We noted that this was a part of the city long term goals and would like to discuss bigger picture with Council and Kaukauna Area School District to determine a plan of action.

Motion made by Moore, seconded by Thiele to direct staff to work with KASD to develop a framework of a philanthropic community improvement program and bring back for Council consideration.
All members voted aye.
Motion carried.

4. Adjourn.

Motion made by Antoine, seconded by Eggleston to adjourn.
All members voted aye.
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Kayla Nessmann, Clerk