



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM

**Council Chambers - City Hall, 3rd Floor
1717 E. Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Stechmesser called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK

Councilmembers: Mark Bittner, Doug Brandt, Katherine Dahlke, Shannon Derby, Bill LeClair (via phone), Darla LeClair (via phone), Tim Petri, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski

Also Present: Water Utility Director Andrew Sukowaty, Police Chief Ben Meinnert, Tech Manager Dave Dassey, City Manager Kyle Kordell, City Attorney Sean Griffin (via phone)

4. CONSIDERATION OF ANY COUNCIL MEMBER REQUESTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING FROM A REMOTE LOCATION

Motion made by Derby, seconded by Dahlke to allow Council Members B. LeClair and D. LeClair to participate from a remote location.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Derby, Brandt, Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, Bittner

5. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

Limited to 3 minutes per person - Resident addresses are requested but are not required to be given

Pamela Stephens, a resident of Two Rivers, spoke in support of continuing water fluoridation. She shared that she grew up in Southern California with fluoridated water and, despite having limited access to dental care as a child, maintained good dental health. She stated that her first cavity occurred at age 21 and attributed her positive dental health to fluoridated drinking water. She urged the council to continue fluoridating the public water supply.

President Stechmesser read a statement from Connie Denor because she was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Denor expressed opposition to water fluoridation, stating that she believes fluoride is harmful to children, that people receive sufficient fluoride through food, and that it may negatively affect individuals with thyroid conditions. She noted that she currently filters her household water and urged the council to remove fluoride from the public water supply.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Review of City of Two Rivers Water Fluoridation Program

Summary: The City Council will hold a work session to review the City's long-standing community water fluoridation program. The City has fluoridated its water supply since 1952 and no City Council has discussed this practice in the 74 years since. The discussion will include an overview of current scientific research, public health guidance, operational considerations, associated costs, and information regarding how other communities have approached fluoridation in recent years. The purpose of the work session is to provide Council members an opportunity to review available information, ask questions, and discuss the topic before determining whether to consider future policy changes. No formal action will be taken during the work session.

Recommended Action:

No Council action is requested; this is presented for informational purposes only.

City Manager Kordell introduced the fluoride discussion as a policy review prompted by the upcoming budget process, noting that the City has fluoridated its water since 1952 and that the decision is a local policy choice rather than a state or federal mandate. Along with Water Utility Director Sukowaty, he presented information outlining both the potential benefits and concerns associated with fluoridation, including public health, employee safety, environmental considerations, costs, and recent research, followed by an informational video summarizing current scientific perspectives. Council members discussed the balance between cavity prevention, particularly for low-income residents, and concerns regarding individual choice and possible health impacts. Questions were raised about environmental effects, alternative methods of providing fluoride, and the experiences of communities that have discontinued fluoridation. No action was taken. Council directed staff to gather additional information, including feedback from other municipalities that have ended water fluoridation, before bringing the matter back for further discussion at a future work session.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn at 6:52 PM.

Motion made by Wachowski, seconded by Derby.

Motion carried with a voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie L. Vanderlinden".

Valerie L. Vanderlinden
Deputy City Clerk