



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 03, 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 6:02 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL BY DEPUTY CITY CLERK

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

Also present: Finance Director Kasandra Paider, Community Development Director Jeff Sachse, Police Chief Ben Meinnert, Water Utility Director Andrew Sukowaty, Public Works Director Matt Heckenlaible, 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 to allow Councilmember Bittner to participate from a remote location made by Derby, seconded by B. LeClair.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Derby, B. LeClair, Brandt, Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair

5. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Resident, Bonnie Shimulunas spoke regarding the proposed expansion of the Business Improvement District. She expressed support for evaluating the BID, ensuring taxpayers understand how funds are used, and addressing questions raised about the BID's operations and proposed expansion.

6. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from residents

Council noted a resident expressed concerns regarding ongoing neighborhood disturbances, including loud noise, vehicle activity, and harassment, which contributed to the resident selling their home. Council also acknowledged correspondence received regarding sidewalks, fluoride in the water, the WPPI contract, and the BID. It was noted that Council has received substantial public input and supporting materials, including documents, videos, presentations, research, and website links, regarding these matters.

7. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Council Member Bittner noted the Committee On Aging discussed senior involvement and activities. He mentioned the Police Department was recognized for recent achievements; Assistant Chief Wiesner's award and securing a grant to purchase a drone. President Stechmesser noted that at the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting they reviewed the City's recent audit.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

These titles will be read by the Council President and approved by a single Voice Vote. Any item may be pulled from the Consent Agenda for discussion and separate vote by any City Council member.

A. 26-142 Presentation of Minutes

1. City Council Work Session, July 27, 2026

B. 26-143 Minutes of Meetings

1. Business Improvement District Board, July 21, 2026
2. Business and Industrial Development Committee, July 21, 2026
3. Personnel and Finance Committee, July 23, 2026

C. 26-144 Finance Reports, June 2026

1. Debt Service
2. General Fund
3. Lester Library
4. Utilities Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Motion made by Wachowski, seconded by Brandt.

Motion carried with a voice vote. All in favor.

9. CITY COUNCIL – FORMAL ITEMS

A. 26-145 Waiver of Noise Ordinance Request for Heroes Venture Arcade

Summary: Heroes Venture Arcade (2022 Washington Street) – Live music event on Saturday, August 22, 2026. The applicant requests a waiver to facilitate an electronic dance music event from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The property is in a Business-to-Residential transition area.

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve request at 75 decibels until 12:00 AM per recommendation of City staff

Motion made by D. LeClair, seconded by Derby.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Brandt, Petri, Stechmesser, D. LeClair, Bittner, Derby, B. LeClair

Voting Nay: Dahlke, Wachowski

B. 26-146 Consider Appeal of Denial of 2-Year Operator's License for Applicant, Ashley Syrett

Summary: Consideration of an appeal of the denial of an Operator's License application for Ashley Syrett. Based on the applicant's failure to meet eligibility requirements established by the City's Municipal Code, the application was denied. The applicant appealed the decision, but the Police Department recommends that the denial be upheld.

Recommended Action:

Motion to deny the appeal, consistent with the recommendation of the Chief of Police

Motion to table until the next meeting to give applicant time to provide proof of a payment plan to the police department made by Wachowski, seconded by Dahlke.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair, Bittner, Derby, B. LeClair, Brandt

C. 26-147 Resolution Disallowing Claim by Mark Heller, Regarding Damages Sustained at 1910 20th Street

Summary: A resolution disallowing a Notice of Claim submitted on behalf of a property owner seeking reimbursement for damage to a private fence allegedly caused during the 2025–26 winter snow plowing season. Following staff and insurance review, the City finds no evidence that Public Works caused the damage and notes that available records indicate the fence had existing damage prior to the claimed incident. The proposed resolution formally denies the claim and authorizes the required statutory notice to the claimant.

Recommended Action:

Motion to adopt the resolution, as recommended by the City's insurance carrier, with a finding that the City was not negligent in this matter.

Motion made by B. LeClair, seconded by Brandt.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Bittner, Derby, B. LeClair, Brandt, Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair

D. 26-148 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to \$1,781,953 Sewerage System Revenue Bonds, Series 2026B, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants With Respect Thereto, and Approval of Related Financial Assistance Agreement

Summary: This resolution authorizes the financing necessary to complete several planned sanitary sewer infrastructure improvements starting in 2026 and extending into 2027 through the issuance of Sewerage System Revenue Bonds. These bonds are not backed by General Fund property taxes but user fees in the City Wastewater Utility.

The largest component of the project is the City's annual cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining program, a cost-effective rehabilitation method that restores aging sanitary sewer mains from the inside without the need for extensive excavation. This approach extends the useful life of existing infrastructure, improves system reliability, and helps avoid the significantly higher costs associated with emergency repairs or full pipe replacement.

The financing will also fund the replacement of sanitary sewer laterals associated with the 2026 and 2027 Lead Service Line (LSL) replacement project. Completing this work concurrently with other utility improvements minimizes future disruption to residents and avoids the need to excavate the same areas multiple times.

Approval of this resolution authorizes the City to secure the financing needed to complete these planned infrastructure investments while continuing the long-term maintenance and modernization of the sanitary sewer system.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution

Motion made by Dahlke, seconded by Bittner.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Derby, B. LeClair, Brandt, Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair, Bittner

E. 26-149 Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of Up to \$1,961,897 Water System Revenue Bonds, Series 2026, and Providing for Other Details and Covenants With Respect Thereto, and Approval of Related Financial Assistance Agreement

Summary: This resolution authorizes the issuance of up to \$1,961,897 in Water System Revenue Bonds to finance the City's 2026-2027 Lead Service Line (LSL) replacement program and the Lincoln Avenue water main replacement program. These bonds are not backed by General Fund property taxes but user fees in the City Water Utility.

The proposed financing will allow the City to replace approximately 500 lead service lines in 2027, roughly double the City's typical annual replacement pace. Accelerating this work into double-time takes advantage of the current funding opportunities available through the Wisconsin DNR, which include significant principal forgiveness that substantially reduces the long-term cost to the Water Utility and its customers. Because the availability and level of this financial assistance are uncertain in future years, staff recommends completing as much eligible work as possible while these funding opportunities remain available.

Replacing lead service lines improves water system reliability, reduces the presence of lead in the drinking water system, and advances the City's long-term goal of eliminating remaining lead service lines. Approval of this resolution authorizes the financing necessary to maximize available state assistance and continue this important infrastructure investment.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution

Motion made by Bittner, seconded by Petri.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: B. LeClair, Brandt, Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair, Bittner, Derby

F. 26-150 Presentation of the City of Two Rivers Independent Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2025

Summary: Independent auditors from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP will present the results of the City's 2025 Annual Financial Audit. The audit found that the City's overall net position increased during 2025, driven primarily by grant funding and capital investments.

The City received a clean audit opinion, the highest level of assurance available from independent auditors. Auditors also reported no material weaknesses in the City's management

or internal financial practices, indicating that the City's financial reporting and cash-handling procedures are prudent and well-managed.

The presentation will provide an overview of the City's financial statements, summarize the auditor's findings, and confirm the City's compliance with applicable accounting standards and financial reporting requirements.

Recommended Action:

Motion to accept the findings of the Fiscal Year 2025 audit results from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP.

Motion made by Brandt, seconded by Dahlke.

Motion carried with a voice vote. All in favor.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kordell reported on upcoming work sessions regarding fluoride and the WPPI Energy contract extension, maintenance work at the east side water tower, and the recent successful visit from the tall ship Inland Seas. The 2026 mid-year General Fund financial results were also reviewed, showing improvement compared to the same period in 2025. Upcoming community and election information was provided, including National Night Out and the August 11 Partisan Primary Election.

11. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- **City Council Regular Meeting**, Monday, August 17, 2026, 6:00 PM
- **City Council Work Session**, Monday, August 31, 2026, 6:00 PM

- **Hamilton Concepts Listening Session**, Wednesday, August 5, 2026, 5:30 PM, Lester Public Library, Fireplace area

Upcoming Events

- **National Night Out**, Tuesday, August 4, 2026, 5:00 PM, Walsh Field
- **Rogers Street Days**, Friday & Saturday, August 7 & 8, 2026, Rogers Street Fishing Village
- **Brat Fry & Art Splash**, Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 12:00 PM-3:00 PM, Lester Public Library
- **Meet Your Neighbors**, Saturday, August 22, 2026, 10:30 AM, Lester Public Library
- **Bites on the Beach**, Saturday August 22, 2026, 12:00 PM-6:00 PM, Neshotah Beach
- **The Great Neshotah Beach Campout**, Saturday, August 29, 2026, Neshotah Beach

Visit exploretworivers.com for more information and events.

12. CLOSED SESSION

The City Council reserves the right to enter into Closed Session, per Wisc. Stats 19.85(1)(g) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved.

- Potential property tax litigation
- Potential public records litigation

Motion to convene in closed session at 7:10 PM, made by B. LeClair, seconded by Petri.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Voting Yea: Petri, Dahlke, Stechmesser, Wachowski, D. LeClair, Bittner, Derby, B. LeClair, Brandt

13. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

To consider possible actions in follow-up to closed session discussions

Motion to reconvene in open session at 8:01 PM, made by Wachowski, seconded by Derby.

Motion carried with a voice vote. All in favor.

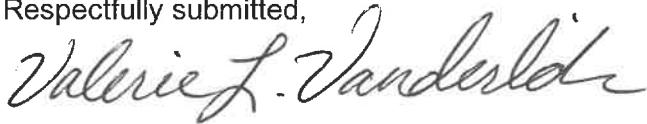
14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn at 8:01 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, reading "Valerie L. Vanderlinden". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Valerie L. Vanderlinden
Deputy City Clerk