



**TWO  
RIVERS**  
WISCONSIN

## **CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**

**Thursday, May 29, 2025 at 6:00 PM**

**Rocheleau Gym - J.E. Hamilton Community House,  
1710 W Park Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241**

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### **MINUTES**

1. Call to Order  
The City Manager Candidate Finalist Meet and Greet reception started at 6:00PM.
2. Roll Call By Deputy City Clerk  
  
There was no roll call taken, but the Deputy City Clerk noted the following Council Members in attendance: Mark Bittner, Doug Brandt, Shannon Derby, Tim Petri, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Steckmesser, and Adam Wachowski. Absent and excused: Bill LeClair and Darla LeClair.
3. City Council Participation in Community "Meet and Greet" for the Finalist Candidates for the Position of City Manager  
City Council members, city staff, residents, and members of the public had the opportunity to engage with the four finalists for the City Manager position. During these sessions, each candidate shared their vision and qualifications for the role, and members of the public were invited to ask questions and participate in the discussion.
4. Adjournment  
The reception concluded, and attendees began to depart at approximately 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie L. Vanderlinden  
Deputy City Clerk

Attached as a supplement to these minutes is a summary of comments received from participants in this public "meet and greet" session for City Manager finalist candidates, as compiled by search consultant Public Administration Associates and provided to the Two Rivers City Council for its consideration in evaluating those candidates. This public meet and greet session was one component of a comprehensive assessment process for the four finalist candidates.



*Public Administration Associates, LLC*

**City of Two Rivers Manager Final Candidates  
Comments from Community Meet and Greet (5/29/2025)**

**SAM DEMEL  
PURCELL, OK**

**Strengths** “Belief in the community. Being heard and given opportunity to get involved” “Willingness to work for the better good for a community and listen to the people and have them decide what is best for all.” “Servant leadership, good listener, focused on a solid community” “He has a servant leadership style.” “Interested in all populations-older, younger, poor, etc...., Service to community is important to him” “Works together but verifies, puts together action steps” “Develops strategic plan and wants to listen to the community” “Service driven, African Wells analogy, advertise to attract businesses, people to come together to build a community, teamwork, strong education”

**Weaknesses** “Soft spoken and hard to hear” “Doesn’t strike me as a strong leader” “He didn’t know exactly why he was dismissed after 9 months” “Lost job 10 months ago and sued community”

**What will Candidate bring to Two Rivers** “A world view of things that can help bring people together” “Has some experience as a city manager” “Honesty, Hard worker to get community involved” “Wide variety of experience” “Experience-city manager, city administrator, helped with resource officers, good supportive education, lots of volunteer work” “Strategic planning with action steps with measurable goals” “Community meetings for community ideas”

**Other Comments-** “All of the candidates are qualified and could do the job, but I think that Feldt and Thiel would be the best fits for Two Rivers” Not willing to criticize anything about our community and a willingness to listen to all comments” “While he was honest about his dismissal in Purcell, I find that concerning. He said he didn’t know why he was dismissed” More meek, stumbled several times in thoughts” “Seems very genuine, honest, straight-forward, likes community meetings, listens carefully” “Don’t see him integrating with the community” “Not a good fit” “Timeline, planning, steps. Strong relationships with schools and police” “Both my wife and I came to the same conclusion as to who we thought would be our choice for City Manager and that would be Nathan Thiel. Sam Demel was a close 2<sup>nd</sup>”

**SCOTT FELDT  
GREEN BAY, WI**

**Strengths** “Seemed the most energetic, very comfortable with people and challenged us to bring our ideas of what we want our community to be” “Good communicator” “Different levels of experience,

lots of government jobs” “Experience in government and administration, down to earth, wants regional developers for housing to help us begin and eventually get jobs and businesses” “Has a plan and knows his “stuff” “Kewaunee Administrator, Experience with city, state, and county”

**Weaknesses** “Sometimes too lengthy in his answers” “Talked too much – didn’t let us ask many questions” “Seemed to have preloaded answers” “Will he listen and accept others’ opinions?”

**What will Candidate bring to Two Rivers** “He seemed very knowledgeable of our surrounding communities” “He does believe a good community must be safe, have good schools and offer many activities” “Would want things done his way” “wireless – administration, was Kewaunee Administrator” “Will get things done, seems more like a politician than a city manager” “Close to the community. Wisconsin background. Very well researched-good job knowing the community during the process” “Safe community, good schools, community engagement”

**Other Comments** “All of the candidates are qualified and could do the job, but I think that Feldt and Thiel would be the best fits for Two Rivers” “A person that has a love of Wisconsin” “He’s assured us he’s out of politics but I’m not sure. He didn’t do all his research” “He didn’t stop talking about himself” “Did not seem genuine” “Has local experience and understands lakeshore, has fresh ideas” “Will get things done but listening to others could be a struggle” “If my opinion had any weight I would want the gentleman from Green Bay, Scott Feldt as city manager. One of the candidates amazingly had a lady endorsing him and she was defending him over one of the questions asked from a citizen. Hope the local Scott Feldt is hired he knows the lake shore the best”

## **KYLE KORDELL LAKE VILLA, IL**

**Strengths** “Seems to need a challenge and have a good understanding of a smaller community’s needs” “willingness to listen to all” “personable, professional, confident” “Very easy to talk to- personable and professional. I liked his ideas and excitement” “Smart, young, ambitious” “Experience” “Need career pathways, develop Two River area, protects environment” “a winner” “environmental guy, diversified opinions, Midwest since 2010, saw similar situations in other cities, attracted businesses, roots for the underdog” “Energetic, willing to listen, broad experience” “Well spoken with a broad view”

**Weaknesses** “soft spoken” “lacks years of experience compared to other candidates but that may not be a bad thing”

**What will Candidate bring to Two Rivers** “With a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in sociology he could be helpful in bringing opposing sides of an issue together” “Excellent experience in city management. He talked about data driven decisions and listening to everyone” “Liked what he has done in Lake Zurich. He has great vision and enthusiasm. Listening to the community” “Interested in our community, wants to be of use” “Helps manage village now, experience with lakeshore and downtown, works with the mayor, planning, marketing, retail reach out, industrial park, operations”

“New perspective, calmness” “Young family is a plus as he will be connected to the parents at school age kids who don’t show up to “Open House” events like we had tonight” “Diversity is important, experienced, loves outdoors, loves this community so far and wants to be here” “Lakefront experience, marketing/attracting to Main Street, Liked his view of committees” “I like his encouragement on diversity-that we can benefit from new residents including immigrants”

**Other Comments** “All of the candidates are qualified and could do the job, but I think that Feldt and Thiel would be the best fits for Two Rivers” “He talked the language of city management, focusing on building more businesses, housing, etc.... Really like him and stood out as a leader-top choice” “Will have experiences that many of our residents encounter. Bringing a young family” “Perhaps has less experience” “Wants to have more retail and restaurants” “Did not get to know the people at the table – did more of the talking” “Young and not polished enough for the community” “a winner” “Best candidate” “#1 choice at our table” “I appreciate his honesty about wanting to move to a new challenge”

### **NATHAN THIEL BEAVER DAM, WI**

**Strengths** “Seemed very knowledgeable” “community engagement, asked an insightful question about good and bad changes in Two Rivers” “Great experience, very personable and professional” “Wants to work with community to build on what we have now, articulate, intelligent, lived around Wisconsin, familiar with state legislature” “I liked his background, energetic, has kids, likes to engage community” “Family oriented” “Marketer”

**Weaknesses** “Left because he was stressed” “Sort of interrupted a person answering a question, “my staff – not our staff” “aggressive, misogynistic, assuming”

**What will Candidate bring to Two Rivers** “Has the most experience as a city administrator but nothing exceptional stood out about him” “Nathan was aware of the city's challenges and could demonstrate that he had the skills and temperament to address them. He was aware of the negative Facebook chatter and was unfazed by it and has experience dealing with such matters. He was also very approachable, which is something this community has become accustomed to.” “He has done a lot of good things for last 2 cities. He would do a good job here” “He has worked well state legislature and worked during difficult closures” “Has 18 years as city manager or administrator, from Appleton, downtown remodel, family with importance on kids” “Redevelopment-downtown revitalization” “Has economic experience”

**Other Comments** “He stated the transition to Two Rivers would be difficult because of housing. I didn’t appreciate the gender remarks when one participant commented that the jewelry store closed and he said, “Your husband is probably happy about that.” He stated he left his position due to stress. That’s concerning” “He made a gender inappropriate remark when I said one negative. I said that we were losing the jewelry store, and he said your husband was happy about that” “I was impressed with his answers and questions” “Could see him here” “1<sup>st</sup> Choice” “Both my wife and I came to the same conclusion as to who we thought would be our choice for City Manager and that would be Nathan Thiel. Sam Demel was a close 2<sup>nd</sup>”

**\*\*\*GENERAL COMMENT from a citizen at the Meet and Greet:** “I liked all the candidates as people. They all seem to want to dig in and get to work. I also have some concerns because the position of City Manager is a huge job requiring top-notch strategic, financial, and political acumen. Though impressive, I did not feel like anyone stood out to me as a sure winner for the job. I would say that the latter, political acumen is my greatest area of concern. Just a few thoughts. I'm sure your pick will be great, and I will support them in any way I can.”