



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, June 02, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL BY CITY CLERK

Councilmembers: Mark Bittner, Doug Brandt, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Tim Petri, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Stechmesser

Absent and Excused: Shannon Derby, Adam Wachowski

ALSO PRESENT: Jeff Dawson, Library Director; Matt Heckenlaible, Public Works Director; Kassie Paider, Finance Director; Dave Murack, Fire Chief; Rick Powell, IT Manager; Brian Dellemann, Electric Utility Director; Andrew Sukowaty, Water Utility Director; Ben Meinnert, Police Chief and Greg Buckley, City Manager

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

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Brandt, seconded by Bittner to allow Councilmember D. LeClair to participate in this meeting from a remote location

Voting Yea: Bittner, Brandt, B. LeClair, Petri, Shimulunas, Stechmesser

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. 25-104** Public Hearing on Application to Amend an Existing Conditional Use Permit for Self-Storage Facilities Located at 2005 Hawthorne Avenue, in the Business District (B-2), Submitted by TR Storage LLC (Applicant and Owner)

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve the amendment as recommended by the Plan Commission

Council President Stechmesser opened the first call for public input on the public hearing.

Nathan Schultz (2011 Hawthorne Ave) – addressed the council regarding the proposed project. He stated that he is not against the project but has concerns related to screening. Specifically, he mentioned the need for screening from the Woodland Dunes Water Trail, as well as screening for his property, which is zoned R-1. He also raised concerns about the view from the river, noting that this area is marketed as part of Two Rivers' natural attractions. Nathan acknowledged that there has been considerable improvement to the property and shared that he had spoken with the property owner, Ryan, who has been making ongoing efforts to improve the site. Nathan distributed photos to the council and clerk to help illustrate his concerns, emphasizing the importance of maintaining appropriate screening and preserving the natural view while recognizing the positive progress that has been made.

Ryan Ross (2005 Hawthorne Ave) – the property owner, stated that the property has been cleaned up. He mentioned that cedars have been planted on his side of the property for screening. He clarified that the pallet pile on the property is used for campfires. The cleanup process is ongoing and progressing gradually.

Council President Stechmesser closed the first call and opened the second call for public input for the public hearing.

No one spoke.

Council President Stechmesser closed the second call and opened the third and final call for public input for public hearing.

No one spoke.

Mr. Buckley suggested that, in light of the concerns raised about the condition of the property that is the subject of this proposed conditional use permit, the Council might table the matter, pending review by City staff and by the Plan Commission at its meeting on June 9.

Council President Stechmesser closed the third and final call.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Bittner, seconded by B. LeClair to table this item to the June 16 meeting and refer to Plan Commission for further review at its June 9 meeting.

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

6. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

William Otto - 1800 Jefferson Street - spoke regarding Metro Bus service. He noted that while the Metro Bus operates in Two Rivers, service ends at 6:45 PM, whereas in Manitowoc the service continues until 8:00 PM

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from citizens

None.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

A. Status Report from City Council President Stechmesser on City Manager Selection Process

A "Meet and Greet" event was held on Thursday, May 29 and was well attended, with approximately 60 individuals present, including city staff. The City Council expressed appreciation to City Manager's Assistant/Deputy City Clerk Val Vanderlinden for coordinating logistics and to Police Chief Ben Meinnert for assisting with the tour. The candidate tours were also conducted on Thursday, followed by meetings with department heads on Friday and other assessment activities on Friday morning, and council interviews on Friday afternoon. Six Council members participated in the interviews, with Council Members Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, and Adam Wachowski unable to attend. Following the interviews, the field was narrowed to one top finalist. Further discussion will take place in closed session this evening, regarding terms for an employment agreement for that individual. It was noted that Friday's schedule was full but provided valuable information for the process.

B. Report from Council Vice President Wachowski and Council Members Bill LeClair and Tim Petri on May 28 Listening Session

Councilmember Petri reported on the May 28 Listening Session, which was attended by approximately 25 people. The primary topic of discussion was concerns regarding stray cats. Councilmember Wachowski was present at the Listening Session and took notes; however, he was not present at this current meeting to provide the report. The notes taken by Councilmember Wachowski will be reviewed and discussed by the Council at a later date.

C. Other

Councilmember Bittner provided an update from the Committee on Aging. In the past month, approximately 1,400 meals were served, and around 2,100 people attended senior center activities.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Invited Guests

B. Status Update/Reports

1. Staffing Updates

Mr. Buckley reported on the ongoing recruitments: City Manager – four finalist candidates were in Two Rivers May 29-30 for various assessment activities, including community tours, a public meet and greet session, written exercise and testing, meetings with department heads and interviews with the City Council. Following the interviews, the Council and its search consultants reviewed all aspects of the candidate assessments and the Council identified a top candidate. Consultant Public Administration Associates is acting as the City's agent in pursuing an employment agreement with that candidate. City Planner / Community Development Director – accepting applications; Police Administrative Professional – Evidence Custodian: reviewing applications; Finance Accounting Clerk – position filled; Seasonal Public Works Laborer – accepting applications.

2. Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center win Team Volunteer Award

Mr. Buckley reported the Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center were awarded the 2024 Team Volunteer Award from United Way 2025 Impact Awards

3. Sandy Bay Highlands Subdivision Phase 3

Mr. Buckley reported that Sandy Ridge Drive, Rawley Court and Orchard Lane are all graded and graveled. The contractor is now working on reconstructing Rawley Point Trail on the east side of Orchard Lane. Electric and fiber utility installation is underway. Final restoration ongoing.

4. In-Person Open Book, Thursday, June 5, 2025, 4:00PM-6:00PM,
Contact Accurate Appraisal to schedule an appointment

5. Parks and Recreation Kids Camp

Mr. Buckley reported Kids Camp will begin June 16 and will be located at Washington Park. Contact Parks and Recreation if interested.

6. Senior Center Events/Programs—Senior Center Director Heather Ihlenfeld reported on the following:

a. The Sullivan Family Farm Stand

The Sullivan Family Farm Stand will be set up at the Two Rivers Senior Center to allow Seniors or anyone that cannot get to the regular Farmer's Market, access to fresh fruits and vegetables. They accept SNAP, WIC, and Senior Farmer's Market vouchers.

b. Brown Bag Blessings

When school is not in session during summer vacation, some families are left in a hard place

of struggling to feed their kids. “Brown Bag Blessings” are being collected by churches and organizations in our community as a way to provide assistance and love to these families in need. Please fill a paper shopping bag with the items listed-that are new in package and not past the expiration date. Items will be distributed to families via Senior Center Drive thru.

c. The Golden Givers Program

This program was created to ensure that financial limitations never stand in the way of participation, connection, or care. The Golden Givers Program exists to lighten the burden and open doors. Backed by our generous Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center and guided by compassion, we continue to celebrate and uplift our seniors – because thriving in your golden years should be a right not a privilege.

d. Back to School Carnival Donations Needed

You can donate new school supply items to the Two Rivers Senior Center – 1520 17th St, located inside the Community House by July 30, 2025. Monetary donations are welcome and will fund needed supplies, hair cut vouchers and milk for snack time.

e. Day Trip to John Michael Kohler Art Center

this Senior Center trip will include a guided tour of the John Michael Kohler Art Center, lunch in their café and an afternoon of shopping.

7. State Highway 42/Memorial Drive Project - Matt Heckenlaible

Mr. Buckley reported the official detour ended on May 23; through traffic allowed to use Memorial Drive with lane restrictions in each direction. The contractor is applying the finish layer of asphalt on the inside lanes for the remainder of the week, then trying to do some of the interior intersections early next week. Then, paving will shift to the outside lanes. Paving should be completed in the next three weeks with beam guard and final restoration work occurring after that.

8. Lead Service Laterals Replacement - Andrew Sukowaty

Mr. Buckley reported as of Monday, June 2, 2025; 169 public side water services have been replaced; 122 public side sanitary laterals have been replaced; 55 private side water services have been replaced; and 21 private side sanitary laterals have been replaced.

9. Neshotah Park - Pierce Street Resurfacing and Parking Improvements

Mr. Buckley reported the project was originally scheduled for May; it was briefly delayed pending State Historical Society sign-off on an archeological study. Contractor is moving in this week. The road will be closed to all traffic for 2-3 weeks starting Tuesday, June 3; re-opening before the July 4 weekend. Closure is from 21st Street to Zlatnik Drive. DPW crews continue work constructing the trail from Pierce Street to Zlatnik Drive past the concession stand. More than \$700,000 is being invested in improvements at Neshotah Park this year, with about half of that funding from grants.

10. Upcoming Events

a. Coffee with a Cop

Wednesday, June 4, 2025, Senior Center, 10:00AM-11:00AM

Monday, June 16, 2025, Schroeder's Red Bank Coffee House, 9:00AM-10:00AM

b. E-Waste Recycling Event, Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 7:30AM-5:00PM, at
1415 Lake Street

c. Cork & Canvas, Monday, June 12, 2025, 5:30PM-8:30PM, at Two Rivers Senior Center

d. Community-Wide Rummage Sales, Friday & Saturday, June 13 & 14, 2025

e. Childhood Cancer Walk, Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 6:00PM at Neshotah Park

f. Sundae Thursday, Thursday, June 26, 2025, 5:30PM-8:00PM, in Central Park West

g. Beach Bash, Friday & Saturday, June 27 & 28, 2025 at Neshotah Beach

- h. Cool City Cruise and Car Show, Friday & Saturday, June 27 & 28, 2025,
in Downtown Two Rivers
- i. Visit exploretworivers.com for future events
- 11. Other

C. Legislative/Intergovernmental Update

10. CONSENT AGENDA

A. 25-105 Presentation of Minutes

- 1. City Council Regular Meeting, May 5, 2025

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the minutes

B. 25-106 Minutes of Meetings

- 1. Committee on Aging, May 5, 2025
- 2. Explore Two Rivers Board of Directors, May 13, 2025
- 3. Business and Industrial Development Committee and
Community Development Authority, May 27, 2025

Recommended Action:

Motion to receive and file

C. 25-107 Applications and Petitions

- 1. Temporary "Class B" License for Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, Cork and
Canvas, 6/12/2025, 1520 17th Street.
- 2. 2025-2026 License Renewals for a License Period of July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026:
Class "A" - Qty: 1
"Class A" - Qty: 8
Class "B" - Qty: 2
"Class B" - Qty: 17
Tobacco - Qty: 9
Landscape / Tree - Qty: 15

Recommended Action:

Motion to approve the applications and authorize issuance of the licenses

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the various actions recommended

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Brandt, seconded by B. LeClair

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

11. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

A. 25-108 Possible Action on Employment Agreement for New City Manager

Recommended Action:

Council discretion

No action was taken on this item as the agreement has not been finalized.

B. 25-109 Wastewater Treatment Plant Compliance Maintenance Resolution

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Shimulunas, seconded by Petri

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

12. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

1. City Council Regular Meeting, Monday, June 16, 2025, 6:00PM
2. City Council Work Session, Monday, June 30, 2025, 6:00PM

13. CLOSED SESSION

The City Council reserves the right to enter into Closed Session, per Wisc. Stats 19.85(1)(e) deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investment of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reason require a closed session

- Discuss possible property purchase
- Discuss possible property sale

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by B. LeClair, seconded by Petri to convene in closed session at 7:04 PM.

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

14. RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

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

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Shimulunas, seconded by B. LeClair to reconvene in open session at 8:01 PM.

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

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn this meeting at 8:02 PM.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Brandt, seconded by D. LeClair

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Baryenbruch
City Clerk