



CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, January 19, 2026 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, Shannon Derby, Bill LeClair, Darla LeClair, Tim Petri, Bonnie Shimulunas, Scott Stechmesser, Adam Wachowski

ALSO PRESENT: Mike Mathis, Parks and Recreation Director; Dave Dassey, IT Assistant; Joe Metzen, Tourism Director; Sean Griffin, City Attorney (via Phone); and Kyle Kordell, 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 Derby to approve Councilmember Bittner to participate in this meeting from a remote location.

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

5. INTRODUCTION OF INVITED GUESTS

- Two Rivers School District Superintendent Diane Johnson and Director of Teaching & Learning Kyle Korinek

Superintendent Diane Johnson presented the Two Rivers School District 2024-2025 Report Card Review.

- City Tourism Director Joe Metzen

Director Metzen presented the 2026 Visitor Guide. The guide was created with Visit Manitowoc and is a representation of what both communities offer along the lakeshore. In 2025, over thirty states reached out for additional information on the community.

6. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

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

Katherine Dahlke – Spoke about the Neshotah Beach improvement plan. At the Advisory Rec Board, the subject of the survey was brought up and would like to ask for more qualitative and quantitative data to be included in the survey along with a comments section. There also has been follow-up conversations regarding the perpetual care flower fund.

Shawntel Hoffman – Spoke regarding perpetual flowers and met with citizens and others that bought flowers. Everyone agrees that it is not fair to ask citizens to raise money for something that

the City once had a fund for. She is concerned if a fundraiser goes out that the community is going to face fundraiser fatigue.

7. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

Letters and other communications from residents

Councilmember Shimulunas was contacted regarding parking issues around Neshotah Beach and people leaving garbage behind.

8. COUNCIL REPORTS FROM BOARDS/COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES

Councilmember Derby reported on the Library Board stating they recently announced a change of director. Current Library Director Jeff Dawson is retiring and Terry Ehle will become the new director. She also reported on the Environmental Advisory Board stating at the last Winter Educational Series, 18 people showed up for the discussion on invasive species.

Councilmember Shimulunas reported on the Main Street Committee stating they are looking into expanding BID. Violet Inn and Hook Lanes and Games have completed their project for their façade grant. Rissa's Café and City Central are currently working on their projects for their grant.

Council President Stechmesser reported on the Advisory Rec Board stating at the last meeting there was a good turn out and they received comments about the concession stand but there was no formal vote.

9. 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.

Council President Stechmesser requested item 26-013 to be removed from the Consent Agenda and moved it to City Council – Formal Items

A. 26-008 Presentation of Minutes

1. City Council Regular Meeting, January 5, 2026

B. 26-009 Minutes of Meetings

1. Public Works Committee, December 3, 2025
2. Library Board, December 9, 2025
3. Committee On Aging, January 5, 2026
4. Plan Commission, January 12, 2026
5. Explore Two Rivers Board of Directors, January 13, 2026
6. Advisory Recreation Board Minutes, January 14, 2026

C. 26-010 Finance Reports, October and November 2025

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

D. 26-011 Summary of Verified Bills for December 2025 of \$3,428,031.48

E. 26-012 Applications and Petitions

1. Temporary Class "B" Beer license for Friends of the Two Rivers Senior Center, for Winter Hangout on January 30, 2026 at Washington Park, 2900 Adams Street.

RECOMMENDED ACTION FOR CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by B. LeClair, seconded by Shimulunas

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

10. CITY COUNCIL - FORMAL ITEMS

A. 26-013 Resolution Authorizing Letter of Support for State Individual Assistance Program

Summary: This resolution supports a bipartisan state legislative proposal to create a new disaster recovery grant program, setting aside \$30 million to assist individuals and businesses impacted by natural disasters when federal aid is unavailable. If enacted into law, this program would be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs and provide faster, more accessible relief following a Governor-declared state of emergency.

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Bittner, seconded by Derby to adopt the resolution

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

B. 26-014 Ordinance Adopting a Property Assessment Policy for the City of Two Rivers and Adding Chapter 2-7-16 to the City Code

Summary: This ordinance establishes a formal property assessment policy for the City, adding a new section to the Code that emphasizes regular, fair, and transparent property value assessments consistent with State law and best practices. The policy outlines assessment frequency, assessor selection standards, performance monitoring, and appeal protections to improve accuracy, equity, and public confidence in the property assessment process.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the ordinance

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by Shimulunas seconded by D. LeClair to table this item to a future agenda.

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

C. 26-015 Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from Proceeds of Borrowing 2026 Capital Projects

Summary: This resolution formally declares the City of Two Rivers' intent to reimburse eligible 2026 capital project and equipment expenditures with proceeds from future tax-exempt general obligation borrowing, in an amount not-to-exceed \$2,563,818. A portion of this, \$350,000, will be repaid from the Electric Utility, not the Debt Service Fund. Adoption of this resolution preserves the City's ability to issue debt later in 2026 and reimburse costs already incurred.

This Resolution is consistent with the Cities' recently reaffirmed debt cap policy, which includes a self-imposed debt cap of less than 3% of equalized property value and at least 50% of debt

being retired within 10 years. Currently, more than 98% of City general obligation debt is repaid within 10 years.

Recommended Action:

Motion to waive reading and adopt the resolution

Motion carried with a roll call vote.

Motion made by B. LeClair seconded by Bittner

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

Voting Nay: Petri, Shimulunas, Wachowski

11. CITY COUNCIL - DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Neshotah Beach Concessions Stand Improvement Public Feedback Survey

Summary: The City is exploring practical, cost-conscious improvements to the Neshotah Beach concessions area, with a focus on ADA accessibility, functionality, and enhancing the overall beach experience for residents and visitors. To support meaningful resident engagement, the City Council will discuss launching a community-wide public opinion poll to gather input from as many residents as feasible.

To clarify, the Personnel and Finance Committee and City Council approved the 2026 budget with \$255,318 in borrowing anticipated for this project, not over \$500,000. This requires the project to have at least 50% of the funding come from other sources or it can't move forward. After Room Tax contributions, the projected City investment for this project is \$130,318, which could further be reduced with grants and sponsorships.

Recommended Action:

This is presented for informational and discussion purposes only and no formal action is requested of the Council

Council discussed the survey that will be made public in the coming days and addressed what concerns and changes they want to see. They will make the survey available to the public starting on Wednesday and plan to collect data during January and February to have ready for final bid in March.

No vote was necessary for this item.

B. Partnership with Lakeshore Community Foundation for Community Fundraising Efforts

Summary: The City is proposing the creation of dedicated investment accounts with the Lakeshore Community Foundation to support the long-term, sustainable funding of perpetual care flowers and the community band. City staff intend to partner with community members to raise funds through established City fundraising and donation systems, with a goal of reducing the amount of general fund property taxes supporting these programs. Once raised, the funds would be transferred away from the City and to the Lakeshore Community Foundation for professional investment and perpetual support of these programs.

Recommended Action:

This is presented for informational and discussion purposes only and no formal action is requested of the Council

Mike Mathis presented how the Lakeshore Community Foundation can help for perpetual flowers. Must have a minimum of \$5,000 to start and then you can't touch it until you have

\$25,000. This is a non-profit specifically used for the benefit of the community. It can only be used for the flowers or how it is set up. The Council asked to have members from the Lakeshore Community Foundation come to a future work session.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Kordell provided an update on the former Hamilton property. Thermo Fisher is supportive of rezoning the property from industrial to commercial. Also, the City is currently working with Mainstreet to create a shared community vision of what to build on the site.

13. FOR INFORMATION ONLY

- City Council Work Session, Monday, January 26, 2026, 6:00 PM
- City Council Regular Meeting, Monday February 2, 2026, 6:00 PM, will include the following public hearings: 1. Request to rezone, from IPF to R-3, located at 3204 Lincoln Ave, and Parcel No. 053-162-301075.00 (newly created Lots 2 & 3), submitted by applicant and owner Renew Church Inc. 2. Ordinance to amend Section 10-1-15 I (3)(c) to regulate the height of fences.
- City Council Listening Session, February

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of this meeting and adjourn this meeting at 7:43 PM.

Motion carried with a voice vote.

Motion made by Derby seconded by Petri

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

Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Baryenbruch
City Clerk