

PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

5:30 p.m.

The Public Works Commission met at the above date and time. The following members were present: Alderpersons Brad Blanke, Myron Moldenhauer, and Tony Arnett; Citizen member Pete Thompson. Absent: Dan Bartz. Also present: City Staff Andrew Beyer, Maureen McBroom, Pete Hartz, Richie Piltz, Stacy Winkelman.

1. **Call to order.** Chairperson Arnett called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. **Comments and Suggestions from Citizens Present.** - None.
3. **Review and take possible action. Minutes of PWC meeting of February 24th, 2026.** Mr. Thompson moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Blanke. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
4. **Review and take possible action: Recommend authorizing the transfer of \$1,255,000 in excess Water Utility funds to establish and fund the Private Lead Service Financial Assistance Project Fund for private-side lead service line replacement assistance as authorized under Wis. Stat. § 66.0811(2) and (3)** – Ask discussed last fall, while the first round of replacement of lead service lines was fully funded by Federal and State sources (i.e. no cost to the homeowner), the current round of replacement of lead service lines is not fully funded, resulting in a potential significant cost to affected homeowners. Over 550 homeowners would face a cost of up to 50% of the line replacement (the average line replacement is estimated to cost \$4,200 total.) Acting on the Commission’s direction from last fall, Water/Wastewater Systems Manager Pete Hartz, working with the State, legal counsel, and the City Finance Director, has identified a method for the City to cover the homeowner’s portion through a grant to each homeowner. This requires transferring funds from the Water Utility to the General Fund. Mr. Arnett commended Mr. Hartz for his diligence in navigating the State bureaucracy to find a solution so that all homeowners are treated fairly. Mr. Blanke moved to recommend the proposed fund transfer, seconded by Mr. Moldenhauer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Review and take possible action: 2025 Annual Quarry Operations Report** – The 2025 report to the State was presented to the Commission for review. Mr. Thompson moved to approve the report, seconded by Mr. Blanke. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
6. **Review and take possible action: Adoption of the City-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Plan** – External consultant Jody Baker presented the final draft of the plan (a previous draft was reviewed by the Commission.) She recommended a mechanism be put in place to review the plan on a regular basis. Mr. Blanke asked about the practicality of enforcing speed limits for electric bicycles. He also asked how the proposed 2-way bike lanes on 1st, 4th, and Market Streets represented “compromises”. (They were a “compromise” compared to dedicated lanes on each side of the road.) Mr. Blanke stated the 2-way bike lanes on 1st, 4th, and Market Streets would remove parking in the downtown area (and in close proximity to Main St.), which he said was a “non-starter”. Mr. Arnett expressed caution about the cost of the projects listed in the plan and called for a much smaller list of prioritized projects to focus on for the next 5-10 years. Mr. Thompson moved to recommend the plan to Council, seconded by Mr. Moldenhauer. Mr. Blanke moved to amend the report by marking the projects J, K, L listed on the “Backbone Projects” list (these being the 2-way bike lanes on 1st, 4th, and Market Streets) as “Future possible recommendations” and similarly marking them on the map on page 82 of the Commission packet. Mr. Arnett seconded the motion to amend. Motion carried on the amendment by unanimous roll-call vote. Motion carried on the amended plan by unanimous voice vote.

7. **Review and take possible action: Contract with Robert E. Lee & Associates for construction inspection of Rock River Ridge Phases II & III for \$53,650** – Half of this cost is paid by the developer. Multiple potential firms were contacted, but only 1 quote was received. Mr. Thompson moved to approve the contract, seconded by Mr. Blanke. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

8. **Review and take action: ordinance to amend sections § 446-13 Lead acid batteries, major appliances, waste oil and tires and yard waste, § 446-17 Title to recyclable material, § 457-6 Street and sidewalk openings, § 457-11 Snow and ice removal, § 457-12 Use of streets or sidewalks for sale of merchandise, § 457-17 Depositing of yard waste in streets or alleys Prohibited, §457-27(E)(1) Environmental conditions and § 484-5(B) Tree Trimming of the city of Watertown general ordinances** - Mr. Blanke asked why the sections regarding lead acid batteries and appliances with compressors were being removed. Public Works Manager Staci Winkleman indicated our new recycling vendor accepts these. Mr. Moldenhauer moved to recommended the changes to Council, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Mr. Blanke moved to amend 446-13 to add a new section (A) stating “Lead acid batteries and major appliances with compressors shall be accepted at the Street/Solid Waste Division only.” and to re-number the remaining sections. Mr. Thompson seconded the amendment. Motion carried on the amendment by unanimous voice vote. Motion carried on the amended ordinance recommendation by unanimous voice vote.

9. **Adjournment.** Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn at 6:49 p.m., seconded by Mr. Moldenhauer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Arnett, Chairperson

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.