



Common Council Meeting

Whitewater Municipal Building Community Room,
312 West Whitewater St., Whitewater, WI 53190
*In Person and Virtual

Tuesday, May 07, 2024 - 6:30 PM

Citizens are welcome (and encouraged) to join our webinar via computer, smart phone, or telephone.
Citizen participation is welcome during topic discussion periods.

Please click the link below to join:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81914940238?pwd=tYl97riYLo4kl5RS_Fg1w21zex-Now.BINRMCzgtNj9T41o

Telephone: +1 (312) 626-6799 US

Webinar ID: 819 494 0238

Passcode: 525458

Please note that although every effort will be made to provide for virtual participation, unforeseen technical difficulties may prevent this, in which case the meeting may still proceed as long as there is a quorum. Should you wish to make a comment in this situation, you are welcome to call this number: (262) 473-0108.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Patrick Singer called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present

Council President Patrick Singer

Councilmember Neil Hicks

Councilmember Lisa Dawsey Smith

Councilmember Brienne Brown

Councilmember Brian Schanen

Councilmember Greg Majkrzak

Councilmember Orin Smith

City Attorney Jonathan McDonnel

City Manager John Weidl

Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith.

Judge Patrick Taylor expressed deep gratitude for the recognition he received and shared how he has felt a strong sense of belonging in Whitewater during his seven years there. He attributed this connection to three main factors: the numerous opportunities to make a difference through various community groups and activities, the community's need for involvement, and the kindness and generosity of the residents. He emphasized the welcoming nature of the people in Whitewater and stated that he will cherish the proclamation and use it as motivation for future contributions.

GUEST SPEAKER

3. Jessie Dugan from Bethel House is presenting a recap of their Emergency Assistance Program that will highlight the needs of the families they are serving-specifically as they relate to housing, income equality and the overall cost of living expenses.

Jesse Dugan, a 16-year Whitewater resident and board chair of Bethel House, addressed the council to highlight the organization's efforts in supporting families at risk of homelessness. She acknowledged board member Jim Winship and stressed the importance of transparency and data collection to understand the challenges faced by lower-income families. Dugan highlighted the "household survival budget," showing that many working families still face financial shortfalls. She pointed out common issues such as childcare, transportation, and lack of paid sick leave that contribute to these families' struggles. She also noted that recent successful Bethel House families had to move out of Whitewater due to the lack of affordable housing. Dugan urged the council to prioritize affordable housing initiatives and use Bethel House as a resource for systemic change. She expressed hope that with community and council support, significant progress could be made in addressing homelessness and poverty in Whitewater.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items on the Consent Agenda will be approved together unless any council members requests that an item be removed for individual consideration.

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Hicks.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith

4. Approval of Common Council Minutes from March 19, 2024, April 1, 2024, and April 4, 2024.
5. Library Board Minutes from March 18, 2024
6. Ethics Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024.
7. CDA Minutes from March 21, 2024.
8. Landmarks Commission Meeting Minutes from January 4, 2024 and February 7, 2024.

provide clearer guidelines, adopting language similar to that used in Milwaukee's ordinance. Chief Meyer also provided examples and photos illustrating the difficulties faced in enforcing the ordinance consistently.

Motion made to refer this to the Alcohol Licensing Committee to discuss and invite businesses serving and selling alcohol by Councilmember Majkrzak, Seconded by Councilmember Schanen.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

Voting Nay: Councilmember Dawsey Smith

19. Update on the Fire Department Bunk Room.-**Fire Department**

Fire Chief Freeman explained that they did not get any bids for the Fire Department Bunk build. He explained that he will put this out to rebid in late fall.

20. Safe Haven Baby Box Update- **Fire Department**

Fire Chief Freeman explained that they did not get any bids for the Safe Haven Baby Box. He explained that this will go out to rebid this month with bid openings May 24, 2024.

21. Parks New Recreation Software-**Parks Department.**

Parks Director Boehm discussed the transition from RecDesk to CivicRec for recreation software. He highlighted issues with RecDesk, such as difficulties in managing memberships and missed payments, which CivicRec addresses automatically. CivicRec offers features like flagging duplicate information, attaching photographs to memberships for identification, generating a wide range of customizable reports, and simplifying the registration process. He demonstrated how CivicRec streamlines registration for programs and enables language translation. He also mentioned plans for a soft launch and full launch of CivicRec soon. During the Q&A session, it was clarified that the library uses a separate system for room reservations but could potentially integrate with CivicRec in the future. Additionally, he confirmed that background checks for coaches can be integrated into the registration process with CivicRec.

22. Non-Financial Strategies for Enhancing Recruitment and Retention.- **Finance**

This was rescheduled to the Special Common Council meeting scheduled for May 28, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

23. Update on Special Common Council May 28th Draft Agenda- **HR**

Councilmembers looked over the agenda for the May 28, 2024 Special Common Council meeting. They all agreed that everything listed was what they wanted to discuss at the meeting.

HEARING OF CITIZEN COMMENTS

No formal Council action will be taken during this meeting although issues raised may become a part of a future agenda. Participants are allotted a three minute speaking period. Specific items listed on the agenda may not be discussed at this time; however, citizens are invited to speak to those specific issues at the time the Council discusses that particular item.

Councilmember Schanen.

28. Ordinance 2024-O04 updating 14.04.10 to adopt the correct Wisconsin Building Codes.-
Neighborhood Services

Motion made to approve Ordinance 2024-O-04 by Councilmember Dawsey Smith,
Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown,
Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith,
Councilmember Schanen.

Motion made to waive 2nd reading by Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Seconded by
Councilmember Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown,
Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith,
Councilmember Schanen.

CONSIDERATIONS

29. COPS Hiring Program Grant Solicitation. -**PD**

Police Chief Meyer proposed submitting a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office for the Fiscal Year 24 COPS hiring program. The grant aims to fund additional sworn officers to enhance community policing and crime prevention efforts. The city's share of the funding would increase progressively over a three-year period, and the maximum federal share per officer is \$125,000 over three years. The grant application would cap the number of requested officers at 20% of the current sworn force, and quarterly and semi-annual reports would be required if awarded. He highlighted the need for approval and potential budget adjustments in the future.

Motion made to approve COPS Hiring Program Grant by Councilmember Majkrzak,
Seconded by Councilmember Hicks.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown,
Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith,
Councilmember Schanen.

30. Discussion and possible action regarding UWW MOU Polling Place on Campus. -**City Clerk**

Chancellor King addressed the Council and expressed support for students advocating for more voting opportunities and the ability to express their voices. As Chancellor, he supports the Warhawk Vote efforts and emphasizes the importance of this initiative for both the students and the university community.

Angelina Izzo (110 S Boone Ct) the student body president for UW Whitewater, briefly addressed the Council, highlighting that since 2008, the Whitewater Student Government (WSG) has consistently provided workers and volunteers to support polling efforts. She emphasized that students support having a polling place on campus, at least for the

Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

Motion made add in Wards 11 and 12 by Councilmember Smith, Seconded by Councilmember Brown.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith

Voting Nay: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

Motion to add in Wards 11-12 failed.

Motion made to approve MOU with UWW so that Wards 8,9,10,and 13 will vote on campus for all elections September through May (no August elections) by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

31. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Starin Road Safety.- **City Manager**

City Manager John Weidl explained that UW-Whitewater (UWW) proposed a solution to manage pedestrian traffic by using timed, rather than permanent, gates to control vehicle traffic. After discussing the idea in a meeting and gathering information, they are now seeking the Common Council's interest in pursuing this further. They invited a UWW representative to speak on the matter.

Brenda Jones, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Affairs at UW-Whitewater, along with Chief Matt Ketterlin from the UW-Whitewater Police Department, addressed the council regarding pedestrian traffic concerns on campus. They presented findings from a traffic study conducted on Starin Road, revealing high daily car counts, particularly during peak class times and events. Speed was not identified as a major issue, but the volume of vehicles posed challenges. Temporary measures like flashing pedestrian signs and campus safety officers were implemented but faced staffing difficulties. Brenda proposed exploring a long-term solution, suggesting movable gates east of Warhawk Drive and west of Prairie Street. These gates could be programmed for specific times, aiding traffic flow during events and peak periods. Brenda sought the council's interest in investigating this solution further, clarifying that funding would be handled collaboratively.

Angela Izzo (110 S Boone Ct) Stated that she is the UWW student body president, who also served on the safety committee and task force, highlighted numerous near-miss incidents on Starin Road and emphasized the need for action due to potential safety hazards for faculty, staff, and students. She suggested that road closure could improve traffic flow and safety, particularly at the crosswalks. Additionally, she noted that the Prairie and Starin intersection, while not as concerning due to being a four-way stop, still posed risks. She thanked the council for considering the issue and expressed confidence in future efforts to explore solutions.

In particular, this closed session will be to discuss Stipend for Economic Development, Negotiation of City Manager Employment Agreement, and Performance Expectations for the City Manager.

As well as Chapter 19.85(1)(d): Except as provided in s. 304.06 (1) (eg) and by rule promulgated under s. 304.06 (1) (em), considering specific applications of probation, extended supervision or parole, or considering strategy for crime detection or prevention.

In particular, this closed session will be to discuss PD Critical Incidents.

Motion made to go into Closed Session at 9:00 pm by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

Motion made to come back into Open Session at 10:40 pm by Councilmember Brown, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

CS-40. Police Department Critical Incidents-**PD**

CS-41. Stipend for Economic Development, Negotiation of City Manager Employment Agreement, and Performance Expectations.- **City Manager**

CONSIDERATIONS

42. Discuss and Possible Action regarding Police Department Critical Incidents-**PD**

No Action was taken on this item.

43. Discussion and Possible Action regarding Stipend for Economic Development, Negotiation of City Manager Employment Agreement, and Performance Expectations.- **City Manager**

Motion made to approve the \$16,000 stipend to cover the City Manager's Economic Development Director duties by Council President Singer, Seconded by Councilmember Dawsey Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn at 10:45 pm by Councilmember Majkrzak, Seconded by Councilmember Smith.

Voting Yea: Council President Singer, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Dawsey Smith, Councilmember Majkrzak, Councilmember Smith, Councilmember Schanen.