

*Denotes things to watch for in the future and things that need action!!! Please let your voices be heard.

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

Observer Summary- xxx

2-3-2025

Highlights:

- At the Public Hearing, three local business owners spoke against a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed drive-through Taco Bell kitty-corner from the recently developed Central Park West. All made it clear they were opposed to the location, not the chain itself, noting it took away from Two Rivers image as a quaint, picturesque beach community. The owner of the lots under development had written a letter in support of the Permit, noting such development was needed “in an era, where a bank has left town, a jeweler retired, and Two Rivers is becoming known as the “Massage Parlor Capitol of the Lakeshore’.” One Council member noted the dearth of drive-throughs in the city for busy families. The Council approved the Permit.
- A citizen who identified himself as “a birder” addressed the Council in support of extending an WPS electrical connection to the Van de Brohe Arboretum, noting the non-profit entity essentially provided the city an additional park without cost.
- The City Manager stated the EPA issued the City a notice of violation regarding its Water Service Line Inventory (which identified lead and galvanized service laterals); the Water Superintendent is addressing the EPA’s concerns. Five lots have already been sold in the expanded city-owned Sandy Bay Highlands residential development. It was noted concerns that federal funding for various projects and activities will not be made available has placed the \$400,000 grant for shoreline development and the Faith in Place project (announced at the last City Council meeting) on hold.
- The City Council:
 - Authorized the City Manager to sign a Joint Powers Agreement between Manitowoc County Joint Dispatch Center and the City of Two Rivers.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 13 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

2-17-2025

Highlights:

- The City Manager congratulated Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Mathis, for being recognized as 2024 Young Professional of the Year by the Chamber of Manitowoc County. The City Council meetings for March 3rd and March 17th will be held at the Lester Public Library due to repair of the City Hall elevator; the meetings will still be streamed on Facebook and YouTube but will not be live streamed on cable television. Two Rivers Utilities is now accepting applications for two \$500 scholarships. City Council Candidate forums will be held by the League of Women Voters on March 6th at 7 pm in the Koska Room at the Community House, and by the Two Rivers Business Association on March 18th at 6:30 pm in the Behringer Room at the Community House.
- The City Council:
 - Following a presentation by a representative of Baird, adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$3,355,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes.
 - Awarded the contract for construction of an extension of landfill leachate to the low bidder of Mammoth Construction LLC of Manitowoc.
 - Adopted a resolution changing the location for the March 3 and March 17 City Council meetings to an alternative, handicapped-accessible location due to the planned renovation project for the elevator serving City Hall.
 - With the City Attorney, reviewed the adopted guidelines for the City Council Community Listening Sessions.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 20 minutes

Two Rivers School District Meeting

Observer Summary – xxx

2-10-2025

Highlights:

The 2025-2026 calendar was approved after the staff came back with a recommendation to reduce the number of days without students to work on ACT 20 requirements from 3 days to 2 days.

There was a presentation about the new math curriculum for the elementary grades that the staff is recommending. It is called Bridges to Mathematics and a 5-year contract for the curriculum costs \$134, 103. It was approved by the board.

In addition to the above, elementary staff will have 40 hours of training in the science of reading over the summer.

The Board previously approved a \$5,000 fund from which teachers could apply for grants for special needs and projects. Two board members approve the funding requests and it was depleted quickly with interesting requests from teachers.

Two Rivers School District Meeting

2-24-2025 No Report, Mary was on a well-deserved vacation.

Highlights:

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

Observer Summary- xxx

2-11-2025

Highlights:

Petition to alter school district boundaries to accommodate a student currently enrolled in MPSD but moving just outside the district. The item was tabled until after the Valders School District meets and votes on this issue. The change would require both school districts to agree for the change to take place.

The search and seizure policy was pulled from the consent agenda for further discussion. Board President Able stated he will be voting against the policy because he feels it's too broad and not reasonable. He felt that it violated student rights. Board member Hansen stated that he thought it was reasonable and helped keep all children safe. The policy was passed.

Superintendent's Report:

- MPSD offers over 40 Career and Technical Education programs. MPSD is proud to have the region's strongest school-to-work program, with over 300 students in work-based learning.
- The district is preparing for the spring referendum and will have informational flyers and community meetings to highlight the critical maintenance needs in the district. The referendum is seeking approval to borrow \$25,000,000 to address these infrastructure needs.
- The district will be hosting a Community Safety Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, at Wilson Middle School.
- The MPSD hosted a meeting with area superintendents who discussed challenges, student achievement, declining enrollment, staff recruitment, and state funding with Senators Andre Jacque and Devin LeMahieu, and Representative Paul Tittl in attendance.

Curriculum Chair, Trask reported that the curriculum committee voted 3 to 1 to recommend to discontinue the Success For All curriculum for the 25/26 school year. They have been able to opt out of the program for no fee to terminate. Although they did see some success with SFA they weren't enough to justify the on-going cost to the district. After a long discussion looking at the pros and cons of the program the board voted to drop the SFA curriculum 5 to 2 (Vlastelica and Spaulding voted NO)

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

2-25-2025

Highlights:

The request to alter the school district boundaries was taken from the table and discussed. The Valders school district hasn't met yet to weigh in on whether they would agree to the change in school boundaries, so the MPSD board voted 4 to 2 to approve the request. (Shaw and Able voted NO, and Vlastelica was absent) Now it's up to the Valders District to vote on the matter.

Most of the meeting was spent looking at the results from the most current staff survey.

Some survey take aways:

- 476 responses (51%)
- 45% of the respondents have been with the district 5 years or less (this is a strong indicator of why we need to keep investing in instructional support)
- When comparing surveys from year to year a change of over 3% indicates a large change
- Environmental scores went way up ranging from 22-62%
- 5 areas showing the most growth:
 - The School Board is doing what it takes to make the district successful
 - The School Board in our district is supportive of staff
 - The District is heading in the right direction
 - District Administration is doing what it takes to make the district successful
 - I am satisfied with the communication that comes from district administration
- 5 areas for improvement:
 - Access to technology support I need
 - I need support from my supervisor/administrator when I make a decision
 - Our staff does a good job educating our students
 - Our staff handles student discipline in a consistent manner
 - I am satisfied with communication that comes from building administration

The entire PowerPoint presentation is available on the district website.

Manitowoc Common Council

Observer Summary-xxx

2-17-2025

Highlights:

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Nickels.

Presentations:

The Oath of Office was administered to Detective Alex Nebel, Captain of Detectives Cooper Schmidt, and Police Lieutenant Matthew Klein.

A Commendation was read by Mayor Nickels to commend, congratulate and wish a happy retirement to K9 Neko who has been working with the Manitowoc Police Department since 2017. Neko has located 7.5 lbs of drugs and located \$78,000 in cash.

Public Hearings:

Public Hearings were held to change zone from single and two family residential to multiple family at a property east of Kinglet Drive and South of Viebahn Street. No one spoke to this change.

Public Input:

A man who lives in Two Rivers uses the City Bus to travel between Manitowoc and Two Rivers. The bus had gone as far as Silver Lake College but now ends at Menards. Bus service to Valders would be appreciated.

Consent Agenda:

The Plan Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit to Lotus Recovery Homes Inc for Transitional Housing use at 1111 Marshall Street. They approved a permit to Lotus Recovery Homes

Inc for Transitional Housing at 404, 406 and 408 N. Lake Street. They approved the permit for Transitional Housing at the Haven at 826 S. 19th Street.

Committee Reports:

The Special Events Committee recommended approval of the dates and locations of Metro Jam and Sputnikfest. Motion carried.

The Finance Committee authorized 3 General Obligation Promissory Notes to be passed. Motion carried. They denied an application for a Class B intoxicating Beverage License to Brittian, LLC at 905 Washington Street. Motion carried. They approved a request from AMMO/Olin Winchester for a land lease and option to purchase. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee approved a revision of the Seasonal Employment Policy for 2025. Motion carried. They recommended the hiring of a Part-Time Police Officer. Motion carried.

The Public Infrastructure Committee approved agreement with CivicPlus software for the Parks and Recreation Department. Motion carried.

The Public Safety Committee adopted the Manitowoc County hazard mitigation plan 2025-2030. Motion carried.

The Plan Commission approved the request to amend a Conditional Use Permit for the expansion of an existing Manufactured Home Park. Motion carried. They approved the sale of City owned parcel along N. 16th Street to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Motion carried. They approved an ordinance amending the zone map of the City of Manitowoc to rezone the property located east of Kinglet Drive and south of Viebahn Street from Single and Two-Family to Multiple Family. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Manitowoc County Board Meeting

Observer Summary- xxx

2-18-2025

Highlights:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first speaker was Michelle Haese, Director of Substance Use Initiatives for Wisconsin DHS: Opioid settlement funds are received by the state as a result of 2017 litigation, from drug distributors, drugstore chains, big box stores with pharmacies, etc. The state keeps 30% and distributes the rest to

the approx. 2,000 litigants who joined the suit, including Manitowoc Cty. The amount of funds disbursed varies greatly from year to year, depending on how payments are received from the defendants. Funds are to be used only for prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery from substance use disorders, with some small amount for “non-allowed” uses. Manitowoc Cty uses 20% of their funds for attorneys which may exceed the non-allowed limit. Each recipient entity reports annually to the state, detailing use of the funds. Manitowoc Cty's report seemed to lack the required detail.

Nine other speakers followed, including judges Mark Rohrer, Bob Dewayne, and Anthony Lambrecht (who also spoke for Judge Dietz); all four Manitowoc Cty circuit court judges strongly oppose the proposed Opioid Task Force on the grounds that systems for drug treatment are in place and working very well and that another level of government oversight is not needed and would be excessive.

Additional commenters included several professionals in the field who attested to the respect Manitowoc Cty gets for its programs, and several moving statements from recovered addicts who attributed their recovery to Manitowoc Cty's programs. All agreed that the proposed Opioid Task Force is not needed.

A final speaker was from Comcast which intends to participate in the BEAD (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) program, a federal program which is intended to improve internet access in rural areas.

CONSENT AGENDA (Any routine or non-controversial items)

Appointments by County Executive: Local Emergency Planning Committee - Appoint Gary Shavlik for a two-year term expiring March 2027; Traffic Safety Commission Appoint two members -Todd Cummings and alternate Kyle Stotzheim. Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES

Aging & Disability Board: The ADRC has a new business services manager. Volunteers are needed for home delivery meals. Received a donation of \$11,400 from Veterans' Services to be used for transportation.

Board of Health: Respiratory illness activity very high as is influenza activity. Covid activity is low and decreasing.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council: There were 13 graduations from the drug court for 2024 and 3 terminations. Currently 12 participants. A total of 9 referrals have been received by the Diversion and Deflection program, a program for minors who would benefit from mental health services.

Executive Committee: Ordinance 71 which relies on the Board's committee structure for budget development was approved with one no vote (Supv Shimulunas). The ordinance as initially presented was amended to allow supervisors to also present budget amendments directly to the Board without committee approval. Resolution 72 Creating Manitowoc County Opioid Task Force was “postponed indefinitely” (effectively tabling the resolution) by a vote of 11 – 10. (Four supervisors were absent.) Voting no (to not table) were Metzger, Martell, R. Phipps, Bonde, Hammel, Naidl, Muench, M. Phipps, Klein and Muench. The Task Force, which was to be comprised of County Board members, county staff, and concerned citizens, would have overseen how opioid settlement funds are being spent.

Expo-Ice Center Board: Spending was approved for a clothing allowance for the Fairest of the Fair, and for solar stop signs on the fairgrounds.

Highway Committee: Some trucks are out of commission due to lack of parts which are hard to get at present.

Personnel Committee: Sheriff's department recruitment has been going well and they're able to stay current with the large number of retirements occurring.

Public Safety Committee: Supv Falkowski reported that family court can sometimes be a volatile situation with threats occurring; the bailiff is a necessary safeguard.

Public Works Committee: Supv Sitkiewitz reported that the county built and owns the UWGB-Manitowoc campus; the Public Works Committee is responsible for construction and replacement of capital projects while UWGB pays for operating expenses. This committee oversees numerous capital projects which are now underway (though none at UWGB at present.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm This County Board meeting (1/18/25) is available for viewing at: https://www.youtube.com/embed/7Vav-Cu1tCs?si=Ko46vG_v_a4A_HDS?rel=

