

## **LWV Observer Corps Report April 2022**

**\*Denotes things to watch for in the future.**

### **Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski**

**4-4-2022**

#### Highlights:

- There was no public comment during the public hearings. The Council adopted ordinances to rezone 2910 Lincoln Avenue from business to residential, and to simplify the Municipal Code regarding requirements for side yards.
- One Council member reported communications from citizens requesting a spring clean-up for Two Rivers (this was referred to the Utilities Committee) and questioning why the Council's Work Sessions were not televised (the City Manager stated this was determined by Council members themselves and could be revisited).
- The City Manager introduced the City's new Municipal Court/Police Department Clerk Sara Backhaus, and the Council adopted a resolution commending Dawn Hilliker who retired from that position.
- The City Manager shared the following:
  - The moratorium on utility disconnections for non-payment of bills ends on April 15<sup>th</sup> and disconnections will begin on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - Winter decorations need to be removed from the cemetery by April 15<sup>th</sup> and new summer decorations may be placed after May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - A public hearing for special assessments for the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction Project will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM.
  - The Engineering Department has submitted applications to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for funding assistance (from the Bi-Partisan Federal Infrastructure Bill monies) to resurface several city streets in 2023.
  - The City has been invited to apply for a Restore Our Great Lakes Grant to address city-owned Lake Michigan Shoreline along Memorial Drive. This grant would provide plantings for shoreline stabilization, pollinator-friendly plantings, invasive species abatement and control, green infrastructure and environmental restoration.
  - Central Park West fundraising has reached \$500,000 of its \$800,000 goal, with major contributions from Carron Net Company, Kahlenberg Industries and Susie Q Fish Company.
  - A delegation from Two Rivers' Sister City of Domazlice in the Czech Republic will be visiting Two Rivers from May 28<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup> and will participate in Memorial Day observances and other activities.
  - The City has applied for an Idle Sites Grant to assist Trivers, LLC in renovating the former Paragon property.
  - Representatives from the Corps of Engineers will visit the area in late April/early May to meet with city representatives and other interested parties to discuss harbor issues.

- The City Council:
  - Adopted a Fair Housing Declaration Resolution related to awarding Community Development Block Grant-COVID Funds to modify the Senior Center Building and parking lot.
  - Adopted an ordinance related to non-vehicular travel (including E-bikes, motorized gas-powered bikes, and various types of scooters).
  - Adopted an ordinance to amend the Municipal Code Section entitled “License, Permit and Other Fees Established” associated with direct sellers, taxi and taxi driver fees to bring them in alignment with the fees for golf carts.
  - Adopted an ordinance to amend sections of the Municipal Code regarding definitions and domicile restrictions concerning sexual offender residency restrictions.
  - After lengthy, and at times contentious, discussion authorized the City Manager to finalize an agreement for cooperative arrangements for parking and related matters concerning the Community House and Cool City Brewing Company. Some council members believed the agreement set a precedent in assisting a private business while others felt the assistance was necessary to encourage business development in Two Rivers.

Meeting time: 2 hour and 16 minutes

## **Two Rivers City Council Meeting**

**4-18-2022**

### Highlights:

- There was no public comment during the public hearing. The Council adopted an ordinance to levy special assessments upon the properties fronting 17<sup>th</sup> Street, from East Park Street to Jefferson Street and East Street to Zlatnik Drive.
- One Council member reported communications from citizens expressing concern about excessive speed on Adams Street, a pothole on Adams Street, unpicked up trash on Monroe Street, locked restrooms at Walsh Field during a baseball game, the unavailability of City Council meetings on cable TV (the City is trying to resolve this with Spectrum), and a preference for the City Manager’s Report to be moved to the end of the meeting. The owner of a private airstrip expressed concern about wind turbines in the Industrial Park.
- The City Manager shared the following:
  - Plush toys of Canine Officer Xanti are available from the Police Department for \$20.
  - The Public Works Department has been busy sealing road cracks, clearing sand off Memorial Drive and its plantings, and taking delivery of 500 tons of road salt.
  - The City has hired a new Senior Center Supervisor, two Water Operators and is about to hire a new Parks and Recreation Director.
  - The City has raised 64% of its \$800,000 goal for the Central Park West 365 Project, with Fox Communities Credit Union contributing \$25,000.

- Two Rivers businesswoman Emilee Rysticken (owner of Screamin' Conuts and the soon to be opened High Lift coffee shop) has been named a Woman of Influence in Wisconsin's NEW North region.
- The City Council:
  - Approved the application for a temporary Retailer's License for Softball Central-WI for the May 20-22 Bash at the Beach Girls Fastpitch Tournament.
  - Adopted a resolution amending Tax Incremental District 7 (the "Old Hospital" TID) providing for investment and street and utility infrastructure within ½ miles of district boundaries.
  - Approved a Beer Garden Permit for Submariners Pub (formerly known as Sandpiper Bar & Grill) with request for waiver to the minimum distance requirement from a residential structure.
  - Tabled a motion which proposed a 15-mph speed limit, speed table and on-street parking for the Central Park West 365 Project, sending it back to the Public Works Committee. Council members questioned why three of ten parking spaces were reserved for handicapped parking, and the parking time restrictions.
  - Authorized two existing street parking spaces to be designated a loading zone for Cool City Brewing Company (to be opened "later this year").
  - Acknowledged and thanked departing City Council members Mark Bittner, Larry Thomas and Jay Remiker. The new City Council members will be sworn in at a Re-Organization meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting time: 1 hour and 10 minutes

## **Two Rivers School District Meeting Observer Summary- Mary Wallace**

**4-11-2022**

### Highlights:

The Board voted to approve a \$38.7 million dollar referendum for school improvements, primarily at LB Clarke Middle School focused on tech, security and renovation needs. A representative from School Perceptions went over the survey results and determined there was enough community support to go forward with the referendum. The District is in a good position re paying off existing debt so the consensus was that this was a good time to borrow for improvements. One community member spoke on her recommendations for L B Clare School.

The Board voted to approve a new math curriculum at the middle school called Illustrative Math.

The Board approved summer school courses for summer school which will be held from June 20 to July 1 and from July 11 to July 29.

The elementary school principal reported that Lakeshore Community Health Clinic has provided dental care in the school

17 rising Phoenix students have been approved for this coming school year. This is a collaborative program with UWGB for students who are first time college attendees in their families.

### **Two Rivers School District Meeting 4-25-2022**

#### Highlights:

The Board elected officers for the coming year, all of whom were the old board members, rather than the newly elected ones.

One new board member wants to get feedback from parents, staff etc. which hasn't really been done. Admin staff will set up meetings for him and any other members who want to attend at the various schools.

The Board approved purchasing 275 Chromebook and 40 laptops for the coming school year. The cost will include warranties as many need to be repaired on a weekly basis.

The main discussion was about insurance options. The current provider's quote for next year is too expensive and has gone up significantly due to claims etc. They are looking into other options including being self-insured, an a la carte option etc.

Administration is continuing to do community presentations to inform the community of the district's needs and garner support for a referendum.

### **Manitowoc Public School District Meeting Observer Summary- Linda Gratz**

**4-12-2022**

#### Highlights:

Public input included: thank you to the incumbents who are leaving the board, test scores and safety issues.

Financials: The business director discussed the budget and how they need to keep a strong fund balance.

Board members asked they conduct background checks if the person who is hired is from outside Wisconsin. The process was discussed and they will report back to the board later regarding additional questions.

Several employees from the district received the Eastern Wisconsin Excellence in Teaching Awards.

It was reported that a small number of parents received a letter regarding speech and language services and how their children might be affected.

An assistant principal at Lincoln High School is leaving the district.

The board voted a 3% salary increase for teachers and staff and a market adjustment increase for paraprofessionals which could result in a 21% increase for some of the paras.

The resolution for starting the 22-23 school year prior to August 31<sup>st</sup> was approved.

The Lincoln pool ventilation project was approved using Covid funds.

Superintendent Mark Holzman is leaving the district to become Superintendent in Janesville.

The date for the reorganizational meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 prior to the regular board meeting.

A report was given regarding the work of the Student Behavior committee which laid out a plan to set a student code of behavior and consequences before the start of the 2022-23 school year. The board praised the committee for their work and supported the implementation of a plan to improve behaviors throughout the district.

## **Manitowoc Public School District Meeting**

**4-26-22**

Highlights:

New officers were elected at the reorganizational meeting, Stacey Soeldner is President, Collin Braunel is Vice President, and Kathy Willis is Treasurer/Clerk.

There was more discussion regarding criminal background checks on employees who have lived outside Wisconsin. Also, there was a discussion regarding employees who are licensed with stipulations and how these employees are monitored to ensure compliance.

Unfinished Business: The process regarding going forth with a superintendent search was the main focus of reporting. The district has reached out to a number of search groups. They were told that they could hire a search firm to replace outgoing superintendent Mark Holzman, hire internally, or hire an interim. The board will discuss these options at a special meeting to be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Student Behavior committee report stated that there are several things that need to be done including updating the Code of Conduct policy 5500, and looking at transitioning the committee to a district task force that will come up with a plan and course of action. They discussed moving this to the Curriculum committee and setting up a joint meeting with the Student Behavior committee. A task force should be a collaborative effort which includes: administrators, parents, staff, and teachers.

The CESA 7 representative will be Mathew Spaulding and the WASB Convention delegate will be Kathy Willis and Alternate Kerry Trask.

## **Manitowoc County Board Meeting Observer Summary- JoEllen Gramling**

**4-15-2022**

Highlights: **On Vacation**

This County Board Meeting is available for viewing at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sk2wa3qt\\_10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sk2wa3qt_10)

## **Manitowoc Common Council Meeting Observer Summary- Christine Aguilar**

**Manitowoc Common Council**

**4-18-2022**

Highlights:

**Call to order** by Mayor Justin Nickels at 6:30 PM, nine present.

### **Presentations:**

- Proclamation declaring May 14, 2022, as Hmong American Day presented to Holly and Nelson Hang (phonetic).

- *Proclamation declaring the week of May 1st - May 7th, 2022, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week presented to Mackenzie Reed-Kadow*
  - Outgoing Alderman John Bruner, who represented District 5, was recognized.

**Public Hearing:**

- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed change in zone from B-1 Office Residential District to B-4 Central Business District for property located at 435 N 8th Street. This is a former synagogue now a residence. The owner was approached by vendors from the antique mall who want to relocate to this facility. This would require a B-4 District. Michael Merrill (phonetic), the owner of the property, is looking forward to making this business an asset to the community.

**Public Input:** No input.

**Appointments:** None.

**Consent Agenda:** 22-0233 was removed; agenda approved.

**Committee of the Whole:**

- **Approved** Report of Special Events Committee recommending approval for the following events subject to Council action: Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony on 5/30/22 (Street Closures for parade: S 8th from Madison to Huron, Huron to Michigan, N 18th from Michigan to the Veterans Memorial); HFM/Froedert Maritime Marathon on 6/12/22 (Closure of lift bridge (no openings allowed) & one-way closure on Viebahn St & Lakeside Blvd.; waiver of noise ordinance from 6:30 am to 7:30 am); Lakeshore Balloon Glow on 8/19/22 (4 hour closure of Quay St between S 6th & S 8th Sts.); Windigo Fest on 9/30-10/2/22 (Waiver of noise ordinance to 1 am on Friday and Saturday).
- **Adopted** Ordinance regulating terms of boards, commissions and committees.

**Finance Committee:**

- **Approved** Review and discussion on a potential term sheet / development agreement with MTM. Carried 8 to 1, Alderman Bolt abstaining.
- **Adopted** Ordinance amending of Manitowoc Municipal Code 3.150 - Creating A Room Tax Commission. Motion to amend to remove Mayor as the chair. Rationale is the commission is a legal entity in itself. Amendment failed 7 to 2. Motion carried 7 to 2.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the City of Manitowoc Acceptable Use Policy for Technology and Information Resources.
- **Accept and place on file** Update from Manitowoc Public Utilities on Wastewater Treatment Facility. Carried 8 to 1.
- **Adopted** Resolution authorizing execution of the Department of Natural Resources Principal Forgiven Financial Assistance Agreement.

**Personnel Committee:**

- **Accept and place on file** Resignation Notice of City Attorney McDaniel.

- **Accept and place on file** Resignation Notice of Finance Director Alfred.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the revised Firefighter/Paramedic Job Description, age changed from 21 to 18 to make recreating easier.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve Employee Policy Manual Revisions, April 2022.

**Public Infrastructure Committee:**

- **Refer to City Attorney** Howe request use of City Owned Land for the Establishment of a Stormwater Retention Facility Reed Avenue/Lincoln Park. Alderman Sitkiewitz removed from Consent because he is opposed to the use of the park land with no consideration given for the property. City Attorney wants to research ways to restructure to keep from precedent setting. Motion to send to City Attorney to review. Motion was rescinded. Motion to refer to City Attorney to ensure risk of setting precedent is minimized through consideration or other means and have the flexibility to work with the developer. Motion to amend carried. Motion carried.
- **Adopted** Resolution to proclaim May 4, 2022 as World Migratory Bird Day in the City of Manitowoc.

**Public Safety Committee:**

- **Approved** Ordinance to amend Section 10.390 of the MMC regulating parking on Washington Street.
- **Approved** Ordinance to amend Section 14.110 of the MMC regulating trapping.

**Plan Commission:**

- **Adopted** Ordinance to rezone property located at 435 N 8th Street from B-1 Office-Residential District to B-4 Central Business District.
- **Adopted** Resolution Creating Tax Incremental District No. 23, Approving its Project Plan and Establishing its Boundaries.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURN:** At 7:19 pm, sine die.

For further information click on <https://manitowoc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to see the Common Council Meeting Details, Agenda, Video, and the Minutes when completed

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**Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting  
Observer Summary- Suzanne Zipperer**

**4-24-2022 Meeting Cancelled**



Highlights:

**Manitowoc County CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) Executive Committee Meeting  
Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**4-18-2022**

Highlights:

Zoom Videoconference began at 12:17 PM ended at 12:28 PM

**Attending** DA Jacalyn LaBre, Att Ann Larson and Probation Parole Jennifer Zick.

**Excused:** Chair Judge Mark Rohrer, and Supervisor James Falkowski.

Others attending Don Sweet, Pat Koppa and Nancy Slattery

Don Sweet reported

- census as of 4/13/22 in Drug Court was; 2 in phase 5, 4 in phase 4, 3 in phase 2 and 1 in treatment due back on 5/9. 3 individuals now in jail are approved to enter as the alternative to having their probation revoked.
- presented to the Kiwanis Club on 4/4 about the court and ways they might assist.
- Other new referrals will be considered at their team Wednesday meetings.

The state full CJCC meeting does not meet until 6/8/2022, although the data subcommittee meets on 4/19/22 by zoom led by Constance Kostelac discussing data sharing and the various methods of reporting race and gender throughout the criminal justice system.

(List of those state meetings dates will be added to the minutes in the future)

Attorney Larson will send a summary of the past pre-trial services subcommittee discussions to the council members and set an additional meeting discussion before the next general CJCC. Most of the Drug court team will be out of county for a Drug Court Conference May 4-6, 2022. Next full council meeting on June 1<sup>st</sup> in Tech Building at 4 :45 pm  
Next Executive Committee meets May 16, 2022 at 12:15 by zoom.

**Upcoming State CJCC meetings: zoom links available [HERE](#) closer to the date.**

<https://cjcc.doj.wi.gov/>

Data Sharing/Outcomes, Trends, and Indicators Subcommittee

**4/19** 3:30 to 4:30

**Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Subcommittee**

**5/26 12:00 to 2:00**

Race Equity, Inclusion and Access Subcommittee

**6/2** 12:15 – 1:15

State Criminal Justice Coordinating Council meeting

**6/8** 1:00 to 3:00

EBDM Subcommittee

**6/23** 9 – 12 Noon

Data Sharing/Outcomes, Trends and Indicators Subcommittee

7/19 3:30 to 4:30

**Manitowoc County CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) Meeting**

**Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

Because of a calendar conflict with a conference that the drug court team is attending, **the next CJCC meeting will be on 6/1 at 4:45 PM.**