

## **LWV Observer Corps Report December 2021**

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

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

**12-6-2021**

#### Highlights:

- A citizen complained to a Council member about having trouble hearing the City Council meetings on YouTube. The City believes it has addressed the issue.
- Two female Eagle Scouts addressed the City Council and shared information regarding their projects – both related to improvements made to Camp Sinawa (trailhead signage and the construction of bat houses).
- The City Manager:
  - Congratulated Emilee Rysticken on being selected as the top presenter in the New North's Regional Business Idea Pitch Event, based on her pitch for the High Lift Coffee Shop opening in 2022 at 12<sup>th</sup> and Madison Streets.
  - Reported the City's room tax revenue continues at a record pace with 30% of the revenue from vacation rentals.
  - Shared that five residential lots were sold in 2021 at the city-owned Sandy Bay Highlands subdivision.
  - Reported the City's Winter Parking Ban is still being held in abeyance due to the lack of snow.
  - Shared that nomination papers for open City Council seats (three for a three-year term and one for a two-year term) are due on January 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Shared the City has entered into a Purchase Agreement with TRIVERS, LLC for the former Paragon property. The plan is to develop the property into a multi-tenant facility for industrial and warehousing uses.
  - Reported Governor Evers has signed a dredging bill, advocated for by the city, which allows the re-use of clean sediment from the beds of Lakes Michigan and Superior to be used for "beach nourishment".
- The City Council:
  - Adopted an ordinance repealing a section of the Municipal Code and recreating it as "Wireless Communications Facilities in the Right-of-Way".
  - Approved a list of Chief Inspectors, Election Inspectors and Special Voting Deputies for the 2022-23 Elections.
  - Adopted resolutions adopting the General Fund Budget, Budgets for Other Funds (including Capital Projects Funds, Special Revenue Funds and Utility Funds), and the Debt Service Fund Budget for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.
  - Adopted a resolution adopting the Tax Levy for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2022.

- Adopted a resolution approving the Business Improvement District Levy and Assessment Rate for 2022.

Meeting time: 1 hour

## **Two Rivers City Council Meeting 12-20-2021**

### Highlights:

- No citizens participated in the two public hearings. The Council approved a conditional use permit for a drive-through facility at the proposed Cool City Brewing and approved an ordinance to amend the District Map to establish Residential Zoning for property on Riverview Drive proposed for annexation.
- The City Manager shared the following:
  - The city will sell the former UniMart property on Washington Street for \$10,000 provided the buyer invests \$100,000 to develop the property.
  - The developer of the former Hansen the Florist property on Forest Avenue plans to build three 15-unit market-rate apartment buildings.
  - In addition to installing a storm water management pond on the former Eggers East property, the city is working with a developer planning to build waterfront market-rate housing.
  - It has been a banner year for lot sales in the city-owned Sandy Bay Highlands subdivision, with the potential for a spec home being built in early 2022.
  - A message board has been installed at the Woodland Drive Wayside.
  - A good number of nomination papers have been taken out for vacant City Council seats in the April 2022 election.
- The City Council:
  - Approved applications for a cigarette license at the Two Rivers Clark gas station and a tree removal license for North East Tree Service LLC.
  - Approved the scheduling of public hearings on a conditional use permit for a drive-through facility at the High Lift (a proposed coffee bar), a conditional use permit to operate the Candle Cottage in a residential district, and an amendment regarding wireless telecommunications towers and antennas in the public right of way.
  - Authorized the City Manager and City Clerk to execute a pre-annexation agreement related to territory presently lying within the Town of Two Rivers and adopted an ordinance directing annexation of that territory.
  - Adopted a resolution authorizing adjustments to non-union employee wage scales to implement a two-percent wage increase as provided in the 2022 budget.
  - Authorized turning off streetlights along downtown Washington Street from 6 pm to midnight on Christmas Eve.

- Upon recommendation of the Police Chief, denied the appeal of a sex offender to continue residence in Two Rivers. The sex offender, who has no recent ties to Two Rivers, moved to the city after his Manitowoc residence was damaged in a fire.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 27 minutes

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

**12-13-2021**

Highlights:

- Students in the Show Choir sang 2 songs for the Board and sounded great.
- The Facility Assessment Committee will be sending a survey to all Two Rivers residents after the first of the year to get input into the projects recommended by the consultants.
- There was a discussion about letting businesses advertise at athletic events to raise money for uniforms and other team needs. Currently Aurora has a banner on the football field and provides PT services free to the teams. It was agreed that businesses could advertise on the scroll at the score table for winter sports, but no banners would be hung.
- Currently, 60 kids are out sick at Magee School, not all necessarily with covid. Almost 120 kids are out sick district wide. The superintendent asked to implement a mask mandate if the number of infected kids in a building reaches 4% The Board had eliminated any mask mandate at their last meeting, but they agreed to this. A Vaccination Clinic for kids and families will be held at Magee School on December 17.
- Also, there is an issue with teachers being out sick and not being able to get subs. All professional staff without a classroom assignment will be put on a calendar to be available on certain days if a sub is needed and not available.

## **Two Rivers School District Meeting 12-27-2021**

Highlights:

**No Meeting**

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

**12-14-2021**

**Highlights:**

- Public input was shorter than in recent meetings and very hard to hear. It seemed worse than usual with the microphone cutting in and out. From what I could hear it seemed like there were the same concerns, but with the addition of comments regarding the district's poor performance on the school report cards.
- Not only was it hard to hear the public input, but it was impossible to hear the directors' reports and at one point even the board members were having to share one microphone.
- The district curriculum directors presented information on the school report cards, but they were completely unable to be heard. Many of the board members voiced frustration because they didn't receive the information far enough in advance to be able to reflect on what it all meant. The discussion included questions regarding how the board can support the district as they address the issues around low performance and should there be an ad hoc committee formed to help develop improvement plans? The board appreciated all the work that the directors had put into the reports, but felt like they needed more time to understand what it all means.
- The superintendent gave a report on student suspensions and why they were suspended. He said that behaviors were reaching a crisis point in the schools. He also said that students aren't suspended for minor infractions, but rather significant violations. The first quarter number of suspensions are about 50% of what they had for the whole 2020/21 school year. He reminded the board that all the children in the schools are our children and part of the bigger community. The school district staff are finding that children are increasingly coming to school more stressed and displaying more mental health issues. There was a discussion regarding the role of the Behavior Specialists and how they can be used to support staff. The district is going to be providing Verbal Intervention Training to all staff as a tool in improving student behaviors. The training will consist of a 2 hour on line part and 4 hour in person.
- They may have an acceptable offer for the McKinley property and they may need a special meeting to approve the offer if all goes according to plan.
- The board went into closed session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation.

## **Manitowoc Public School District Meeting**

**12-28-21**

Highlights:

**No Meeting**

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

**12-2-2021**

Highlights:

### REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Brey presented a Proclamation of January as Mentoring Month for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Becky Wilhelm thanked the County Board for the proclamation and the support.

### PUBLIC INPUT:

- Kristin Demy, City of Manitowoc, spoke against the need to discuss critical race theory and similar theories in Manitowoc County, characterizing them as Marxist and intended to create dissent.
- Maura Yost, Town of Centerville, advocated for half cent county-wide sales tax.

### APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

- Chairperson Brey presented County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointments of PJ Albert, Stephanie Binversie, and Kris Kohlmann to the Expo-Ice Center Board for a three-year term. Approved unanimously.
- Chairperson Brey presented County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointment of Paul Granger to the Joint Dispatch Board for a two-year term. Approved unanimously.
- Chairperson Brey presented County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointments of Patrick Neuenfeldt, Markus Ladd, and Megan Marchant to the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System Board of Trustees for a three-year term, and Deborah Brotcke to fulfill a current term expiring January 2023. Cty Exec Ziegelbauer was questioned as to why these vacancies existed; he stated that one person had moved away and the other three had resigned. All the applicants were recommended by the library system administrator. Upon voice vote, the

motion carried with 21 ayes and 1 no. Supervisor Zimmer voted no because he felt that Patrick Neuenfeldt would be a negative influence.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Aging and Disability Board: Resolution 2021/2022- 45 Amending 2021 Budget due to changes in grant fund allocations by the state. Approved unanimously.
- Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee: Supervisor Falkowski reported on the continuing success of the drug court.
- Finance Committee: Supervisor Hansen reported sale of two properties which will now be occupied, fixed up and back on the tax rolls rather than sitting vacant.  
The Board unanimously approved resolutions to deny the claims of Nicholas Barylski and Susan Schlosser. Their claims will go the insurance company for resolution.  
The Board unanimously approved Resolution 2021/2022-48 Adopting Procurement Policy for Expenditure of Federal Funds.
- Highway Committee: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 2021/2022-49 Adopting Speed Zone on County Trunk Highway Z in the Village of Maribel. Supervisor Behnke reported that the committee is not all in on the issue of brining/pre-treatment of county highways. They will continue to pretreat bridges and off/on ramps only.
- Human Services Board: Supervisor Henrickson reported that they've had an observer from the League of Women Voters, Nancy Slattery. Their education topic was services provided by Lighthouse Recovery Community Center. The number of kids in foster care has increased by 51%. A budget surplus is expected.
- Personnel Committee: Supervisor Maresh reported salary offered for a new position of Data Information Analyst. The position of Systems Analyst has been filled, as has the UW Ext Ag Educator. Discussion of how salaries are calculated for the Clerk of Courts, Sheriff and Coroner will take place in January for the 2023 – 2026 term.
- Planning and Park Commission: Supervisor Falkowski reported that the commission had approved variance requests for Michael Korten Trust and for Lowe & Yvonne Holdorff. The Board unanimously approved a zoning map amendment for the Robert and Joanna Stephens Living Trust.
- Public Safety Committee: The Board unanimously adopted Resolution 2021/2022- 44 accepting the donation of a Dive Team Trailer valued at \$\$13,461 from A.H Stock Mfg for the sheriff's department.
- Public Works Committee: Supervisor Gerroll reported on several payment requests approved by the committee, also on bids accepted for the courthouse chiller project and for the radio replacement project (low bid of \$1,552,888).
- Executive Committee: The Board unanimously approved Ordinance 2021/2022-51 Amending Manitowoc County Code §6.30 (Recording in County Owned Facilities). The amended ordinance prohibits recording in some county facilities.
- The Board then convened in closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85 (1) (g) for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel for the County who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is

or is likely to become involved, specifically, discussion of the Opioid Litigation Settlement. Closed session began at 7:21 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:35 p.m. Supervisor Falkowski moved, seconded by Supervisor Behnke to approve Resolution 2021/2022-52 Authorizing Manitowoc County to enter into the Settlement Agreements with McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health, Inc., AmerisourceBergen Corporation, Johnson & Johnson, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., OrthoMcNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Janssen Pharmaceutica, Inc., Agreeing to the Terms of the MOU Allocating Settlement Proceeds, and Authorizing Entry into the MOU with the Attorney General. Upon vote, the motion carried with 21 ayes and 1 no. Supervisor Zimmer voted no.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm

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

**12-21-2021**

Highlights:

**Meeting was not available for the observer to access on-line.**

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.

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

**12-21-2021**

Highlights:

Each month the board has a group come in to speak about their services. **Lighthouse Recovery Community Center** was the organization presented.

- Chrisma Rusch is the Executive Director and presented.
- Lighthouse is a recovery community organization bridging the gap between professional treatment and community support. They are in the third year of operation.
- There are 19 staff, all of whom are in recovery. They utilize a peer-to-peer approach and support all paths to recovery.

- They were gifted three buildings when Marco Services closed. This provides a capacity for 22 residence. They received 117 requests for residency in their first year and were able to serve 43.
- Recovery resources include a drop-in center, education, addiction management, a variety of recovery meetings, (they have 72 meetings a month), peer support specialists, recovery coaches and recovery coach training. They work with the drug-court.
- They served 175 people last year. The average service time is 120 days.

### **Financial and Statistical Reports through November 2021**

- There was an increase in referrals to child protective services in 2021 with a 51% increase in children placed in foster care. There are currently 83 children in foster care with an additional 86 children placed with relatives. More foster homes are needed.
- There was an increase of about 250 people getting energy assistance and a decrease of about 25 receiving child care assistance. Mental health inpatient days increased by about 500. Adult protective services referrals increased by about 40.
- Finances look good. There may be a surplus due to grant funding.

### **Director's Report on Operations**

- The Department was in process of creating vendor contracts for 2022, which should be done by the end of December.
- Aging and Disability Resources has a \$35,000 grant that can go to helping elderly people stay in their homes. Services include cleaning, short-term assistance, dumpsters, etc.
- The director reported on staff being hired and the movement of some offices to accommodate new staff. There are some open positions.
- A detailed financial overview was provided. (I can provide that if anyone is interested.)

### **Manitowoc County CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) Executive Committee Meeting**

**Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**12-20-2021**

Highlights:

**No Report**

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

**Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

Highlights:

**No Report**