

## **LWV Observer Corps Report December 2022**

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

**ATTENTION: Second Call for Volunteers**

**I WAS RECENTLY NOTIFIED THAT OUR MANITOWOC COMMON COUNCIL OBSERVER, CHRISTINE AGUILAR WILL BE MOVING FROM WISCONSIN AND UNABLE TO CONTINUE REPORTING ON THE MEETINGS.**

**PLEASE CONSIDER COVERING THE MANITOWOC COMMON COUNCIL MEETINGS! IF INTERESTED PLEASE LET ME KNOW. LINDA G.**

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

**12-5-2022**

#### Highlights:

- Had difficulty hearing due to problems with the City's sound system.
- Council members observed a moment of silence in memory of former Fire Chief and City Council member Ken Swade.
- State Representative Shae Sortwell presented a citation from the Wisconsin Assembly to Police Chief Brian Kohlmeier congratulating him on his upcoming retirement. Representative Sortwell also provided an update regarding a proposed change to shared revenue and announced he would hold a listening session at the Lester Public Library on 12/15 at 5:30 PM.
- The City Manager:
  - Reminded residents they need to remove snow and ice from sidewalks within 24 hours.
  - Shared the Wisconsin Public Service Foundation had donated \$10,000 to the Central Park West Project.
  - Announced the Fire Chief had resigned to accept a position in another community.
- The City Council:
  - Adopted the General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2023.
  - Adopted Budgets for Other Funds (Capital Projects Funds, Special Revenue Funds and Utility Funds) for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2023.
  - Adopted the Debt Service Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2023.
  - Adopted the Tax Levy for the Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2023.
  - After lengthy Council discussion and comments from the City Manager, Community Development Director and two business leaders, made the decision to keep funding levels unchanged from the previous year for Two Rivers Main Street. A meeting was scheduled for later in the week to further consider how to proceed.

- Adopted a resolution re-allocating revenues from the Environmental Fee to increase funds allocated to urban forestry and tree planting and reduce funds allocated to landfill maintenance.
- Adopted a resolution adjusting the Water Utility Tax Equivalent Payment.
- Adopted 2023 pay scales for non-union employees.
- Adopted a resolution declaring official intent to reimburse expenditures from proceeds of borrowing.
- Adopted a resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of up to \$1,397,610 Sewerage System Revenue Bonds.
- Authorized the turning off of street lights along downtown Washington Street from 6 to 10 PM on Christmas Eve.

Meeting time: 2 hours, 40 minutes

## **Two Rivers City Council Meeting**

**12-19-2022**

### Highlights:

- Council members reported citizen contacts both for and against additional restrictions on the use of golf carts on city streets and questioning when City Council meetings will return to cable TV.
- Retiring Police Chief Brian Kohlmeier and Assistant Police Chief/new Police Chief Ben Meinnert expressed thanks for their support from the community.
- The City Manager shared:
  - Two individuals have returned their nomination papers for the three vacant City Council seats in the April 2023 election – current Council member Adam Wachowski and Dean LaRose. Seven individuals have taken out paperwork which must be filed by December 23<sup>rd</sup> (for existing Council members) or January 3<sup>rd</sup> (for those not currently on Council). There will be a primary in February if more than six individuals file nomination papers.
  - Assistant Fire Chief David Murack will serve as the interim Chief given the current Fire Chief's acceptance of a position in Grand Chute.
  - The Central Park West 365 Project has achieved 96% of its fundraising goal. City staff have poured the footings for the new stage.
  - The West Foundation has awarded a \$50,000 competitive grant to the Lester Public Library Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Department for Story Walks at the library and Zander Park.
  - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has awarded a \$25,000 Forestry Grant to the City for tree inventory and training.
  - The Two Rivers Environmental Advisory Board will present a program on Green Infrastructure at 6 PM on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lester Public Library.
  - The City Council President reviewed progress made by the city in 2022 and plans for 2023.

- The City Council:
  - Approved the recommendation of the Assistant Police Chief to deny a requested waiver of Sex Offender Residency, after the appellant had the opportunity to speak to the Council on his behalf.
  - Adopted a resolution upon the retirement of Certified Meter Technician Dan Glaser.
  - Referred the issue of a possible Neshotah Beach parking fee for non-residents to city staff and the Advisory Recreation Board for review and recommendation.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 5 minutes

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

**12-13-2022**

### Highlights:

The Board read a resolution to have the 2023 school year start before Labor Day to accommodate the construction schedule. The Board also approved reducing the 2023 summer school schedule to 4 weeks because of the earlier start of the school year and any construction disruptions.

Several third graders came to the meeting to demonstrate the Motor Lab which is run by the district OT specialist. It consists of stations where kids perform different motor functions which helps them improve behavior and focus. It takes about 15 minutes and compensates somewhat for reduction in recess and other physical activity. Teachers can choose how often their class visits the motor lab.

The Board approved resolutions authorizing the sale of \$38,000,000 Bond Anticipation Notes and authorizing guidelines for their sale.

The Board approved district goals which are tied to the district's vision and mission. It includes a new absenteeism committee to work to reduce the rate of chronic absenteeism.

The Magee principal showed a video about how the new ELA curriculum is used in a kindergarten class.

## **Two Rivers School District Meeting**

### Highlights:

**No second meeting**

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

**\* There have been some questions about the legality of going into closed session to discuss the restructuring of the Administrative office. Closed sessions are limited to certain topics under the law and general staffing discussions aren't covered and should be in open session. Groups and individuals in Manitowoc are requesting open records, and have filed complaints with the DOJ and District Attorney's office regarding the legality of certain closed sessions.**

**12-8-2022**

Highlights:

**Public Input: None**

**Strategic Plan Update:**

Brett Norell gave an update to the board regarding the school district strategic planning. They held listening sessions in all 9 schools, reviewed survey results of the community, staff, and board and identified common areas of interest. The areas that they have identified as the top areas to focus on include:

- ✓ Student Success including mental health supports
- ✓ Student culture (responsible, caring, inclusive culture that is safe for all)
- ✓ Workforce Engagement
- ✓ Infrastructure and funding
- ✓ Stakeholder relationships

They now will be looking at how to move forward and align the board agenda to the plan.

**Success for All update:**

A group of teachers and administrators went to Stubenville Ohio to visit the school district to observe Success for All in their schools. SFA is a whole school reform model consisting of reading, writing, and classroom practices. A lot of student-to-student discussion rather than teacher directed. Students are in charge of their own learning. The group that went felt like it would be a good fit for our schools and didn't see any real discipline concerns. The Stubenville district has the same kind of diversity as Manitowoc, but doesn't have the same level of English Language Learners as we do. If we adopted this program, we would need to supplement the program to meet the needs of our ELL students and add a writing component.

There was a discussion regarding the need to address our failing test scores and getting buy-in from teachers, staff and parents. How do they balance urgency with buy-in? The cost is around \$.75 million for piloting in 2 schools or around \$1.5 million if implementing it district wide. SFA is a program that started in the 1970s and only being used in 2 charter schools in Milwaukee.

## **Manitowoc Public School District Meeting**

**12-22-2022**

### Highlights:

- ✓ The meeting started with a discussion of The Success For All program that may be instituted in the MPSD district wide or as a pilot program. The Board approved travel for 18-20 staff to visit SFA school districts in Ohio and Kansas. The program they were going to visit in Arizona has stopped using the program. They discussed looking into why they stopped using it in Arizona. Jim Feils said he would look into this and report back to the Board. Matt Phipps requested a cost analysis on the program before they approve this program. They voted to extend the deadline to February to decide on whether or not to implement the program.
- ✓ The Board voted to change the job title of the Secretary to the Board and Superintendent to Executive Assistant.
- ✓ A new clerical position was approved for an Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent to replace two clerical positions that were recently vacated. This would be a cost neutral change.
- ✓ The Board approved a new contract for the Interim Human Resources Director who is now willing to work full time. The contract is for \$522.92/day and the district will contribute \$2800/month for 8 months into a Health reimbursement arrangement.

The meeting adjourned after approximately 42 minutes.

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

**12-10-2022**

### Highlights:

REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS  
Exec Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Martell presented a Proclamation declaring January 2023 as Mentoring Month for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

PUBLIC INPUT: Gene Weyer read Judith Perlman's public input opposing the courthouse dome project and the proposed \$30 million bonding for the project. Michael Fredrich opposed the courthouse dome project. Maura Yost also opposes the proposed courthouse dome project and continues to advocate for a county-wide half-cent additional sales tax.

## APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

The Board unanimously approved the following appointments by Cty Exec Ziegelbauer: • Lori Fure, Human Services Director • Matthew Pawlowski to the Expo-Ice Center Board • Joe Jeanty to the Joint Dispatch Board • Deborah Brotcke and Charles Krueger to the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System Board of Trustees.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Park Commission: The Board approved Supervisor Falkowski's rezoning request for Casey Stangel. The commission acted upon several code ordinance violations. Board of Health: Supv Metzger reported that covid cases are down in the county to 11 per week. There have been 9 covid deaths since the last meeting.

Executive Committee: Chairperson Martell reported that the committee met jointly with Public Works Committee. The Special Advisory Committee for the courthouse dome project was not created. The resolution was sent back to Corp counsel to change some language and add citizen members.

Finance Committee: Supervisor Hansen reported that the committee voted unanimously in favor of the project to be discussed later in this meeting.

Highway Committee: Supervisor Gerroll reported 19 bridge petitions from various towns were approved.

Land Conservation Committee: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 2022/2023-45 Authorizing Surface Water Management Grant Application. The grant will allow hiring a summer intern to deal with pollution in the Pine Creek watershed.

Public Safety Committee: Supv Falkowski gave a report describing the operations of the Family Court System. The new Circuit Branch will allow cases to be heard sooner.

Public Works Committee: Supervisor Gerroll reported that pay requests had been approved for several projects. The bid from Valley Building Systems for the Expo Music Pavilion project was accepted.

Transportation Coordinating Committee: Supv Hacker reported that 3rd quarter ridership is up 16% over 2nd quarter and up 25% over 1st quarter. The committee approved increasing copayments for 2023.

Miscellaneous – Personnel Committee and Board of Health: The Board approved a resolution creating Public Health Technician 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent Position. The Public Health Technician will have additional responsibilities that will allow the department to start accepting Medicaid reimbursement. Funds from the currently vacant Public Health Nurse position will be reallocated to the new position.

Miscellaneous – Public Works Committee and Finance Committee: The Board unanimously approved Resolution 2022/2023-47 Approving the Purchase of the Lakeside Foods Corporate Office Building for \$800,000. Funds to come from the Human Services Special Revenue Fund.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm This County Board meeting is available for viewing at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOY9Sx4GjG8>

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

### **We Need a Volunteer to cover future meetings**

**THANK YOU, CHRISTINE** For covering the month of December! 😊

### **12-7-2022 Special Common Council Meeting**

Highlights:

**Call to order** by Mayor Justin Nickels at 5:15 PM, all present

**Public Input:** None

#### **Committee of the Whole:**

- **Approved** Review and potential approval of the First Amendment to Development Agreement between the City and Webster Family Holdings, LLC.
- **Approved** Review and potential approval to Option and Right of First Refusal between the City and Webster Family Holdings, LLC.

**ADJOURN:** At 5.21 pm.

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 Common Council Meeting**

**12-19-2022**

Highlights:

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

#### **Presentations:**

- City Clerk administers Oath of Office and Badge Pinning of Police Officer Alexia Zak.
- Lakeshore Holiday Parade Awards presented by Director of Tourism Courtney Hanson.

Holiday Spirit Awards: Wisconsin Aluminum Foundry, Manty Dance, Alliance Laundry Systems.

Judges Choice Awards: Chewy's Bar, Broadwind Heavy Fabrication, K-9 Perfection, 920 CBD, Just Orthodontics.

Best in Parade; Downtown Dance Company

**Public Hearing:** None

**Public Input:**

- Dawn Erdman expressed concerns about inappropriate reading material for young adults in the Manitowoc Public Library.
- Scott expressed concerns about age-inappropriate books for children in the Manitowoc Public Library.

**Appointments:**

- **Approved** Mayor makes the following appointment: Crime Prevention Committee - Haelee Bauer.

**Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda was approved.

**Committee of the Whole:** None

**Finance Committee:**

- **Adopted** Resolution establishing Compensation of Election Poll workers for 2023.
- **Approved** CHASE (TIKR HOLDINGS LLC) Claim (1035 S 10th St) sewer backup/broken sewer lateral \$19,634.60.
- **Adopted** Resolution approving the 2023 Tourism Fee Schedule

**Personnel Committee:**

- **Approved** Agreement with City of Manitowoc Transit Employees, Teamsters Local No.662 for 2023-2025.
- **Adopted** Resolution to revise the job title from Zoo Maintenance Education and Animal Care (Part-time) to Zookeeper (Full-time).
- **Adopted** Resolution to revise and reprice the Community Service Worker to Community Service Worker Supervisor/Fleet Maintenance.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve revisions to the Employee Policy Manual – December, 2022.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the Seasonal Hiring Policy and Pay rates for 2023.
- **Adopted** Resolution to Revise and Reprice Multiple Job Descriptions: Cemetery Team Leader, Arborist-Forester, and Park Team Leader; and to approve the New Senior DPI Laborer Job Description.

**Public Infrastructure Committee:**

- **Adopted** Resolution for 2023 Dust Palliatives.
- **Adopted** Resolution for 2023 Sidewalk Program.
- **Adopted** Resolution for 2023 Sealcoating.



- **Adopted** Resolution for 2023 Street Improvements.
- **Adopted** Resolution for Non-Ornamental Lighting - S 39th Street Extension.
- **Approved** The Manitowoc Lutheran High School Federation, Inc.; Quit Claim Deed for a 1.89-acre parcel of land at the intersection of Waldo Boulevard and North Rapids Road.

**Public Safety Committee:** None

**Plan Commission:**

- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the final subdivision plat for Creekwood Estates.

**Other Business:** None

**Adjourn:** At 6:59 pm.

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

**12/8/2022**

Highlights:

**Present**

Board Members Present: Agnew, Bruns, Naidl, Ruggirello Board Members Excused: Baumann, Burke, Brey, Klein, Shimulunas Board Members Absent: County Board Members Present: None County Staff Present: Fure, Huss, Kubec, Randolph, Dodge, Ziegelbauer

**Education Topic**

This was Patricia Dodge's last meeting as she is retiring. She talked about the changes she has seen over her years of service. Technology has been integrated into the practice. Approaches to serving families have changed. In the past, many youth were placed in detention. That is not the case anymore. Also, emphasis is on providing assistance to keep children safe in their parental home. Services are also more tailored to the specific family's needs. In the next year, a staff person will work specifically to locate family members both in and out-of-state who may be willing and able to take a relative's child when out-of-home care is needed.

Changes to the State administrative code makes getting mental health services easier to get. The change combines mental health and substance abuse so a doctor does not have to sign-off on every service. This helps with harm reduction, which helps people move slowly to recovery. Patricia's job will be taken over internally by Jessica Huss, who will do the business side and Lori Fure, who will do the practice end.

**Services Outlook**

There is an increase in people applying for BadgerCare. Some have never applied before. The covid safety net is still in place so that people cannot be cut off. Energy assistance is down from

last year at this time. There was a slight increase in cases sent to Mendota and Winnebago mental health facilities.

### **New Office Facility**

The County put a bid in for the old library, now owned by Lakeside Packing Co. This would allow Human Services to move the CCS unit there and to put in a Crisis Center. There are 37 offices and the large atrium. The price is reasonable. The County Board will vote on it.

### **Staffing**

Currently, there are seven open positions and 17 more coming up next year. Salaries are low compared to the private sector.

The meeting ended at 5:15. The next meeting is January 26, 2023 at 4:15.

*Submitted by Suzanne Zipperer*

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

**Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**12-2022 No Report**

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**Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**12-2022 No Report**