

## **LWV Observer Corps Report July 2021**

### **\*Denotes things to watch for in the future:**

There is going to be a rally in support of the MPSD board and their diversity strategies prior to the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:00 on the Lincoln High School grounds. The meeting of the school board is going to follow that rally in the Lincoln High School auditorium at 7:00.

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

**7-6-2021**

Highlights:

- Council members reported citizen contacts regarding dogs on the beach, support for golf carts, and concern about visibility at the intersection of 24<sup>th</sup> and Forest Avenue.
- The City Manager reported:
  - US Senator Baldwin is pursuing an appropriation for Two River's harbor deficiency problems.
  - The federal designation of the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary extends from Port Washington to Two Rivers.
  - Eagle Scouts have completed the pergola with picnic tables on the Mariner Trail.
  - Two Rivers received \$577,822.76 from the American Rescue Plan on June 28<sup>th</sup>. County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer has proposed using the ARP money the county receives to assist county cities and villages with lead water lateral replacement, using a 50/50 split match with local ARP dollars. Two Rivers has approximately 2000 laterals left to replace at a cost of \$20 million.
  - The League of Municipalities is asking the Governor to veto Senate Bill 119 "Mandating Maintenance of Effort on Public Safety Spending". While the bill is intended to discourage defunding the police, it takes away local control.
  - The City has placed the former Eggers East Plant property for sale.
- The City Council:
  - Approved an amendment to the Beer Garden ordinance to allow amplified sound or music until 10 pm during summer months (previously this had been 9 pm).
  - Approved a noise ordinance waiver request until 11:30 pm for Rogers Street Days.
  - Tabled a resolution regarding the Housing Rehabilitation Program which would include the purchase of low-cost homes in poor repair (using HUD funding) for the purpose of rehabilitation. Council members observed some of these homes should be torn down rather than repaired, did not want the city competing with private entities purchasing homes, and expressed concern these homes would be purchased by absentee landlords.
  - Referred County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer's proposal for use of American Rescue Plan funds (see City Manager's report) to the Council's Public Utilities Committee.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 34 minutes

**7-19-2021**

Highlights:

- Council members reported citizen contacts regarding: a desire to see a demonstration with the police dog (once it was acquired); potential financial assistance to the private Two Rivers Family Swim Club; high water and sanitary sewer back-up on 25<sup>th</sup> Street following the July 14<sup>th</sup> rain deluge; and drivers disregarding the stop sign on 45<sup>th</sup> and Parkway.
- A representative from American Legion Post 165 shared information regarding the August 4<sup>th</sup> 7 pm flag retirement ceremony at the Neshotah Park ball diamond, and Two Rivers drop-off locations for proper flag disposal (including containers at City Hall and Pick and Save).
- The City Manager:
  - Congratulated everyone involved with July 10<sup>th</sup>'s Bryan Lee Day, noting the great turnout, and the possibility this could become an annual event.
  - Reviewed the local impact of the 5-7 inches of rain received on July 14<sup>th</sup> – water damage to some residences and businesses, and overflow from the water treatment plant into the river and Lake Michigan.
  - Noted the Police Department has raised 38% of needed funds for the K-9 Program.
  - Provided updates on new playground equipment at Riverside and Neshotah Parks (the Neshotah zipline should be installed in the next week or so).
  - Shared that the shortage of microchips has impacted the availability of vehicles through the Leasing Program – the city has received nine vehicles and hope to receive three more, but nine have been cancelled by the manufacturer.
  - Lester Public Library reports during June 2021 11% of materials were distributed through the library's new drive-up window.
- The City Council:
  - Adopted resolutions:
    - Recognizing Eagle Scout candidates Colman Slattery and Joaquin Guynes for their community contribution of constructing a pergola with furnishings along the Mariner Trail.
    - Recognizing Water and Light Department Office Manager Kay Nooker upon her retirement.
    - Supporting the rehabilitation of the former Paragon property, including direct developer grants as well as infrastructure.
    - Supporting the redevelopment of the former Hanson the Florist property into multi-family market-rate housing (44 units).
  - Amended the Municipal Code related to Lost and Abandoned Property to include electronic auction and sales through social media (in addition to physical auctions) and expanded the Code to allow other Departments (beyond the Police Department) to sell property.
  - Granted the request of the WI Heat to waive the Noise Ordinance until 11 pm for July 23-24.
  - Approved the City Manager's appointments of Pamela Stephens and Kim Graves to the Committee on Aging.
  - Scheduled a public hearing for a permit to operate a commercial kennel at 3310 45<sup>th</sup> Street.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 32 minutes

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

**7-12-2021**

**Highlights:**

- The Board interviewed 3 candidates to fill an unexpired term on the board and voted to elect Jennifer Hendrickson. She will need to run for a full-term next April.
- One of the companies bidding on the high school roof repair gave a summary of their bid. They said the roof was 20 years old and poorly installed, but can be repaired in increments.
- Esports is really growing at the high school and the team advisor would like to create more space for more kids to participate and to hold tournaments.
- The superintendent expects there to be 4 kindergarten sections at Magee and 3 to 4 at Koenig.
- There was discussion about ways to increase safety in the schools such as controlling access to buildings and replacing security cameras. The Board voted to replace the cameras at Koenig, Magee and the high school.

**7-26-2021**

**Highlights:**

**No Report**

**Manitowoc County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting  
Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery  
No July Meeting**

**Manitowoc County CJCC Meeting, No July meeting, Next meeting 9-1-2021**

**Manitowoc County CJCC Executive Committee Meeting  
Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

**No July Meeting**

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

**7-13-2021 (591 views)**

### Highlights:

\*The meeting started at 7:00 with public input. The majority of speakers were people speaking against Critical Race Theory in the schools and pushing the “educate don’t indoctrinate” theme. One speaker said that he was calling for all the school board members and the superintendent to resign. One person spoke trying to clarify what CRT is and how it’s an upper-level law course and not something that would be taught in the K-12 schools. Another person spoke in favor of continuing to require all children to wear masks when school begins again in the fall. There was also a faculty member who spoke in favor of continuing the LAP (Lincoln Alternative Program). At the end of the public input session the Anti CRT group got very disruptive and the board president had to ask them several times to be quiet and show respect to the board or they would be asked to leave. **There is going to be a rally in support of the board and their diversity strategies prior to the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting at 6:00 on the Lincoln High School grounds. The meeting of the school board is going to follow that rally in the Lincoln High School auditorium at 7:00.**

- Personnel committee met to discuss the addition of .6 FTE being added to the current .4 position in the personnel office to assist the Human Resources Director. They also discussed annual evaluation process for the superintendent. He hasn’t had an evaluation in several years. They will be using an evaluation process that includes feedback from the board through the use of a survey. There was discussion regarding whether or not the board needs to approve the increase in the position in the personnel office and where the money will come from to pay for that position.
- A discussion was held regarding DPI requiring the school district to come up with a plan to address the concern regarding the disproportionate number of minority children being labeled Emotionally Behaviorally Disturbed. The district needs to come up with a plan reduce those numbers. A board member asked what would happen if we just didn’t do a plan and they were told they would risk losing funding. The next action plan is due in October. The superintendent said that equity is providing opportunities for all kids and it shouldn’t be controversial.
- The Lincoln Alternative Program (LAP) is down to 8 students so the decision was made to move those students to McKinley Academy for next year.
- School board member Collin Braunel questioned whether or not the district should allow on-site vaccination clinics in the schools and stated his lack of support. Superintendent Holzman stated that they are providing the location but the rules and protocols are being set by the Manitowoc County Health Department.

**7-27-21 No Meeting, Next Meeting August 10th**

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

**7-20-2021**

Highlights:

PUBLIC INPUT:

- As at every County Board meeting so far attended by this observer, Maura Jost, Town of Centerville, spoke in favor of implementing a half cent sales tax because it would be more fiscally conservative compared to the yearly borrowing.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

- Aging & Disability Resource Center: Wendy Hutter appointed as Director. Approved unanimously.
- Northeast Wisconsin Regional Economic Partnership: Appointed Elizabeth Runge to a one-year term. Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Aging & Disability Board: Supervisor Wagner thanked outgoing director Kathy Lee.
- Expo-Ice Center Board: Fairest of the Fair applications due by Aug. 1. Ice Center contracts have been signed for next year.
- Finance Committee: Supervisor Hansen reported that the committee approved an extra \$170,000 for the city hall restroom renovations, to be taken out of undesignated funds. The original budget was set up before Covid; costs of materials have skyrocketed since then.
- Highway Committee: Supervisor Behnke reported that the committee is discussing an ordinance regarding ATV/UTV use on county roads. Neighboring counties don't really have ordinances. Public input is requested.
- Human Services Board: Supervisor Henrickson reported on the energy assistance program which provides a one-time heating and electric benefit per season. Can be applied for on line. A public hearing will be held on 8/26 at 4 p.m. to get input on the 2021-22 Human Services budget.
- Land Conservation Committee/UW-Extension Education and Agriculture Committee: Supervisor Wagner reported that the UW Extension office has been relocated to the UWGBManitowoc campus.
- Planning and Park Commission: Supervisor Dyzak made three motions to amend zoning maps to allow construction of single-family homes on land previously zoned for agriculture. The lands are in the Town of Manitowoc, Town of Rockland, and Town of Cooperstown. All approved unanimously.
- Public Works Committee: Supervisor Gerroll reported discussion and review of capital projects including the courthouse restrooms, jail project, and communications division projects.

- Misc.-Public Works and Finance Committees: Unanimously authorized commitment of \$170,000 of undesignated fund balance to the Courthouse Bathroom Remodeling, because costs have risen by 30% since the original budget.
- Miscellaneous: Unanimous approval of amending the Town of Newton Zoning Map to change a parcel from R2 to A2.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

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

**7-19-2021**

Highlights:

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

### **Presentations**

Oath of office and badge pinning for Police Officer Alicia (Ali) Marie Hansen.

### **Public Hearings:**

- Public Hearing for the propose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of proposed changes to Chapter 15: Amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance 15.790, Sections (1), (5) and (7) relating to Downtown Design Review Overlay District. This is to add the possibility of issuing citations and clean up language. No public comment.
- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of proposed changes to Chapter 15: Amendment to the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance to Create Section 15.460 related to Murals and Public Art. This is tied to the approval of the new sign ordinance and issues a public art permit no cost process. No public comment.

**Public input:** No public input.

**Consent Agenda:** Consent agenda was approved with one removal.

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

- **Accepted** and placed on file Report of Special Events Committee recommending approval for the following events subject to Council action: Summer Bash on 7/10/2021 (Closure of Buffalo St. from N 8th St. to The Crossings driveway); 9/11 Remembrance & Dedication of the Mourning Sun on 9/11/2021 (Street closure on S. 9th St. from Jaycee St. to Grand Ave. Access from Lates on S 9th St. & to Red Arrow Park will be closed); Sputnikfest and Art Run/Walk on 9/11/2021 (Street closures of Park St. from N 7th St. to N 9th St. & N 8th St. from State St. to St. Clair St. & no parking on one side of N 9th St. from State St. to St. Clair St.); Lakeshore Pride on 6/4/2022 (Waiver of ordinance prohibiting alcohol in Washington Park; request to serve fermented beverages on City

property until 11:59 p.m.; Closure of S 11th St. from Washington St. to Marshall St.; Waiver of noise ordinance until 11:59 p.m.)

**Finance Committee:**

- **Approved** Ordinance to Create Section 15.460 of the MMC related to Murals. Alderman Brey said it was a good thing that this ordinance was created and gave credit to the Community Development Office and City Attorney Office.
- **Adopted** Resolution Creating the City of Manitowoc Revolving Loan Fund Program and Policy. Alderman Brey said this is to take place of Community Bloc Development Grant Funds. An aldermanic representative was added to this resolution. Alderman Sitkiewitz said this is a great benefit and thanks those who facilitated the grant.
- **Adopted** CAWG recommendation to fund \$23,725.00 for the replacement of Truck #74 Box.

**Personnel Committee:** No business to present.

**Public Infrastructure Committee:**

- **Approved** Request to Terminate Sidewalk Privilege Agreement for 1503 S 16th Street.
- **Approved** Request to Adopt the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, recommending approval and revisiting annually and with any street changes. Alderman Brunner is not in favor of routing bicycle traffic through downtown off of main streets and proposes an amendment to prefer routing on 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington Street. He believes it will not add to making Manitowoc a more bicycle friendly community. Alderman Brey supports the amendment. Alderman Sitkiewitz asked a clarifying question.
- **Approved** to place on file Request from Harbor Commission to allocate \$100,000 into the 2022 budget to address Harbor and Manitowoc River Improvements. Alderman Czekala says it is an important to implement this plan to welcome recreational boaters. Alderman Sitkiewitz agrees this is important.
- **Approved** Agreement with WisCorps, Inc. to build trail at Camp Vits Park (AGMT-21-14)
- **Approved** Agreement for Temporary Access to 205 N 8th Street for Site Restoration
- **Approved** Water Utility Easement Agreement with Sack Realty, LLC
- **Approved** Utility Easement Agreement with 205 N 8th, LLC.

**Public Safety Committee:** No business at this time.

**Plan Commission:**

- **Approved** Connection Church; Request for a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to 15.110(3) a for the establishment of a Church and Gym/Community Center located at 1455 N Rapids Road. Alderman Reckelberg said he would like the church to choose option B. Alderman Brey said the pastor said the board of directors have agreed to option B to move the facility closer to their current building. Alderman Schlei wants to thank the pastor for being cooperative. Alderman Sitkiewitz thanked the pastor and neighbors for agreeing to compromise. Alderman Czekala thanks the pastor and neighbors for inviting him to their meeting and for the fact they came together.

- **Adopted** Ordinance to Amend 15.790, Sections (1), (5) and (7) related to Downtown Design Review Overlay District.

**Other Business:**

No other business

**Adjourn:** at 7 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.