

LWV Observer Corps Report May 2023

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

**** After consultation with my crack reporting team we have decided to take the summer off from reporting. We will start monitoring our meetings in September with our report coming out again in October. Happy Summer Everyone!!!**

Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski

5-1-2023

Highlights:

- A citizen addressed the Council to voice his opposition to the removal of the baseball diamond at Neshotah Park and his support for ATVs and UTVs in the city.
- Council members were contacted by one citizen concerned about consideration of a fee for parking at Neshotah Beach and another citizen concerned about the election of Council members “at large” as only one of eight Council members was from the south side of the city.
- The City Manager shared that fundraising for the Central Park West 365 Project had surpassed the initial goal by \$10,000 and the Project was on-target for completion by mid-June; and re-construction of Lincoln Street would be completed by late August.
- The City Council:
 - Approved the Consent Agenda, including a Class “B” License from the Casa Guadalupe Education Center for the Latino American Beach Festival, July 14-15.
 - Approved the City Manager’s Appointments to Citizen Boards, Committees and Commissions; and his designation of Police Chief Ben Meinnert as Acting City Manager in his absence.
 - As required by State statute, declared the Herald Times Reporter as the official newspaper of the City of Two Rivers.
 - Adopted an ordinance to amend “Licensing and Keeping of Chickens and Ducks” in the Municipal Code to establish a requirement for property inspection.
 - Adopted resolutions naming May 13th as International Migratory Bird Day and designating the pavilion building in Central Park West as the James Taddy Memorial Pavilion.
 - Adopted proclamations of National Drinking Water Week for May 7-13 and Professional Municipal Clerks Week for April 30-May 6.
 - Authorized the City Manager to contract for City Hall HVAC Control System improvements with Schaus Mechanical of Manitowoc based on a proposed cost of \$306,839.

Meeting time: 1 hours, 35 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

5-15-2023

Highlights:

- The Council observed a moment of silence in observance of Peace Officers Memorial Day.
- During a Public Hearing, one citizen spoke in opposition to a change in the Municipal Code to prohibit the creation of new drive-through establishments on properties fronting Washington Street between the West Twin River and 21st Street (for safety and aesthetic reasons). After much discussion the Council decided to send the proposal back to the Planning Commission.
- Invited Guest, VFW Post representative Pamela Stephens, announced that 2023 Poppy Sales would occur May 24-29 in Two Rivers.
- The City Manager provided various updates, including the resurfacing of Zlatnik Drive and the re-opening of the city park restrooms. He also noted the Republican-led Assembly had proposed AB-245 which would result in an increase in shared revenues (the first in two decades) for local governments and a 12.5% increase for the City of Two Rivers. However, there are strings attached to this increase (including a prohibition on local governments from putting advisory referendum on their ballots) leading Governor Evers to announce his intention to veto the bill.
- The City Council:
 - Adopted resolutions declaring May 15-21 as Emergency Medical Services Week, and expressing appreciation for members of city committees, commissions and boards who ended their service during the past year.
 - Adopted proclamations naming May 14-20 as Police Week and May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and May 21-27 as National Public Works Week.
 - Adopted a new ordinance, “Licensing of Commercial Quadricycles (Pedal Pubs)” and amended the “Fees” section of the Municipal Code to create a procedure for licensing and charging fees for pedal pubs.
 - Adopted the Neshotah Park Master Plan, as presented by Parks and Recreation Director Mike Mathis, which affirmed the location of the new playground on the former ballfield.
 - Authorized City Hall and other departments to be closed on Monday July 3rd as employees take personal or unpaid leave.

- Adopted an amendment to the Personnel Policy Manual regarding retiree health insurance.
- Eliminated “No Parking” restrictions for spaces on the west side of Madison Street between 12th and 14th streets upon recommendation of the Public Works Committee.
- Authorized the City Manager to sign an Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement between the Two Rivers and Manitowoc Fire Departments.

Meeting time: 2 hours, 50 minutes

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

5-8-2023

Highlights:

Students from the Lighthouse Academy and their teachers came to highlight some of the successful students in the program. One girl who had few credits as a sophomore and was thinking of dropping out, is now graduating and going to LTC.

Several students also came from the Youth Apprenticeship program. Three boys had positions at local industries and were either hoping to be hired after graduation or were planning to attend LTC. Two girls were employed at health care centers as caregivers. That seems to be the trend in placements by gender.

Open Enrollment numbers are going well for the district. So far 84 students are planning to come in and 22 are leaving.

Eight teachers are retiring at the end of the school year.

The Board approved an additional Special Education Teacher at Magee School due to the increase in students with special needs at the school.

Ms. Quistdorf, the former superintendent, continues to take all 4th grade classes to the Spirit of the Rivers statue for a class on local Native American history.

Two Rivers School District Meeting

5-22-2023

Highlights:

Three more Youth Apprenticeship students came to describe their experiences. Again, the two girls were placed in nursing home settings and the boy was learning tool and dye at a local industry. He will have a full-time job there after graduation and hopes to start an apprenticeship program.

Plans are starting for the referendum money. A bid has been accepted for new playground equipment at the two elementary schools. The Facilities Committee is working with local law enforcement re safety and security needs at the middle school and starting to pick out remodeling materials.

The Board approved the annual purchase of Chromebooks, 365 for the district. Middle School students will not be allowed to take them home anymore. They will be housed in cabinets in each room which were also approved for purchase. In addition, they approved a new server for \$67,000 to be installed this summer as well as staff laptops and projectors.

The Wit and Wisdom ELA curriculum which has been piloted in the middle school was approved. This continues the curriculum used in the elementary schools. There is a new policy that new textbooks be available in the district office for review prior to purchase. Surprisingly, there was little interest in the calculus textbooks so they were approved.

A Community and Engagement Coordinator has been hired.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting Observer Summary- Linda Gratz

5-9-2023

Highlights:

Public Input:

One student raised questions about reverse discrimination and claims of inequality when it comes to white students. He was concerned that we have Black History month and why we don't have White History month. He then questioned why scholarships are given based on targeted minority groups. He said that just leads to inequality for white students who can't access these resources.

One person voiced concerns over the scheduling of fewer electives in the middle schools next year. Instead of having the opportunity to take 3 electives that were available this year there will only be 2 opportunities. This will affect foreign languages, theater, music, art, and health. The scheduling in middle school will also affect the scheduling in the high school. She also was concerned that if they try to do more electives by instituting a zero-hour, students would need to arrive at school between 6:30-6:45.

A person thanked Collin and Kathy for their service to the school district. He also said that he would be watching carefully how the board spends the referendum money and that they should spend it wisely.

Another person questioned what policies the district has in place when it comes to transgender students and bathrooms and locker rooms. She also questioned how strictly these policies were enforced. She praised the new curriculum that will go in effect next year.

The final input was informational with the person informing the public about services that are available to families who need financial and medical support. Information is available at www.lakeshorechc.org

The Consent agenda passed with no discussion. The personnel report was given with board members voicing their appreciation for the employees who have reached 40 plus years of service with the district.

Board member Able asked what procedure was used to interview for new district principals. At Lincoln it included 8 site-based faculty who were involved in the interviews. Micha Hoffman, former Lincoln music teacher, was hired to replace Lee Thennes who will take a new position at the central office.

The Strategic Plan is moving forward and they are working to find a national assessment for monitoring student progress. They are conducting student and parent satisfaction surveys and will follow up with staff surveys as well.

The CESA 7 representative position was discussed and board member and President Stacey Soeldner volunteered to go so that the district could be more involved with the CESA Board.

A 4.5% wage increase for administrators and all staff for the 2023-24 school year was recommended. A discussion followed regarding why these two groups are lumped together when the salary ranges are so different. He was informed that they will be looking at salaries across the board to see if they are in range with other community employers. A motion to vote on these two groups separately failed and the original motion passed

A motion to recommend a change in clerical wage structure so that people can move to the top of the range more quickly passed.

Meeting was 1 hour and 34 minutes.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

5-23-2023

Highlights:

Consent agenda approved with no discussion.

As a result of the Title 1 audit the school board discussed revisions to the policy on family engagement.

New business:

- The district is going to be using a new testing program to monitor and progress and assist in informed instruction. The new program is FastBridge and can be used K-12 including the needs of children with special needs. The program monitors progress by testing 3 times during the year. FastBridge will be monitored to make sure it is rigorous enough and if not, they could use STAR. Professional development will be provided to help staff learn how to use and monitor the testing tool. Approved unanimously.
- Middle School science curriculum was introduced for approval. The curriculum is free and high quality. Some school board members stated that controversial issues need to follow the district policy regarding controversial issues in the classroom. Board member Vlastelica stated his concern regarding Covid information and climate change. He feels that the climate change information needs to include both sides of the issue. Board member Phipps stated that transparency is needed in our teaching of the curriculum. Hansen stated that subjects need to be addressed and discussed and then the students can decide for themselves. The board was assured that anything in the curriculum that is controversial will be identified and staff will be referred to the controversial issues policy.
- The district is facing a \$50,000 increase in workers compensation costs for 2023-24 based on the average claims over the last 4 years. Our district has been dropped by our current insurer because of our high number of claims, and are hoping to find a new carrier soon. The claims are high because of some factors that are controllable and others that are not. We need to do a better job regarding controlling dangerous student behaviors, prompt reporting, and preventable accidents.

Meeting adjourned 7:19.

Manitowoc County Board Meeting Observer Summary- JoEllen Gramling

4-18-2023 (Thank You Jo Ellen for submitting the April report after being on vacation)



Highlights:

Early start time 5:00 p.m.

REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICES, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS
County Exec Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Martell presented a Proclamation Proclaiming the Month of May as Foster Care Month to Foster Care Coordinator Karen Zahn and the Foster Care Team. Manitowoc County has 134 children in foster care, in 54 foster families.

PUBLIC INPUT: Maura Yost expressed the opinion that how the \$30 million dome project would be funded should be decided before committing to the project, and advocated for a half-cent sales tax.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE The Board approved unanimously County Exec Ziegelbauer's appointment of Korina Aghmar to the Local Emergency Planning Committee to succeed Stephanie Lambert for the remainder of the term expiring December 2023.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Park Commission Supervisor Falkowski moved to adopt: 1. Resolution 2023/2024-1 Authorizing Application for and Acceptance of Farmland Preservation Program Planning Grant 2. Ordinance 2023/2024-2 Amending Zoning Map (Lance and Holly Dederling) 3. Ordinance 2023/2024-3 Amending Zoning Map (Jayme and Stephanie Hetland) 4. Ordinance 2023/2024-4 Amending Manitowoc County Code § 13.37(7) (Private Sewage Systems Violations) All were approved unanimously by the Board.

Aging and Disability Board: Supervisor Wagner reported that the Manitowoc County office filled 4 positions: INA specialist, receptionist, outreach coordinator and nutrition coordinator. An increased number of businesses have been trained to be dementia-friendly.

Board of Health Supv Metzger reported that covid cases continue to decline. Tests will be available through June.

Expo-Ice Center Board: Supv Sitkiewitz reported continued county fair planning. There will be no increase in beer and soda prices. The youth hockey program has experienced increased attendance.

Finance Committee: Supv Hansen gave the report. The Board unanimously approved Resolution 2023/2024-5 Authorizing Fund Balance Designations, Carry-Over, Transfers, and Reappropriation of Specified Funds from 2022 to 2023. This is done every year. The Board unanimously approved adopt Resolution 2023/2024-6 denying the claim of Donna Diaz who fell on County property. Standard procedure is to deny this sort of claim, after which it will be handled by the insurance company.

Personnel Committee: Supervisor Metzger reported that a clinical services manager was hired. She also reported on a couple of programs designed for hard-to-fill positions.

Public Safety Committee: Supv Falkowski reported some statistics from the D.A.'s office. In the year 2000, 427 felonies were filed in the county. In 2021, the number was 1,000 and in 2022 it was 931. The current year is on pace to be a record. These numbers are driven by drug arrests along with increases in cyber-crime.

Public Works Committee: Supervisor Gerroll reported that the committee had instituted a 50% discount on shredded leaf mulch for Compost Awareness Week. He also reported a payment of

\$1212,788 to Hammond Construction for the Courthouse Branch 4 remodeling project. Miscellaneous: The Board approved unanimously Resolution 2023/2024-7 Authorizing Reallocation of Human Services Department 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent Position (CCS Rehabilitation Specialist to Clinical Division Deputy Director). Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Supv Hansen requested a report at the next meeting of the processes going on with the Courthouse Dome Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm This County Board meeting is available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjX-jwAa4vA>

5-16-2023

Highlights:

PLEASE NOTE: I'm sick of typing "unanimously" so from about the middle of this report on I'll just say "the Board approved" and I'll note if it's not unanimous.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE The Board unanimously approved Exec Ziegelbauer's appointments to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Kristy Schmidt was appointed to succeed Chad Bennin; Robert Wenger, (Alternate Audrey Reese) were reappointed; and Kevin Klosinski to fill a vacancy, all for two-year terms expiring June 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Park Commission Supervisor Falkowski gave a brief report. The Board unanimously approved Ordinance 2023/2024-8 amending the zoning map for Signature Enterprises LLC in the Town of Liberty. The Board unanimously approved amendment of Chapter 8 of the Manitowoc County General Zoning and Land Use Regulation Ordinance to allow single family homes and private garages as a permitted use in the NA, Natural Area zoned district.

Aging and Disability Board: Supervisor Wagner gave a brief report.

Expo-Ice Center Board: Supervisor Sitkiewitz gave a brief report.

Finance Committee: Supv Hansen gave the report. The Board unanimously approved Resolution 2023/2024-11 Authorizing BEAD Local Planning Grant Participation. (The federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs) The Board also approved authorizing General Fund Balance Transfers and approving Wilke Lake Pier Extension.

Per County Clerk's minutes:

Highway Committee: Supervisor Behnke gave a brief report.

Human Services Board: Supervisor Brey gave a brief report.

Personnel Committee: Supervisor Metzger gave a brief report.

Public Safety Committee: Supervisor Falkowski gave a brief report.

Public Works Committee: Supervisor Gerroll gave a brief report.

Personnel Committee and Human Services Board The Board approved a resolution authorizing reallocation of Human Services Department 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent Position (CCS Services Facilitator to CCS Administrative Support Specialist)

ANNOUNCEMENTS Chairperson Martell provided a report regarding the Ad Hoc Courthouse Dome Advisory Committee. [Since no detail or Martell's report was provided in the County Board minutes, the following is taken from the minutes of the Dome Advisory Committee meeting on April 26, 2023: Scope of Work: The committee discussed in detail each element of the following sections of work: Interior dome, exterior windows and HVAC system. Bidding Process & Selection of Architectural/Engineering Firm(s): The committee discussed options for bidding the project. Motion to Bid the Exterior & Interior Domes project(s) separately from the Exterior Windows and HVAC Systems projects, to issue a Request for Proposals for architectural and engineering services for the Dome(s) projects and interview firms before one is chosen, and to work with local architectural and engineering firms familiar with the courthouse and negotiate professional services on the Exterior Windows and HVAC projects. Discussion. Motion carried with all members voting Aye and Phipps voting Nay.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm Video of the May County Board meeting had no audio

Manitowoc Common Council Meeting Observer Summary- Darian Kaderabek

4-2023

Highlights:

5-15-2023

The Common Council, comprised of 10 Alderpersons, meets every 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall. This meeting is open to the public and has public input allowed at every meeting.

- **Presentations**

- Oath of Office was administered and badge pinning for 3 members of our Fire/Rescue Department. **Congratulations!**
 - Firefighter/Paramedic Seth Loberger
 - Firefighter/Paramedic Ben Molnar
 - Firefighter/Paramedic Tyler Tews
- **Proclamations**
 - Proclamation declaring the month of May 2023 as Building Safety Month(*attached*)
 - Proclamation declaring May 15th - 21st, 2023 as National Police Week and May 15th, 2023 as Peace Officers' Memorial Day (*attached*)
- **2023 State of the City Address:**
 - You can watch here (around 23 minutes into the meeting): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q18BFY0iU30>
- **Items that were approved by the Common Council**
 - Resolution to create a Department of Tourism within the City of Manitowoc's organizational structure
 - This is only clarifying that the department is a department of the city
 - MANY people showed up to provide public input regarding this matter - asking the council not to vote yes with this. This passed 7-3, with Alders Kaderabek, Vanderkin, and Reckelberg. This was controversial because 30% of the Room Tax dollars are being transferred to the general fund to continue to support Visit Manitowoc.
 - Request from Girl Scout Troop 8209 for a little "Beach Library" at Red Arrow.
- **Items the Common Council will be considering for the next meeting**
 - The Personnel Committee will begin discussing some potential changes to the non-rep pay plan as was presented in the 2023 Budget last year
 - 5 year in position bump to midpoint (which would then be called 5 year rate)
 - 10 year bonus payment for longevity

You can find this meeting, along with any other public meeting here: <https://manitowoc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

All documents the council considers are attached within the agenda of each meeting. Videos of the meetings are typically available the next day.

The next regularly scheduled Common Council meeting is **Monday, June 19th, 2023 at 6:30pm** in the Common Council Chambers in City Hall.

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

5-2023

Highlights: