

LWV Observer Corps Report November 2021

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

Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski

11-1-2021

Highlights:

- The Council welcomed Larry Thomas, who was selected by the Council to fill a vacant seat until the April 2022 election.
- The Council approved three conditional use permits for a property located at 2005 Hawthorne Avenue - for use as an Auto & Transmission Service, for construction of a self-storage building (behind the auto service building), and for parking for Green Acres Landscaping lawn care and snow removal vehicles.
- One Council member reported a couple of citizen contacts regarding concerns about the safety of 5G towers.
- The Vice President of WPPI Energy (a consortium of 50 municipalities including Two Rivers) provided an update, noting rates have been stable and competitive and service has been reliable. He shared efforts made to reduce the carbon footprint and noted that natural gas costs are twice as high as last year.
- The Police Chief introduced his department's new Canine Handler, Andrew Lade, and announced the Department has reached its goal in raising money for the new K-9 program. It is planned the dog will be trained and "on the road" by February 2022.
- The City Manager provided an overview of the proposed 2022 budget, which includes a 3% raise for union (police and fire) employees and a 2% raise for non-union employees. There will be no rate change for utilities. The proposed budget will result in an additional \$31.56 in taxes on a \$100,000 property.
- The City Council:
 - Authorized a Public Hearing on the proposed 2022 budget for November 29th at 6 PM.
 - Adopted a new ordinance, entitled "Wireless Communications Facilities in the Right-of-Way", intended to facilitate the roll-out of 5G services.
 - Authorized the issuance and sale of up to \$1,119,173 in Sewage System Revenue Bonds.
 - Authorized the purchase of a replacement snow blower for the Public Works Department.
 - Accepted the resignation of one Council member to enable the new Council member to remain on the Library Board (of which he is President).
 - Discussed winter parking regulation. Two Rivers currently has a prohibition on street parking from 1:30 AM to 6 PM from December 1st to March 15th. The city limited enforcement of the ban last winter, and the Council agreed this should continue this winter.

Meeting time: 2 hours, 47 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting 11-15-2021

Highlights:

- A citizen asked why the city's two polling places will be in churches rather than public buildings and whether there is a cost to the city to use these facilities. The City Manager explained that schools are no longer available as polling places and the churches are ADA accessible and provide large indoor spaces and large parking lots. While the city has offered churches compensation for cleaning, they have not accepted thus far.
- The City Manager reported the sale of land in the Woodland Industrial Park to Sleger Holdings, LLC for a new facility, and the sale of personal property (for \$30,000) from the foreclosed former Schwarz Pub & Grill. It is hoped the 54-unit West River Lofts apartment project will begin construction in early 2022.
- The City Manager reported a meeting with representatives from the Corps of Engineers at which the City shared its concerns regarding harbor surge and shoaling, and the condition of the concrete on the north pier. It is hoped the federal infrastructure bill will include funding for a harbor design efficiency study.
- Nomination papers for City Council candidates in the April 2022 election will be available starting December 1, 2021.
- The City Council:
 - Set a public hearing regarding a request to annex a parcel in the 4100 block of Riverview Drive.
 - Approved the City Manager's recommended appointments to the Library Board and the Advisory Recreation Board.
 - Adopted a resolution ordering a special election to elect a Council Member for a two-year term to be held concurrently with the April 2022 election.
 - Authorized the City Manager to sign a letter of agreement for CliftonLarsonAllen LLP (CLA) to provide financial report preparation and auditing services for a three-year period.
 - Approved the final design concept for Central Park West, to include a new bandstand, a water feature, a central pavilion with public restrooms and an ice ribbon with artificial ice.

Meeting time: 1 hour, 6 minutes

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

11-8-2021

Highlights:

Superintendent Diane Johnson asked me to introduce myself and explain the Observer Corp.

The Food Service Director gave a presentation on free lunch and breakfast that will be served to all students until June, 2022. Approximately 600 students eat free breakfast, and 950 eat free lunch. They are having difficulty getting supplies and have to substitute menu items. They have a grant to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students at Koenig School.

The SRO police officer gave a presentation. Each school has their own police officer with Koenig and Magee sharing an officer. He and the other officers have been completing active shooter drills at all the schools.

Due to increased covid activity, masks are now mandated for at least this week and next.

A committee will be working on a survey to be given community stakeholders, parents etc. in February of next year. Only 25% of the population have children in the school system.

The special education department director gave a presentation on goals for students with IEPs. 265 students in the district have IEPs. Goals are to have these kids in regular classrooms at least 80% of the school day. This includes special ed teachers working with their students in the regular classroom rather than pulling them out. Another goal is to increase these students' participation in sports and other school activities. Currently there is a special ed teacher opening along with several paraprofessional job openings.

There will be a Veterans Day Celebration on November 11th at the high school which will include a breakfast and ceremony.

**Two Rivers School District Meeting
11-22-2021**

Highlights:

Cross Country team members were present and honored for their great season.

Architects went over their facility assessment report. There are different options, but would require a referendum. There have only been 2 referendums in the last 20 years.

The Athletics Director asked if basketball players could be excused from wearing masks as none of the other sports teams in their conference wear masks to play. A board member made a

motion to make mask wearing optional henceforth for the district regardless of the metrics around the number of cases. The motion passed with 2 dissenting.

L B Clarke principal talked about the school's Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support plan. Positive student activity is acknowledged at morning announcements. etc. Each child has an advisor who will be with him or her for their 4 years at Clarke.

The High School Principal talked about all the preparation the school offers for the ACT test.

The Superintendent talked about the School Report Card and how Covid effected student learning and scores. She pointed out that the tests used to complete the report card were taken during Covid.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting Observer Summary- Linda Gratz

11-9-2021

Highlights:

- The first approximately 45 minutes consisted of public input. People stated that they were against masks and others supported masks. One citizen reprimanded the 2 school board members who refuse to wear masks at the meetings. Some people spoke in opposition to diversity training and equity issues, while one person praised the school district for their stance on equity and diversity. Some parents expressed that they feel it's important to get parental input into the curriculum, and they sometimes don't feel like they are being listened to.
- The Superintendent's evaluation process was discussed. The board members will complete a survey, the Personnel Committee will review the surveys and summarize them and share with the board, and then the evaluation will be completed and reviewed with the Superintendent in January.
- The board continued to discuss the middle school teachers and what classes they may have to teach in the future because of lower enrollment numbers. The district administration stressed the need for flexibility regarding district staffing needs.
- There was also discussion around whether or not we should make some changes to the exit interview process to encourage more participation and less guarded responses. Currently about 50 % of the teachers complete the exit interviews.
- The Curriculum Coordinators gave an over view of the State School Report Cards using a sample report. * The district should be receiving their report card in the next couple of weeks.
- The Covid testing site at the McKinley location is up and running.

- Parent/ Student engagement surveys have been sent out.
- The Curriculum Committee proposed ending the IB program because of low enrollment, and the availability of AP classes, and the Rising Phoenix program. Motion passed to end the program.
- The Covid Protocol committee has added 4 community members and they have been looking at protocols and instructional needs of students who are quarantined.

Meeting adjourned after 2 hours and 7 minutes. Next meeting 11/23/21 at noon.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

11-23-21

Highlights:

Meeting was called to order at 12:00.

- A board member asked how a new employee's start date can happen before the board approves the candidate. The answer was that sometimes the timing is such that the person needs to start before the official approval and that they are considered a substitute until the board approval is made.
- The recently received school report cards were discussed. The board was reminded that the data needs to be looked at in relationship to the pandemic. The board was also advised to look at the growth and positives as well as the total numbers. This meeting looked at the district results as a whole. The December meeting will look at individual school data and their related goals. The report that was discussed can be found on the MPSD website under the board agenda for November 23rd meeting. 46.6% of the students are economically disadvantaged and 16.7% are students with disabilities.
 - Achievement Score: the district scored the same or higher than 16.8% of districts in the state.
 - Growth Score: the district scored the same or higher than 20% of districts in the state.
 - Target Group (this area examines outcomes for students with the lowest test scores): the district score was the same or higher than 4.8% of districts in the state.
 - On-track to Graduate: the district score was the same or higher than 5% of districts in the state.

This information was discussed with some board members asking why our numbers look so bad compared with other districts in the state, some remaining quiet, and others voicing the opinion that there isn't much that they can do as a board to improve these results. One of the main responsibilities of a school board is to set goals and improve

student learning. According to the Wisconsin Association of School Boards “effective school boards establish a clear vision with high expectations for quality teaching and learning that support strong student outcomes. They establish clear and specific goals to move districts forward.”

- The issue regarding requiring middle school teachers to become licensed in two subjects was discussed again. Several of the board members thought that long term teachers should be exempt from this requirement, but it was pointed out that if enrollment decreases that might mean that they would lose their jobs.
- The board voted to hire School Perceptions for one year to conduct the district’s exit interviews and then re-evaluate at the end of that time.
- All proposed new courses except for one passed unanimously. The course America the Beautiful a musical passed 5 to 2.

Next meeting will be December 14th at 7:00/

Manitowoc County Board Meeting Observer Summary- JoEllen Gramling

11-2-2021

Highlights:

REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

County Exec Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Brey presented a Proclamation Declaring Manitowoc County America Recycles Day 2021

PUBLIC INPUT:

Maura Yost, Town of Centerville, commented on certain items within the 2022 budget. She continues to advocate for a .5% sales tax with the revenue to replace county borrowing.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

Chairperson Brey presented County Executive Ziegelbauer’s re-appointment of:

- Shirley Fessler to the Aging & Disability Board:
- Jeremy Hawig, Mike Plate, Rob Voss, and Russell Zipperer to the Expo-Ice Center Board:
- Judy Ruggirello to the Human Services Board:
- Jamie Aulik, (Alternate Robert Hennings Jr), Jessica Backus, Stephanie Lambert, (Alternate Jessica Wanserski), and Jerry Wendt to the Local Emergency Planning Committee: and
- Todd Hoffman to the Veterans Service Commission. All were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: Chairperson Brey gave a brief report. Supervisor Gerroll moved, seconded by Supervisor Engelbrecht to enact Ordinance 2021/2022-40 Amending Manitowoc County Code Section 1.03(4) (County Supervisor Districts). No discussion on the motion. Upon vote, the motion carried with 21 ayes and 2 noes. Supervisor Martell and Muench voted no. Chairperson Brey commended County Clerk Jessica Backus and Corp Counsel Peter Conrad on the excellent job they did on the revised supervisory districts.

Finance committee: The 2021/2022 budget as presented by Cty Exec Ziegelbauer was amended to cap maximum vacation days for county employees at 27 days. Motion to amend carried by a vote of 20 yes, 3 no (Baumann, Metzger, Shimulunas voted no). The budget as amended was passed unanimously. The Board commended Cty Exec Ziegelbauer on the fine budget he presented, particularly the sharing of ARPA funds with every town, village and city in the county – funds to be used by cost sharing for lead pipe replacement.

Human Services Board: Brief report regarding youth justice system.

Personnel Committee: Business Analyst position is open.

Planning & Park Commission: Contract were approved with 9 snowmobile clubs to maintain county trails. Variance request for Robert Jacques was approved. The Commission approved continued equestrian use of the Devil's River Trail. The Board unanimously denied a zoning amendment petition for Michael Chalupny, and unanimously approved the zoning amendment for Daniel Kleinhans.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm

Manitowoc Common Council Meeting Observer Summary- Christine Aguilar

11-15-2021

Highlights:

Call to order by Mayor Justin Nickels at 6:35 PM, all present.

Public Hearings:

- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any citizen or taxpayer on the proposed budget for the upcoming year. No public input.
- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed change in zone from R-1 Residential-Agricultural District to R-4 Single and Two-Family District for property located on South 15th Street. No public input.
- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed change in zone from I-2 Heavy Industrial to R-6 Multiple Family for the

southerly 275 feet of Block 246 of the Original Plat (Parcel ID: 052-000-246-000.00).
No public input.

Public input:

- Conner re non-ash trees in Camp-Vits Park. He objects to removal of non-diseased trees and thinks only diseased trees should be removed.
- Dave, E Crescent Drive visited Camp Vits park and was concerned about the removal of trees that are not diseased and the damage that would be done by the removal equipment for large old growth trees.
- John works at Recycling Center and is opposed to harvesting non-ash species from Camp Vits. Old growth forest is rare in Wisconsin. Camp Vits is only one of three areas in Manitowoc County. He thinks the removal of trees should be more conservation minded. Dead wood in forests provides nutrients. He thinks removal should be limited to safety concerns.
- Tony, North 13th Street, wants the Council to consider unrest and illegal immigration and take the threat seriously. He wants to encourage the Council to reaffirm constitutional rights that he emailed to them.
- Forest talked about the Bill of Rights which protects American freedom. She thinks Manitowoc looks weak for not ratifying a constitutional resolution. She thinks a powerful central government is dangerous.
- Name unclear supports the constitutional resolution of Manitowoc County and thinks Manitowoc should support it too.
- Andy, coordinator for Lincoln Park Zoological Society, spoke on behalf of the Zoo budget and encourages its support.
- Nancy says that 38 100 year old oak trees should not be cut down. She wants a resolution that does not result in the destruction of these trees.
- Roy is against the cutting down of the old oak trees and will gladly put in money to save these trees.
- Mr. Tittl said wants to leave Camp Vits as a state natural area. He says the diseased ash trees should be cut down but the rest should be left alone. He recommends the ash trees can be cut down by loggers and the trees left for citizens to cut firewood.

Appointments and Business Presented by the Mayor:

- **Approved** appointments of Barb Schmidt to Crime Prevention Committee and Kim Novak to the Transit Commission.

Consent Agenda: There were no removals. The consent agenda was approved.

Committee of the Whole:

- **Approved** Report of the Special Events Committee recommending approval of the following event subject to Council action: Metro Jam on 6/17-6/18/22 (waiver of rules prohibiting alcohol in the park).
- **Adopted** Resolution establishing policies, procedures, and fees related to City owned parking lots.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend Section 15.510 of the Municipal Code regulating Limited Time Parking in City Parking Lots.

- **Approved** Transfer of the Waste Water Treatment Facility to Manitowoc Public Utilities.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend Chapter 31 of the MMC regulating signs to allow for larger Monument Signs.

Finance Committee:

It was moved by Alderman Brey and seconded by Alderman Sitkiewitz to move to closed session for discussion of water damage claims. Motion carried by nine votes.

- **Denied** Koehler Claim for substantial water damage from heavy rain storm at 1305 South 31st Street. The following comments apply to this claim and the majority of the following claims. Alderman Sitkiewitz thanked Council and Finance Committee for consideration of the issues. He will not be able to approve these claims. Alderman Czekala wanted all Aldermen to look the people in the eye when they vote. Mayor Nickel said paying claims where the city is not at fault will set a poor precedent. Alderman Bruner said paying the claims would cause long term issues and the city cannot set a precedent. Alderman Cummings said agreeing to pay these claims would be too great for the city. Alderman Brey is disappointed and will vote to approve the claim. 5-5 vote Mayor Nickels casts vote with no, denying the claim. . Brey, Beeman, Schlei, Boldt and Czekala voted yes.
- **Denied** Bridgeview Bar Claim for sewer backup/basement flooding from heavy rain storm at 2 Maritime Drive.
- **Denied** Wierman Claim for basement flooding from heavy rain storm at 1622 South 23rd Street.
- **Denied** HER Claim (1620 South 23rd Street) Basement flooding from heavy rain storm flooding \$35,658.00.
- **Denied** GATES Claim (1618 South 23rd Street) Basement flooding from heavy rain storm flooding \$8,947.88.
- **Approved** Hungerford Claim, 4547 Andrea Court, Basement flooding from heavy rain storm flooding. This claim was not from the same storm as the other. Property storm drain was not installed or caught on inspection.
- **Denied** Cherney Claim for flooding from heavy rain storm at 1610 Holly Drive.
- **Adopted** 2022 Executive Budget. Seven Aldermen commented primarily about items not included in the budget and also commented about the need to use funds, especially reserve funds, to resurface Washington Street. A motion was made and seconded to not use reserve funds to repair Washington Street. Motion failed 4-6. Alderman Reckelberg proposed an amendment to use his refiguration of the budget by reducing capital outlay and personnel requests by moving start dates to July, 2022, instead of January, 2022. Motion failed 8-2. Budget adopted 8-2.
- **Approved** Letters of interest to purchase a portion of the property located at 1512 Washington Street.
- **Adopted** Resolution to hold Primary Election on February 15, 2022, if there are three or more candidates who file nomination papers for a city office at the April 5, 2022, Spring Election.

Personnel Committee:

- **Adopted** 2022-2024 Agreement with International Association of Firefighters, Local 368, AFL-CIO.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve revised Social Media Policy.

- **Adopted** Resolution to approve a Staff Engineer Position and new job description.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve a \$1,000 sign-on bonus to newly hired part-time Transit Drivers effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. This was increased from the previous \$500.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the addition of a full-time Transit Utility Driver Position and the new job description.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve four additional DPI Laborer Positions - one in the Parks Division and three in the Streets Division.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve revised and reclassified job description of Lead Inspector to Inspector Supervisor.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve additional Police Detective Position.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve proposed three Tourism Department job descriptions. Carried 8-2.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve the addition of a Human Resources Assistant position and new Job Description.

Public Infrastructure Committee:

- **Adopted** Resolution for 2022 Department of Public Infrastructure Fees.
- **Approved** Final Camp Vits Logging Plan Review. Motion amended to include staff instructed to find funding to remove only the infected ash trees, preferably private funding, this year. Carried.
- **Adopted** Resolution to install and maintain one non-ornamental, 50 Watt, LED open-bottom style, street light between 631 S. 25th St. and 2415 Western Ave.
- **Approved** Temporary Access Easement Agreement at 1320 Dueno Street for South 14th Street Lift Station Improvements.
- **Approved** Permanent Easement at 1320 Dueno Street for South 14th Street Lift Station Improvements.

Public Safety Committee: No items.

Plan Commission:

- **Approved sale** Schwalbe; Request to Purchase City-Owned Property, Corner of Cleveland Avenue and Maritime Drive.
- **Adopted** Resolution to create Ward Number 37, population two (2), for the S. 15th St. #2 Annexation Area, and that Ward 37 be combined with the 31st Ward for voting purposes and uses a common polling place as established for the 7th Aldermanic District.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to annex territory (South 15th St. #2) from Town of Manitowoc as part of the 7th Aldermanic District and the 37th Ward of the City.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to rezone property south of Viebahn St. and east of South 15th St. from R-1 Residential-Agricultural District to R-4 Single & Two-Family District.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to rezone Block 246 of the Original Plat from I-2 Heavy Industrial to R-6 Multiple Family - Residential District.

OTHER BUSINESS:

ADJOURN: At 9:04 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 County Human Services Board Monthly Meeting
Observer Summary- Nancy Slattery**

No November Report

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

11-15-2021

Highlights:

Meeting called to order at 12:15 by zoom video.

Attending: DA LaBre, Judge Rohrer, Kevin Mueller, and Attorney Ann Larson. Excused: Lynn Zigmunt. Others in attendance: Patricia Koppa, Don Sweet, Supervisor Falkowski and Nancy Slattery. Minutes of the October 18, 2021, meeting approved unanimously.

Don Sweet updated his plans to get more referrals to treatment court by allowing more agencies to be involved. First gathering of alumni will be Dec 4. Jason Latva is hoping to be a part of this alumni stage also.

The possibility of beginning in treatment court while still in “inpatient treatment” is being discussed.

CJCC bylaws and approval of any possible changes were discussed. No separate approval of changes to CJCC was found. Attorney Conrad has advised Judge Rohrer and Pat Koppa that, while not strictly required, it would be advisable that if any amendments are now made, they be approved by the County Board as such and/or if no amendments, then just have the current bylaws approved. Mr. Mueller asked that this be held for the Jan 2021 meeting when a larger review and consideration could begin after the election of officers.

Next CJCC meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2022 with an EX CJCC held prior to that on Dec 20, 2021 at 12:15 pm Meeting concluded at 12:26 PM.

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

Date 11-13-2021

Highlights:

Members Present: Supervisor James Falkowski, Sheriff Dan Hartwig, District Attorney Jacalyn LaBre (Vice-Chair), Attorney Ann Larson, Kevin Mueller, County Executive Bob Ziegelbauer and Clerk of Court Lynn Zigmunt. Excused/Absent: Patricia Dodge, Phil Hoff, Chief Brian Kohlmeier, Judge Mark Rohrer (Chair), Cindy Oswald, Chief Paul Granger. Other attendees: Patricia Koppa, Don Sweet, Darlene Wellner, Nancy Slattery

Meeting began at 5:04 with approval of the 9/1/2021 CJCC meeting notes.

Don Sweet shared a bit of personal background and gave a Power point listing statistics of the 4 years' experience of drug court where he is the new full time Treatment Alternative/Diversion Coordinator.

Statistics over 4 years: 13 terminations -- Currently 40 days wait time to get into court –Each level takes 60-90 days to complete—52 sanctions given—73 relapses---4 healthy babies born to moms in court---If in jail **each person would cost the county **\$105.87 per day**.**

Housing is the largest hurdle to overcome in order to serve more individuals When Marco Manner closed, it gifted its buildings to the Lighthouse which are used for sober living (not permanent living) for some of the treatment court members. The first graduate of Drug Treatment court is a member of the Chamber of Commerce's Future 15 this year. Congratulations were expressed all around.

The numbers continue to show that participants are not re-offending or failing to appear. A full 4-year compilation of stats is available from Don Sweet.

The officer elections and reappointments are due January 2022 though no names mentioned. **“Will be contacting citizen member, the local bar association and the county board chair as appropriate”** was reported in the official minutes.

Next CJCC Committee meeting date is January 5, 2022 at 4:45 pm again at the Technology Building. The **Jail Visitation and Programing center** according to Sheriff Hartwig could be ready and possibly a tour could be available. The Executive CJCC Committee will continue to meet by ZOOM on November 15 and again on and December 20. Adjourned at 5:30 p.m.