

LWV Observer Corps Report September 2022

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

Two Rivers City Council Meeting Observer Summary- Sue Matczynski

9-6-2022

Highlights:

- There were no comments at the required Public Hearing for the COVID Community Development Block Grant for the completed Drive Thru Window at the Senior Center.
- Council members reported numerous complaints from citizens about the increased cost of utility bills (which the City Manager explained was due to unexpected outages at two plants, the higher price of natural gas and increased consumption due to warm humid weather); criticism of the City for signing a 40-year agreement with energy provider WPPI; questions as to whether the City needed a retail license to sell merchandise in city buildings (no) and the direction of traffic at Neshotah Beach; criticism of police response time to a traffic accident and the City Manager's posture during the ATV/UTV public hearing; and thanks/kudos for the installation of yield signs at a dangerous intersection, the decision to fund streaming of City Council meetings on cable TV, and the professional patching of streets by city crews.
- The City Manager shared:
 - The Central Park West Project achieved 86% of its fundraising goal.
 - The City painted and installed the City's logo on the restroom building at the Spirit of the Rivers wayside.
 - There are still grants available for lead lateral replacements.
 - The City Attorney reviewed the video of the June 6th meeting and determined there were "no ethical or legal concerns" related to a verbal exchange between the City Council President and the Police Chief.
 - The final tally of public comments received by the City regarding the ATV/UTV public hearing were 238 opposed, 19 in favor and 5 in favor with restrictions.
 - The draft 2020 Two Rivers Comprehensive Plan is available for public review and comment at the City's website.
- The City Council:
 - Adopted a resolution authorizing application for a cost- share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource for the purpose of funding urban and community forestry projects (for tree removal and planting).
 - Adopted an ordinance designating Municode as publisher of the Municipal Code of the City of Two Rivers, Wisconsin.
 - After considerable discussion, adopted (by a 6-3 vote) resolutions creating Tax Incremental District No. 17 and approving the project plan for that District. The plan is to build affordable multi-family residential housing at the site of the former Mirro/Eggers plant along the West Twin River (currently a blighted property which is valued at \$109,000). Proponents noted there is a need for modern affordable housing

for the city's families, and opponents expressed belief the city could find more profitable uses for that property.

- Authorized the City Manager and City Clerk to sign a contractual agreement between Kellnersville and Two Rivers Fire Department for emergency medical services. Two Rivers has provided EMS services for Kellnersville since 2017 (after it lost its ambulance service) and the agreement will bring \$7600 revenue to the City.
- Discussed the status of City branding and marketing activities. Currently the City Manager's Assistant is handling the sales of merchandise but the plan is to have this responsibility assumed by the City Tourism entity.

Meeting time: 2 hours and 25 minutes

Two Rivers City Council Meeting

9-20-2022

Highlights:

- A citizen spoke about the need for the Council to address rising utility costs, noting her bill had increased 74% in the last three months.
- Council members reported contacts from citizens regarding the increase in their utility bills, problems with bicycles, complaints about pressure to sign petitions, and a question as to whether individuals can "farm" in the city.
- Representatives from Shoreline Credit Union presented a check in support of the Central Park West 365 Project.
- New Senior Center employees were introduced – the Program and Events Coordinator and the Volunteer and Nutrition Coordinator.
- A representative from Clifton Larson Anderson did a presentation of the 2021 Audited Financial Statements, noting the General Fund had increased displaying monitoring of the budget.
- The City Manager shared:
 - The Central Park West 365 Project achieved 87.5% of its fundraising goal.
 - There will be a Coast Guard Open House on Saturday September 24th.
 - The public can provide input on Two Rivers Comprehensive Plan Update on September 26th at 5:30 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
 - Congratulated Two Rivers Police Detective Lieutenant Melissa Wiesner for graduating from the FBI Academy.
 - Acknowledged that while utility bills have increased in Two Rivers, they remain comparable to communities like Two Rivers.
- The City Council:
 - Authorized the issuance and sale of Water System Revenue Bonds and approved a related Financial Assistance Agreement for the 17th Street water main replacement.
 - Awarded a contract to Northeast Asphalt for the resurfacing of Washington Park Tennis Courts, to be re-purposed as one Tennis Court and six Pickleball Courts.

- Approved two-way traffic on the 1000 block of School Street for the 14th Annual Waygoose at the Hamilton Wood Type and Printing Museum from November 4-6, 2022.

Meeting time: 1 hour and 35 minutes

Two Rivers School District Meeting Observer Summary- Mary Wallace

9-13-2022

Highlights:

New teachers from the elementary schools and the high school were introduced to the board. Teachers from the middle school will be introduced at the next board meeting. Among the new hires were two high school math teachers and several special ed teachers, one of whom came from the Manitowoc School District.

A tentative 2022 -2023 budget was approved because it is supposed to be printed in the newspaper. The business manager went over the grants that the district gets , the state of the fund balance (\$5,000,000) and the fact that the tax levy will go down a little this year.

Two more large donations were made to the Angel Fund which is administered as children need items by the school social worker.

The purchase of 100 more chromebooks was approved after much discussion re why they are needed.

The elementary principal reported on the beginning of school activities and invited the board members who have chosen to be connected with their buildings to all activities.

Staff is continuing to hold meetings with community groups re the referendum which will be on the ballot this fall.

Two Rivers School District Meeting 9-27-2022

Highlights:

The 12 new staff members at L B Clarke School were introduced to the board.

The Lighthouse academy staff presented their program, which started to support home schooling parents. It has grown into a program servicing 216 students, most of whom are out of the district. It now focuses on helping students who don't do well in a regular school setting. The staff, which consists of 3 teachers, encourages some kind of blended program. This could include taking some classes, work apprenticeship programs or community involvement.

Two students had a lemonade stand this summer and donated \$300 to L B Clarke for the band program.

The high school Esports program has expanded to over 30 students who compete against students at over 75 schools in the fall, winter and spring.

The Board members reported on their attendance at school functions. Each one is assigned to a school.

The superintendent reported on efforts to educate the community ahead of the \$35 million referendum that will be on the ballot in November.

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting Observer Summary- Linda Gratz

9-13-2022 No Report (Meeting is available on You Tube at the district website under the Board of Education link)

Manitowoc Public School District Meeting

9-27-2022

Highlights:

Personnel Report: Katherine Eichmann was named to the position of Director of Pupil Services.

The Superintendent reported that he attended the Safety Committee meeting and was very impressed with what the District has in place.

Policy 9150 regarding visitors to the schools was approved and included information on when and how school board members are allowed access to school buildings. They can enter all schools Monday thru Friday from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm, but must wear their name tags and check into the office. They need to get approval from teachers to enter classrooms during instructional time. If they do not follow the protocols the board may take away their fobs. They can use their fobs to enter the administrative building at any time if they have a meeting to attend. There was also some discussion regarding sex offenders and parent involvement in the schools. I didn't see this in the agenda items so I'm not sure what the concern was that had been brought up during the discussion.

Brett Norell gave a preliminary update to the Board based on 181 responses received so far from the community assessment. One significant concern was the ability of the district to attract and retain quality teachers, staff, and administrators. The community can still participate in the survey by going to the school district website by October 7th at 5:00 pm. Listening sessions will be scheduled in October and November.

Two travel requests were approved: one was for the baseball team to travel to a camp in Florida in March and the other was for the Opera/Vocal Music Group to travel to NYC in October.

The district submitted their Disproportionality Plan to DPI. This is the fourth year that the district has been required to submit an improvement plan to DPI based on the high number of children who identify as black being labeled with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities. Our risk ratio in this area was originally 3.36 and has gone down to 2.5 and the acceptable ratio is listed as 2.

A discussion took place regarding hiring a company to evaluate district needs regarding capital improvement projects and coming up with a long-term plan to address those needs. The company is Nexus out of Milwaukee and discussion focused on the legal contract and what the district would be required to commit to in the future based on the plan. It was decided to table the discussion until we could have our lawyer look at the contract and address the concerns brought up by the Board.

The long-term capital improvement investment plan was approved to be sent to the state.

The School Forest Board Walk grant was approved, which will access money from the DNR to help pay for a board walk to be built over the next two summers at the school forest.

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour 50 minutes.

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

9-21-2022

Highlights:

REPORTS OF COUNTY SUPERVISORS, OFFICERS, AND DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS
County Exec Ziegelbauer and Chairperson Martell presented a Proclamations: • Commemorating

the Life and Service of Supervisor Jack Richard Nasep; • Honoring 4-H Week; • Declaring October 2022 Crime Prevention Month.

PUBLIC INPUT: Maura Yost, Town of Centerville, continues to advocate for a half-cent additional sales tax. The County Board approved the additional sales tax in 2019 but this was vetoed by Cty Exec Ziegelbauer. Ms Yost also questioned whether renovation of the courthouse is a good idea.

APPOINTMENTS BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE: County Executive Ziegelbauer's appointment of Don Weiss to the Manitowoc-Calumet Library System Board of Trustees for a three-year term expiring September 2025 was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Park Commission: • Supervisor Falkowski moved, seconded by Supervisor Zimmer to adopt Ordinance 2022/2023- 27 Amending Zoning Map for William Schisel and Niccole Holmes who wish to start a U-Haul business in the Town of Manitowoc Rapids. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously. • Variance requests were approved for Robert and Donna Johnston of the Town of Liberty and for the Wayne Luebke Trust in the Town of Cooperstown. • Supervisor Falkowski also encouraged taking advantage of the county park system while the weather is cooperating.

Board of Health: • Supervisor Metzger reported that covid cases have stayed steady; Manitowoc is at a low community level. Hospitalizations and deaths from covid have risen from the previous month. Booster shots are available at the Health Dept on Fridays from 10 to 4.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee: • Supervisor Falkowski reported that the Drug Court currently has 15 participants with one termination scheduled and one new admission interview scheduled. Two agencies are handing out Narcan when appropriate. ARPA funds disbursement is going well. Budget process has begun; expect increases, especially health insurance, wages. The Committee is looking for thoughts/ideas on the courthouse project.

Highway Committee: • Supervisor Behnke reported that the Committee spend a lot of time discussing instability related to the Shoto Dam.If the (privately-owned) bank of the dam breaks away, it could result in very costly damage to the Cty. Hwy. B bridge.

Human Service Board: • Supervisor Brey reported that at the annual public hearing, the subject of a mental health court for Manitowoc County. This would be similar to the successful drug court now in operation. A deficit of \$446,000 is projected for 2022, mostly due to more children being placed in high-cost residential care facilities. The state suffers from a shortage of residential treatment centers.

Personnel Committee: • Supervisor Maresh reported that a correctional officer who had resigned was rehired at the same pay rate but will start over regarding benefits, vacation, etc. The county's performance management policy is: "no surprises" at performance review time.

Public Safety Commission: • Supervisor Falkowski reported that the Commission had received a briefing from the County Coroner. Manitowoc County averages about 800 deaths per year; the coroner is involved in about 320 of them, as required by various circumstances. The suicide rate in the county is going down but drug deaths remain very high.

Public Works Committee: • Supervisor Sitkiewitz reported that recycling totals are the same as last year. A pay request for \$45,524 from Hammond Construction for the Courthouse Branch 4 remodeling was approved. Information regarding bidding on the Courthouse Dome and Facilities remodeling project is available on the County web site. County fair attendance was an all-time high; sponsorships were also at an all-time high. A pay request for \$21,882 from Greenwood Project Management for the ADA accessible restroom project in the courthouse was approved. The annual Dept of Corrections inspection noted no deficiencies in the jail facility.

Transportation Coordinating Committee: • Supervisor Hacker reported that in 2022 bus ridership is up 31% over 2021. Announcements: • Chairperson Martell announced the next two County Board meetings will be October 11- County Executive's Budget Presentation, and October 31- Annual Meeting and Public Hearing.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm The County Board meeting is available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt1s5ctRDh4>

Manitowoc Common Council Meeting Observer Summary- Christine Aguilar

Manitowoc Common Council

9-6-2022 Special Meeting

Highlights:

Call to order by Mayor Justin Nickels at 5:00 PM, all present

Public Input: None

Finance Committee:

- **Approved** Procurement policy for expenditure of Federal Funds.
- **Approved to enter into the agreement** ARPA agreement with Manitowoc County.

Public Infrastructure Committee:

- **Approved to enter into the agreements** Municipal water agreements with various property owners.

OTHER BUSINESS: None

ADJOURN: At 5:33 pm.

9-19-2022

Highlights:

Manitowoc Common Council Meeting September 19, 2022
Observer Summary – Christine Aguilar

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

Presentations:

- City Clerk administers Oath of Office and Badge Pinning of Officer Casey Clarksen.
- Proclamation declaring the Month of October 2022 as Crime Prevention Month presented to Sergeant Krock.
- Proclamation declaring the week of October 2 - 8, 2022 as Mental Illness Awareness Week presented to Sue Shaw Vice President of NAMI.

Public Hearing:

- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed Conditional Use Permit for the establishment of a Transitional Housing Warming Shelter located at 502 N. 8th Street.
Matt Sauer, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church and Peace United Church of Christ.
Everyone that is homeless has a unique story. This will provide a place of compassion that will provide a safe, warm, non-judgmental facility for the homeless to get out of the cold.
Dawn read a letter from the executive director of the Haven men's homeless shelter in support.
Donna Ferman, board president of NAMI and board president of Suicide Prevention of Manitowoc County spoke to advocate for people with mental health issues who are homeless.
- 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 to I-1 Light Industrial for property located at 4009 Viebahn Street. No public input.
- Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of the proposed change to Chapter 15 related to Setback from Major Streets. No public input.

Public Input:

- Michael received a pandemic response protocols by email and said it violates Federal law, regarding employees that may be sent home if ill. He encourages the city attorney to make sure the document does not violate Federal statutes. He encourages due diligence.

Consent Agenda: Item 22-20756 was removed. Consent agenda was approved as revised.

Committee of the Whole:

- **Adopted** Resolution in Recognition of Curt Witynski and Gail Sumi of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.
- **Approved** Report of Special Events Committee recommending approval for the following events subject to Council action: Hoods and Hops Classic Car Show on 10/09/2022 (Road closure on 10/9/2022 for 9th St. From York St to Chicago St.); Turkey Trot on 11/24/2022 (Road closure approval of several roads. See event application.); Homecoming Parade and Tailgate on 09/30/2022 (Road closure of Grand Avenue from S 9th St to S 21st St.); Residential Block Party -800 Block of N 13th St. on 10/15/2022 (Street closure on N 13th St in front of 825 N 13th St.)

Finance Committee:

- **Approved** Request for Amendment to Manitowoc Tool & Manufacturing LLC Development Agreement recommending to approve the amendment to the agreement and to include a possible amendment for the pond.

Personnel Committee:

- **Refer Back to Personnel Committee** USI Presentation of Health Care Plan Recommendations for 2023.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve revised Pandemic Revised Protocols Policy Employee Policy Manual.
- **Adopted** Resolution to approve pay outs to Wastewater Treatment Facility Employees of their old sick leave banks.
- **Adopted** Ordinance to set the Mayoral Salary at Grade Q Market Rate of the Employee Policy Manual for the 2025-2028 four-year term.

Public Infrastructure Committee:

- **Approved** Hecker Road and Viebahn Street Utility, Stormwater and Street Design Proposal.

Public Safety Committee:

- **Adopted** Ordinance to amend section 10.750 of the MMC regulating heavy traffic routes.

Plan Commission:

- **Approved** Manitowoc Cooperative Ministry, First Presbyterian Church; Conditional Use Permit for establishment of a Transitional Housing Warming Shelter; 502 N. 8th Street.
- **Approved** Seehafer Broadcasting Corporation; Request to Rezone Property from R-1 Residential - Agricultural to I-1 Light Industrial located at 4009 Viebahn Street.
- **Approved** Amendment to Zoning Code Chapter 15.390(14) Setbacks from Major Streets.
- **Accepted** JAI Petroleum and Investments, LLC; Quit Claim Deed for N. Rapids Road.
- **Accepted** JAI Petroleum and Investments, LLC; Quit Claim Deed for Plank Road.

Other Business: None

Adjourn: At 7:28 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- Suzanne Zipperer**

9/25/2022 No Report

Highlights:

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

9-2022

Highlights: **No Report**

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

9-7-2022 No Report