



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN
COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

December 9, 2025

Mayor Toland called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

City Council Members Present: Todd Bjerstedt, Jeff Bjork, Sean Downing, Scott Morrissette, Diane Odeen

City Council Members Absent: Nick Carow

Staff Present: City Administrator Scot Simpson; Community Services Director/City Clerk Amy White; City Attorney Chris Gierhart (via Webex); Police Chief Gordon Young; Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Community Development Director Amy Peterson; Parks and Conservation Manager Brooks Ostendorf Public Works Manager Erica Ellefson; Public Works Supervisor Charles Larson; Public Works Maintenance Nate Herum; IT Specialist Jonathan Thoen

The pledge of allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

November 11, 2025 joint meeting minutes and November 25, 2025 regular meeting minutes

MSC Downing/Odeen to approve the minutes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

MSC Morrissette/Page moved to approve the bills. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT, PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Melissa 'Mei Mei' Abdouch – Abdouch spoke about her concerns with downtown snow removal and asked for a review of the process.

Public Works Manager Erica Ellefson and Public Works Supervisor Charles Larson provided a presentation on snow and ice control. Ellefson further provided information on alternate side parking and sidewalk snow removal expectations.

Councilmember Morrissette asked about the relationship with the School District. Ellefson indicated they have a good relationship and work together on the snow event.

Councilmember Downing asked about the relationship with the Counties. Larson indicated they work well with each and provide additional support to one another in specific areas.

PUBLIC HEARING:

At 6:56 p.m., the mayor recessed into a Public Hearing asking if anyone had comments about Resolution Approving the Temporary Relocation of District 1, Wards 1-5 Polling Place for all 2026 Elections.

Mayor Toland moved back into Open Session at 6:57 p.m.

MS Bjork/Downing to approve Resolution No. 7027 Approving the Temporary Relocation of District 1, Wards 1-5 Polling Place for all 2026 Elections

Councilmember Downing asked if the public hearing met the statutory requirements. Administrator Simpson indicated yes. Councilmember Downing asked further about voter notification and participation in the selection process. Clerk White said all registered voters will be notified by mail. Notification will also be provided on the City's website, the City's Facebook page and in the River Falls Reader.

Administrator Simpson provided some additional information on the selection process which included providing the least amount of confusion and disruption to the voter. Councilmember Page added he liked this change option because of the proximity to the Library, adding there could be a large sign on election day directing voters.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Resolution No. 7028 Approving Election Inspectors for the 2026-2027 Election Cycle

Resolution No. 7029 Approving Weights and Measures Assessments Schedule

Resolution No. 7030 Approving Lease Agreement with Bearcat Investments, LLC

Resolution No. 7031 Approving the Contract of Tree Services with Willow River

Resolution No. 7032 Approving Development Agreement with Sterling Ponds II, LLC

Resolution No. 7033 Approving Purchase Agreement with Sterling Ponds II, LLC

Resolution No. 7035 Approving First Right of Refusal with Sterling Ponds II, LLC

Resolution Approving Partial Forgiveness of the 2021 Loan Issued to Our Neighbor's Place→→***pulled by Downing***

Resolution No. 7036 Approving Purchase of a Used 2021 Western Star Plow Truck

MSC Odeen/Page to approve the remaining Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

Resolution No. 7037 Approving Partial Forgiveness of the 2021 Loan Issued to Our Neighbor's Place

Councilmember Downing said this is a great opportunity for the Council and City to improve on its role in supporting regional housing stability and homelessness prevention efforts in partnership with Our Neighbor's Place.

MSC Downing/Bjerstedt to approve the resolution. Unanimous.

REPORTS

Comptroller Report

General Fund revenues through the end of November were \$13,649,721 or 102% of total budgeted revenues for the year. Revenues in November include \$2,201,113 for state shared revenue, \$25,909 for building permits, and \$9,696 for vehicle registration fee. Expenditures through the end of November were \$11,580,283 or 87% of total budget expenditures for the year. As of November 30, 2025, net revenues over expenditures were \$2,069,438.

Administrator's Report

Administrator Simpson highlighted some key items from the administrator's report that were included in the packet, including the open house for the City's safety action plan, the partnership with the University for the safety action plan, upcoming City Hall closures for the holidays, and property tax information.

Mayor's Good News Report

Mayor Toland wished the UWRF football team good luck on their playoff journey and took a moment to wish everyone a happy holiday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor's Appointments

Mayor Toland appointed Natalie Juedes and Glen Tobias to the MBOC through December 31, 2027.

Mayor Toland appointed Angie Bond (clerk designee), Anita Slate, and Amber Tubre to the MBAC through December 31, 2027

MSC Morrissette/Page to approve the Mayor's appointments. Unanimous.

MSC Bjerstedt/Morrissette move to adjourn at 7:13 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy White, Community Services Director/City Clerk