

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING**

Council Chambers – Municipal Building
500 N. Chestnut Avenue - Oconto Falls, WI. 54154

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 14, 2025 – 6:00 pm
MINUTES**

- 1. Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Clint Braun**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call Present:** Aldermen: Ashley Bahrke, Jeff McDonald, Tim Holman, Marty Coopman, Devin Wirtz

Also Present: Mayor Clint Braun, Administrator Peter Wills, Deputy Clerk Jenny Friedman, Brad Magnin, Police Chief Brad Olsen, Utility Manager Beth Rank, Michelle Tester, Aaron Trempe, Bart Schindel, Cindy Leurquin, Gary Leurquin, Steve Genett, Jill Genett, Cathy Strom, Ron Ripley, Stacey Friedman, Tonya Peterson, Isaiah Schoen, WPPI Representative Mike Peters, Library Director Rachel Pasco arrived at 6:11pm and Fire Chief Tim Magnin arrived at 6:15pm

- 4. Approval of Minutes - Common Council 09.09.2025**
MOTION: Bahrke/Holman
Motion to approve the minutes for the - Common Council 09.09.2025,
Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

5. Treasurer's Report-August

MOTION: Wirtz/Coopman
Motion to approve the Treasures Report.
Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

6. Bills Payable –October

MOTION: Bahrke/Wirtz
Motion to approve the Bills Payable as presented for October and place on file.
Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

6a. Budget to Actual YTD September 2025
NO DISCUSSION/NO ACTION TAKEN

7. Reports: Written reports submitted

- ✓ Administrator Report
- ✓ Police Department Report
- ✓ Municipal Court Report
- ✓ Fire Department Report
- ✓ Street Department Report

- ✓ Building Inspector Report
- ✓ Library Report

MOTION: Holman/Wirtz

Motion to place reports as presented on file.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

8. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL - Citizen in-put will be limited to 3 minutes.

A. Mathew McDermid recognition of 16 year of service to The City of Oconto Falls Council.

Mayor Braun presented a plaque to thank Mathew McDermid for the sixteen years of service on the City of Oconto Falls Common Council.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

9. Committee Reports

Board of Review 09.04.25, 09.24.25, 10.01.25
 Emergency Management Committee Report-N/A
 Finance Committee N/A
 Joint Review Board 09.05.25
 Library Board- 09.29.25
 Main Street Committee Report N/A
 Park & Recreation Committee Report-N/A
 Personnel Committee Report N/A
 Planning Commission Report 08.12.25,09.09.25
 Ordinance Commission N/A
 Utility Commission Report 09.15.25

MOTION: Bahrke/McDonald

Motion to place reports on file.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Old Business:

10. Speed limit change on County I

Police Chief Olsen gave an update that the Highway Commission approved lowering the speed limit to 35mph South of Columbia on County Road I. The next step for the speed limit change will have to go before the Oconto County Board for approval on October 30,2025.

Questions and concerns that were asked;

- Who is in charge of changing the signs? *The County would do this.*
- What is the speed limit going to say then? *35mph in front of school, 25mph when children are present. The Police Department will get exactly what is to be posted on the radar signs and regular signs from the state when everything is complete.*
- Is the annexation going to go through? *The annexation has officially gone through to the Department of Administration but not the Department of Transportation. Once*

the speed limit change has been officially approved the City of Oconto Falls will start the detachment process for the annexation.

- Is there any public hearing that the city will have to go through? *Yes, very much the same process as an annexation. Also working with the towns on these processes.*

11. Update 2025 Property Valuation

The City has completed their Board of Reviews and finalized the Property Evaluation. The city then did a statement of assessment for the county and received the Municipal Assessment Report. Residential properties were up by ninety three percent; commercial were up by nineteen million dollars and manufacturing was ten million in increase. The state has certified these numbers and will be coming out for the cities equalized value. Any adjustments will be done next year.

NO ACTION TAKEN

NEW BUSINESS

12. Appoint an Alderperson to fill vacancy in Aldermanic District 3, Wards 5.

A. Council Interview Candidate(s)

The mayor called Stacey Friedman up for the Council to ask any questions. Mrs. Friedman gave a brief summary of why she is interested in being a council member and her background. Questions asked were

- Is Stacey in that district? *Yes, all candidates' addresses were verified to be in the district.*
- Would you be able to make the monthly council meeting? *Yes, that won't be a problem.*

Stacey was excused. The mayor called up Ron Ripley for any questions from the council. Mr. Ripley gave a brief summary of why he is interested in being a council member and his background. Questions asked were;

- Will your current job affect your availability? *No, I make my own schedule and my current job will not interfere with this.*

Ron was excused. The mayor called up Catherine Strom for any questions from the council. Mrs. Strom did a brief summary of why she is interested in being a council member and her background. No questions were asked of Cathy.

B. Mayor recommends appointment of Alderperson candidate

Mayor recommended Stacey Friedman for the Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

MOTION: Wirtz/McDonald

Motion to recommend Stacey Friedman for Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

Roll Call: Wirtz-aye, McDonald-aye, Holman-no, Coopman-no, Bahrke-no **Motion Fails**

Mayor recommended Ronald Ripley for the Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

MOTION: Wirtz/McDonald

Motion to recommend Ronald Ripley for Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

Roll Call: Wirtz-aye, McDonald-aye, Holman-no, Coopman-no, Bahrke-no **Motion**

Fails

Mayor recommended Catherine Strom for the Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

MOTION: Holman/Coopman

Motion to recommend Catherine Strom for the Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

Roll Call: Holman-aye, Coopman-aye, Bahrke-aye, McDonald-aye, Wirtz-no

MOTION CARRIED

C. Council action on appointment

Catherine Strom was appointed for the Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5 with roll call vote.

NO ACTION TAKEN

D. Deputy Clerk Administer Oath of Office to Appointed Alderperson

Deputy Clerk Friedman issued the Oath of Office to Catherine Strom who was appointed to be the new Alderperson for Aldermanic District 3 Ward 5.

NO ACTION TAKEN

E. Mayoral Committee Appointments (Finance, Ordinance, Park& Recreation, Personnel, Personnel Manual, Union Negotiating (WPPA))

Mayor asked Catherine Strom if she would be able to sit on the Finance, Ordinance, Park& Recreation, Personnel, Personnel Manual, Union Negotiating (WPPA) committees? She will sit on these committees.

MOTION: Bahrke/Coopman

Motion to appoint Catherin Strom to replace Mathew McDermid's spots on the Mayoral Committee Appointments (Finance, Ordinance, Park& Recreation, Personnel, Personnel Manual, Union Negotiating (WPPA)).

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

13. Set public hearing for Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG-PF) project for Street, Utility, and Lift Station Improvements along Columbia Street

This is part of the process to wrap up the Columbia Street project since the city has a Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG-PF).

MOTION: Bahrke/Wirtz

Motion to set the Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Public Facilities (CDBG-PF) project for Street, Utility, and Lift Station Improvements along Columbia Street for Tuesday November 11, 2025 at 5:30pm.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

14. Fire Department Refurbish Fire Engines in 2026

A. Refurbish two fire trucks in 2026

Fire Engines 1311 and 1312 are in need of some repairs. Fire Chief Magnin presented estimates on cost of refurbishing Fire Engines 1311 and 1312 from Red Power Diesel

Service, Inc. The estimated cost to refurbish and do repairs for engine 1312 is \$362,250.00. For engine 1311 the cost to repair and refurbish is estimated at \$162,270.00. There was only one company's estimate presented at this time. The council would like other companies' estimate for the refurbishment as well.

NO ACTION TAKEN

B. Purchase used fire truck to be replaced during refurbishment

With the possibility of engine 1311 and 1312 going out to be refurbished at the same time the Fire Department will be down two working trucks. The question arises if the Fire Department should purchase a used fire truck to help provide service until the refurbishments are done on engine 1311 and 1312.

NO ACTION TAKEN

15. 2026 General Fund Budget

A. Set public hearing for 2026 Budget

The City just received their equalized value from the state. Finance meetings will be coming up in the next couple weeks.

NO ACTION TAKEN

16. WPPI Presentation "Power to Thrive"

WPPI Representative Mike Peters went over a brief summary of how WPPI operates and what its goals are for the future.

NO ACTION TAKEN

17. Liquor License Class B License Application-CHUBU,LLC (In The Rough)

MOTION: Holman/McDonald

Motion to approve the Liquor License Class B License Application-CHUBU,LLC (In The Rough)

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

18. Application for 1-year Operators license Jennifer Diedrick, Jenna Peterson, Christine Engebregtsen, Allison Kitzman

MOTION: McDonald/Holman

Motion to approve Application for 1-year Operators license Jennifer Diedrick, Jenna Peterson, Christine Engebregtsen, Allison Kitzman.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

19. Application for 2-year Operators license Tyllar Schwartzenberger

MOTION: Holman/Wirtz

Motion to approve the application for 2-year Operators license Tyllar Schwartzenberger.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

20. The Committee may go into closed session to discuss matters of employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of public employees pursuant to 19.85 (1)(C) Wis. Stats.

A. Employee Evaluation

MOTION: Holman/ Coopman

Motion to enter into closed session at 7:13pm.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

Those remaining in closed session Alderman Bahrke, Holman, Coopman, McDonald, McDermid, Mayor Braun, Administrator Wills.

21. The Committee will return to open session and may take action on matters discussed in closed session

Re: Employee Evaluation

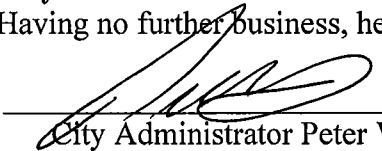
MOTION: Holman/McDonald

Motion to go into open session at 8:52pm.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

22. Adjournment

Mayor Clint Braun asked if there was any further business before the meeting is adjourned. Having no further business, he declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54pm.


City Administrator Peter Wills