

**CITY OF OCONTO FALLS
COMMON COUNCIL
MEETING**

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

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2026 – 6:00 pm
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES

1. **Meeting called to order at 5:57pm by Mayor Clint Braun**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call Present:** Aldermen: Jeff McDonald, Marty Coopman, Cathy Strom, Devin Wirtz, Ashley Bahrke and Tim Holman

Also Present: Mayor Clint Braun, Administrator Peter Wills, Deputy Clerk Jenny Friedman, Brad Magnin, Beth Rank-Interim Utility Manager, Jason Valentine Interim Utility Manager, Kevin Birr, Michelle Tester, Aaron Trempe, Jim Sehloff and Connie Kreischer

4. **Approval of Minutes** – a. Common Council 01.12.2026, b. 01.19.2026 Special Common Council

MOTION: HOLMAN/WIRTZ

Motion to approve the minutes for the – a. Common Council 01.12.2026, b. 01.19.2026 Special Common Council

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

5. **Treasurer’s Report-December**

MOTION: WIRTZ/STROM

Motion to approve the Treasures Report.

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

6. **Bills Payable –January**

MOTION: WIRTZ/MCDONALD

Motion to approve the Bills Payable as presented for January and place on file.

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

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: WIRTZ/BAHRKE

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.

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

9. Committee Reports

- Board of Review N/A
- Emergency Management Committee Report-N/A
- Finance Committee N/A
- Joint Review Board N/A
- Library Board- 01.29.26
- Main Street Committee Report 01.29.26
- Park & Recreation Committee Report-01.27.26
- Personnel Committee Report N/A
- Planning Commission Report N/A
- Ordinance Commission N/A
- Utility Commission Report 01.19.26

MOTION: BAHARKE/HOLMAN

Motion to place reports on file.

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

Old Business:

10. Fire Truck Purchase Update

Purchase of the used fire truck from Egg Harbor to be replace the 1995 fire truck went well. There were no issues. The fire department is working on loading City of Oconto Falls gear onto the new truck.

NO ACTION TAKEN

11. WI DOR Innovation Grant -Library Consolidation Study Results

City Administrator Wills met with the library board to consider library consolidation. Analysis confirms that the existing mix of municipal libraries, joint library systems, and unlibrari municipalities have provided broad access to library services, but it has also resulted in funding volatility, inequities in cost allocation, and growing exposure to inter-county library payments. In particular, the City of Oconto Falls has assumed a disproportionate share of financial risk as a regional service provider. At the same time, the presence of established joint library systems within Oconto County demonstrates that shared governance models are viable and capable of balancing service delivery with local control.

NO ACTION TAKEN

NEW BUSINESS

12. City Dump Access Road Annexation Petition Recommendation to Planning Commission.
There are a small forty-foot section and a ten-foot section that is owned by the City of Oconto Falls but is not in the city. When the city first received land in the sixties, it was not all annexed into the city and this was currently found when the city dump access road was under question. City of Oconto Falls would like to annex these sections of land into the city. To start the annexation, process the city will need to petition itself to the council then council approves the petition and sends it to Planning Commission to review and hold public hearing then send back to council to approve.

MOTION: BAHRKE/ STROM

Motion to have Planning Commission host a Public Hearing regarding City Dump Access Road Annexation Petition Recommendation to Planning Commission.

RESCINDED PRIOR MOTION: MCDONALD/COOPMAN

Motion to approve the Petition for City Dump Access Road to annex into the City of Oconto Falls and forward to Planning Commission.

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

Abstain-Wirtz and Bahrke

13. Planning Committee Update-

- A. Approval of the Preliminary Replat Map of Oconto Falls Middle School to Common Council.

Developer Kevin Birr has submitted a Preliminary Replat Map of Oconto Falls Middle School (previous Washington Middle School Site.) with the development plans of building fourteen house on the property and abandon the alley in the middle and dedicate it as an easement along with a ten-foot easement between lot eight and nine. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on this Preliminary Replat Map of Oconto Falls Middle School (previous Washington Middle School Site.) on February 10, 2026 at 5:00pm. The developer will need to come back with certified survey map for the city to approve. Approving the Preliminary Replat Map is the first step so that the developer needs to proceed with a purchase of land from current land owner and to work on TIF agreement with the City. The TIF agreement will need to come before Planning Commission and Council before that can be approved.

MOTION: BAHRKE/MCDONALD

Motion to approve the of the Preliminary Replat Map of Oconto Falls Middle School (the previous Washington Middle School Site.)

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

B. Fee Schedule 2026

The fee schedule was reviewed buy each department head for any changes they may need to make. There were a few changes they are as follows;

- Chicken License Fee raised to twenty dollars.
- Police Department added Body Camera Recording Redacting Footage forty dollars an hour.
- Building Inspector Section added Site Plan review under Residential and family section.

- The Residential Home Additions / Remodels Valuations of Projects were changed to be calculated by square feet not by cost of project.
- Added Commercial Dumpster for thirty dollars.

MOTION: COOPMAN/WIRTZ

Motion to approve and recommend the 2026 Fee Schedule.

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

C. New Development/Construction packet

Building Inspector and Deputy Clerk have been working on a development and construction packet to go on the city website and be available for developers when they come in looking for permits. This will be a complete packet with all the permits they need for new builds and remodels. It will be updated as needed by Building Inspector and Deputy Clerk.

MOTION: BAHRKE/COOPMAN

Motion to approve the New Development/Construction packet with future amendments/updates done by building inspector as needed.

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

14. Update from Oconto County Planning, Zoning re Joint Recycling Agreement

Oconto County has updated the city that the revenue that was paid to the city in twenty twenty-five for recycling will not be paid for the remaining years of the recycling agreement. For the city to leave/break the agreement it would cost about sixty thousand dollars. City Administrator Wills is also talking with the Town of Oconto Falls on this situation because the town does utilize the recycle center as well. The city will start to look into how to handle this for the year twenty twenty-eight when agreement is up.

NO ACTION TAKEN

15. Park & Rec Committee Recommendation to Council.

A. Memorial Field Updates

The farmer's market was hosted at Memorial Field in 2025 for the first time and it went well. There was concern is that the vendors having to drive over all the lawn to set up on the far side of the field away from the parking lot and citizens walking all the way across the field. Park and Recreational Committee met at the end of January with Sophie Ford Chair of the Farmers Market and at the meeting presented the thought of moving the Farmers Market to the side closest to the parking area and possibly developing Memorial Field with a permanent spot for Farmers Market and possibly have sponsored community flower gardens. With the goal; of making it more inviting for the community to gather with a landscaped welcome area. In the first phase the Farmers Market would move over to the side closer to the parking. Phase two some items would have to be moved off of Memorial Field such as; belchers, crow's nest taken down, possible the fence by the playground area and the old track taken out. Youth football does still use this field yet and Sophie Ford would and has worked with the youth football coaches last year and were able to not have any conflicts.

MOTION: Bahrke/ Strom

Motion to approve taking down the fence, crow's nest at Memorial Field.

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

16. WI DNR Clean Drinking Water Loan Financial Assistance Agreement

A. WI DNR Clean Drinking Water Loan Terms

B. WI DNR Clean Drinking Water Loan Agreement

This is for Financial Assistance Agreement for the Utilities in the amount of \$1,197,539 over nineteen years. Most of these funds have been utilized on Columbia Street project. Funds will be received by February 25, 2026.

MOTION: Bahrke/ Holman

Motion to approve WI DNR Clean Drinking Water Loan Terms and WI DNR Clean Drinking Water Loan Agreement as presented.

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

17. WI DNR Clean Water Fund-Sewage System Revenue Bond Series 2026

A. Scope Letter-Sewage System Revenue Bond 2026 Closing Certificate- WI DNR Clean Water Fund

MOTION: Bahrke/ Holman

Motion to approve Scope Letter-Sewage System Revenue Bond 2026 Closing Certificate- WI DNR Clean Water Fund.

Roll Call: Bahrke-aye, Holman-aye, Wirtz-aye, Strom-aye, McDonald-aye, Coopman-aye MOTION CARRIED

B. Closing Certificate- Sewage System Revenue Bond 2026 WI DNR Clean Water Fund

MOTION: Bahrke/Wirtz

Motion to approve the Closing Certificate- Sewage System Revenue Bond 2026 WI DNR Clean Water Fund.

Roll Call: Bahrke-aye, Wirtz-aye, Holman-aye, Strom-aye, McDonald-aye, Coopman-aye MOTION CARRIED

C. Bond Resolution 26-001 WI DNR Clean Water Fund-Sewage System Revenue Bond Series 2026

MOTION: Bahrke/Wirtz

Motion to approve the Bond Resolution 26-001 WI DNR Clean Water Fund-Sewage System Revenue Bond Series 2026.

Roll Call: Bahrke-aye, Wirtz-aye, Holman-aye, Strom-aye, McDonald-aye, Coopman-aye MOTION CARRIED

18. WI DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Financial Assistance Agreement

A. WI DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Terms

B. WI DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Agreement

This agreement is for \$519,014 with up to \$311,425 Principal Forgiveness. The loan amount

is \$207,616.00 with interest rate of 1.485% Funds will be received on February 25, 2026. This is a nineteen-year term.

MOTION: WIRTZ/BAHRKE

Motion to approve WI DNR Safe Drinking Water Loan Financial Assistance Agreement and Terms.

Voice Vote: All present voting aye - MOTION CARRIED

19. WI DNR Safe Drinking Water

- A. Scope Letter- Water System and Electric System Revenue Bonds 2026 -WI DNR Safe Drinking Water**

MOTION: Bahrke/Wirtz

Motion to approve Scope Letter- Water System and Electric System Revenue Bonds 2026 -WI DNR Safe Drinking Water.

Roll Call: Bahrke-aye, Wirtz-aye, Holman-aye, Strom-aye, McDonald-aye, Coopman-aye MOTION CARRIED

- B. Closing Certificate -Water System and Electric System Revenue Bonds 2026 -WI DNR Safe Drinking Water**

MOTION: Bahrke/Holman

Motion to approve Closing Certificate - Water System and Electric System Revenue Bonds 2026 -WI DNR Safe Drinking Water.

Roll Call: Bahrke-aye, Holman-aye, Wirtz-aye, Strom-aye, McDonald-aye, Coopman-aye MOTION CARRIED

- C. Bond Resolution 26-002 WI DNR Safe Drinking Water-Water System and Electric System Revenue Bonds 2026**

MOTION: Bahrke/Wirtz

Motion to approve Bond Resolution 26-002 WI DNR Safe Drinking Water-Water System and Electric System Revenue Bonds 2026

Roll Call: Bahrke-aye, Wirtz-aye, Holman-aye, Strom-aye, McDonald-aye, Coopman-aye MOTION CARRIED

20. OFMU Electric Rate Increase

In the past the city electric rates were categorized under Optional CP1 rate. This has now changed and the city electric rates fall under GS1. The optional rate has gone away due to WPPI adjusting their utility rates to remove Optional CP1 off of tariffs. The Oconto Falls Municipal Utilities (OFMU) Electric Rates are governed by WPPI. There were three customers on Optional CP1 rate in the city. With the City being one of them their utility cost has increased. When WPPI goes for new rate case there will be the proposal of GS3 rate class where smaller business may potentially qualify. The projected city utilities in 2026 budget were \$78,000. The City budgeted \$87,000 for the year 2026. This was not including the street lights.

NO ACTION TAKEN

21. Oconto Falls Ambulance 2025 Run Recap
Alderman Coopman went over the Oconto Falls area Ambulance 2025 Run Recap. The ambulance had a total of 1586 runs in 2025. Oconto Falls Ambulance has paramedic intercepts with a large of surrounding areas.
NO ACTION TAKEN

22. Community Event Application Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Music by the River June 19, July 17 and August 14 from 6pm-9pm.

MOTION: MCDONALD/WIRTZ

Motion to approve the Community Event Application Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Music by the River June 19, July 17 and August 14 from 6pm-9pm.

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

23. Temporary Class B License Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Music by the River June 19, July 17 and August 14, 2026

MOTION: WIRTZ/STROM

Motion to approve the Temporary Class B License Oconto Falls Area Chamber of Commerce Music by the River June 19, July 17 and August 14, 2026.

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

24. Community Event Application Friends of Oconto Falls Fire Department

MOTION: MCDONALD/HOLMAN

Motion to approve Community Event Application Friends of Oconto Falls Fire Department.

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

25. Temporary Class B License Friends of the Fire Department Spaghetti Dinner

MOTION: HOLMAN/MCDONALD

Motion to approve Temporary Class B License Friends of the Fire Department Spaghetti Dinner.

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

26. One Year Operators License Jazellz Diedrich, Scott Bislew

MOTION: WIRTZ/ COOPMAN

Motion to approve one-year operator's license for Jazellz Diedrich, Scott Bislew.

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

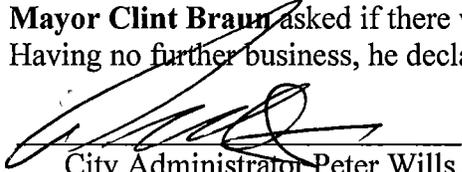
27. Two Year Operators License Ashley Bahrke, Sonya Tennant

MOTION: HOLMAN/STROM

Motion to approve two-year operators license for Ashley Bahrke, Sonya Tennant.
Voice Vote: All present voting aye - **MOTION CARRIED**

28. 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 6:59pm.



City Administrator Peter Wills