



COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM

First Floor Conference Rooms
100 Main Street, Menasha, WI

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mayor Hammond at 6:06 pm.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

C. ROLL CALL

Present: Alds. Rand, Eisenach, Hale, Perkins, Lewis, Marshall, Grade, Ropella
Also Present: FD Sassman, DPW Merten, CDD Dane, PRD Sackett, SSRM
Hansen-Dunn, HRM Cardoza, PC Thorn, FC Teesch, LD Kopetsky, CA Struve,
Mayor Hammond, Clerk Snyder

D. PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2026 Proposed City of Menasha Budget

Jodi Van Rossum (327 Willow Lane, Menasha) commented on the presented budget as it relates to the Jefferson Park Swimming Pool. Specifically, Van Rossum presented statistics indicating that community pools reduce crime rates and promote healthful youth engagement.

Trish Kasper (1075 Brighton Drive, Menasha) commented on Jefferson Park's recent renovations and commended staff's work on the site. Kasper additionally shared her perspective as a physician on the Jefferson Park Swimming Pool's value. Specifically, Kasper commented on swimming's benefits to physical, mental, and social-emotional health for adults and children of all ability levels.

Marcia Fry (318 Willow Lane, Menasha) commented on the Jefferson Park Swimming Pool in relation to property values. Specifically, Fry presented data suggesting that properties proximal to new community aquatic centers see heightened values.

Jean McKnight (704 Tacyo Street, Menasha) commented on the new aquatic center's cost recovery and expected revenue generation. Specifically, McKnight shared information on cost recovery for aquatic centers of various years of service. As pools age, their cost recovery weakens, meaning newer facilities see a better return on investment.

Charlotte Foth (1033 Brighton Drive, Menasha) commented on the public health benefit of community pools. Specifically, Foth described drowning as a leading cause of death in young children and characterized a pool closure as

a community risk. Foth additionally discussed the pool as an employment opportunity for young people. Finally, Foth commented on the pool's importance during heat events, and the disproportionate affect of these events on underprivileged populations.

KristL Laux (388 Nassau Street, Menasha) commented on housing affordability in Menasha. Specifically, Laux encouraged staff and elected officials to invest in non-luxury housing that community members can sustainably afford. Laux specifically called for an end to high-end developments, and urgently requested more reasonable options.

Luke Schiller (389 Nassau Street, Menasha) commented in support of the proposed budget. Specifically, Schiller called for support of a cost of living adjustment for employees, the new aquatic center at Jefferson Park, and the new playground at Pleasants Park.

Amy Nelson (703 Wildwind Drive, Hortonville) commented in support of the Pleasants Park playground as an educator in the Menasha Joint School District.

James Taylor (340 Broad Street, Menasha) commented on the FORE Development Agreement. Specifically, Taylor questioned the development's density and lack of campus.

Staff advised that in preparation for this budget hearing, the Menasha Common Council participated in an August Capital Improvement Planning workshop and four November budget review sessions. Staff additionally advised on revenue sources, expenditures, borrowing, the levy limit, and various tax rates. Staff concluded this discussion by describing three resolutions presented this evening; these include a resolution to levy taxes, adopt budgets as presented, and authorize borrowing.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER OF CONCERN TO THE CITY

F. REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS/DEPARTMENT HEADS/STAFF/CONSULTANTS

Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade seconded by District 5 Alderperson Lewis to approve. Motion carried on voice vote.

1. Presentations:
2. Minutes to Receive:
 - a. Budget Review Session, 11/12/25, 11/13/25
 - b. Neenah-Menasha Sewerage Commission, 10/28/25
 - c. Committee on Aging, 10/10/25
 - d. Administration Committee, 11/17/25

3. Communications:
 - a. Quarterly Storm Water Flyer

G. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Common Council Minutes, 11/17/25
Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade seconded by District 6 Alderperson Marshall to approve. Motion carried on voice vote.
2. Administration Committee, 11/17/25, Recommends Approval of:
 - a. FORE Development Province Terrace Apartments - Project Description
Motion by District 2 Alderperson Eisenach, seconded by District 3 Alderperson Hale to approve.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

Discussion considered the density of the Province Terrace Apartments and other work completed by the developer.

- b. Development Agreement Between City of Menasha and FORE Development, Inc.
Motion by District 2 Alderperson Eisenach, seconded by District 3 Alderperson Hale to approve.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

Discussion considered the quality of the developer's work.

Staff advised that this project will require site plan review by Plan Commission.

H. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

I. ACTION ITEMS

1. Accounts Payable and payroll for the term of 11/14/25 - 11/26/25 in the amount of \$1,253,254.54
Motion by District 2 Alderperson Eisenach, seconded by District 3 Alderperson Hale to approve.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.
2. Offer to Purchase — 800 Ninth Street (Parcel No. 1-210353-15)
 - a. May adjourn into Closed Session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes: Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a

closed session.

Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade, seconded by District 4 Alderperson Perkins to adjourn into Closed Session.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

- b. May adjourn into Open Session to take action on items discussed in Closed Session.

Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade, seconded by District 3 Alderperson Hale to reconvene into Open Session.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

J. HELD OVER BUSINESS

K. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

1. R-29-25 - A Resolution Levying Taxes for the Purpose of Paying the Operating Expenses for the Year 2026 for the City of Menasha (Introduced by Mayor Hammond)

Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade, seconded by District 4 Alderperson Perkins to approve.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

Broader discussion considered staff's work to create a balanced budget, attempts to expand Menasha's levy, and the collaborative role of staff and Council members.

Staff advised that the amendments made this evening will make changes to R-30-25 and R-31-25 as originally presented.

Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade, seconded by District 4 Alderperson Perkins to amend the TID #10 budget by \$20,000 (account number 487-1008-5841.80-05) to include the Racine St/Broad Street Pedestrian Beacon project as is referenced in the Capital Improvements Plan.

Motion carried 5-3 on roll call. District 2 Alderperson Eisenach, District 6 Alderperson Marshall, and District 8 Alderperson Ropella voted no.

Discussion considered the current amount of traffic stops in this area, the quantity of pedestrians in this area, and the presence of a nearby lighted intersection. Discussion also considered the value of slower traffic in the center corridor of the Menasha community, particularly as it approaches the downtown. Downtown walkability, the upcoming High Cliff Connection, and the newly renovated library in this area were also discussed. Later removal of the beacons was also considered.

Staff advised that this item was previously included in the CIP budget, but not noted as a line item in the TID 10 budget. This amendment corrects this accounting to more accurately reflect the funding source. Staff advised that a

pedestrian beacon in this area is the most requested traffic update received by City engineers.

Motion by District 2 Alderperson Eisenach, seconded by District 3 Alderperson Hale to amend the CIP budget (account number 489-0304-562.82-02) by \$50,000 to remove downtown gateways and mural.

Motion carried 5-3 on roll call. District 1 Alderperson Rand, District 4 Alderperson Perkins, and District 7 Alderperson Grade voted no.

Discussion considered a parking lot near the Jefferson Park Swimming Pool, funding sources for the Pleasants Park renovations, and decision-making related to the downtown's future and vision.

Staff advised that any Jefferson Park lot will be revisited during design discussions, that the Menasha Joint School District has pledged a \$2000,000 donation to Pleasants Park, and that the rationale for a downtown gateway or mural is to better promote Menasha's downtown development.

Motion by District 8 Alderperson Ropella, seconded by District 7 Alderperson Grade to amend the CIP budget by \$11,250 (account number 470-1003-541.82-02) and the Stormwater Utility budget by \$11,250 (account number 625-1002-541.21-02) to fund the design costs of the Ear Street project with construction to take place in 2027.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

Staff advised that this change was discussed during the August CIP workshop and serves to move this project up. This project is done in collaboration with the Village of Fox Crossing; the Village has also arranged to move this project up.

2. R-30-25 - A Resolution of the City of Menasha Adopting its General, Special Revenue, Capital Projects, Debt Service, Enterprise, and Internal Service Funds and Component Unit 2026 Budgets (Introduced by Mayor Hammond)
Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade, seconded by District 6 Alderperson Marshall to approve as amended.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

Staff advised that Council amendments made earlier this evening amend this resolution such that the following figures are changed: TIF District #10 is reduced from \$214,826 to \$194,826; TIF District #11 is reduced from 291,905 to \$241,905; Stormwater Utility is increased from \$2,253,958 to \$2,265,208. This means the total funds budgets for 2026 reflected on R-30-25 is amended to \$45,472,650 rather than the initially proposed \$45,480,140.

3. R-31-25 - A Resolution Authorizing 2026 General Obligation Borrowing and the Issuance of Certificate of Indebtedness and Levying a Tax in Connection Therewith (Introduced by Mayor Hammond)
Motion by District 7 Alderperson Grade, seconded by District 4 Alderperson Perkins to approve as amended.

Motion carried 8-0 on roll call.

Staff advised that Council amendments made earlier this evening amend this resolution such that the following figures are changed: the first figure listed is increased from \$5,985,350 to \$5,996,600; the last figure listed is increased from \$5,985,350 to \$5,996,600.

L. APPOINTMENTS

M. CLAIMS AGAINST THE CITY

N. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY MATTER LISTED ON THE AGENDA

O. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by District 2 Alderperson Eisenach seconded by District 6 Alderperson Marshall to adjourn the Common Council meeting at 8:14 pm. Motion carried on voice vote.

Minutes submitted by City Clerk Kaija Snyder.