

In Attendance:

Mayor Steve Bierce, Alderman Jerry Wamser, Michael Kreiter, James Blackwood

Absent:

David Swan

Also In Attendance:

Director of Public Works M. Wagner, Chief Engineer-Utilities R. Wirtz, Chief Engineer-Streets & Development M. Gabbey, Utility Manager J. Mueller, Utility Assistant Manager R. Kincaid, Utility Billing Specialist R. Reed

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM and called to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment - Please limit your comments to two minutes. If further time for discussion is needed, please contact your District Alderperson prior to the meeting.

No public comments were received.

3. Discussion and Action Regarding the Minutes

3.1 Discussion and possible action to adopt the September 4, 2025 meeting minutes

**Motion was made and seconded (J. Wamser, S. Bierce) to approve the September 4, 2025, meeting minutes.** Motion passed unanimously.

4. Water and Sewer Division

4.1 Discussion and possible action regarding the Water Supply Service Area Plan Draft Section #4, 7, & 8.

Ms. Mueller presented the information on the Water Supply Service Area Plan draft sections. She noted that detailed chapters had been provided in the meeting packet, with highlighted points pertinent to the study. The study outlines the background on the city's pumping system, contamination issues, and the need to determine a future direction for the water utility. Ms. Mueller reported that the public information meeting held the previous night was well attended and covered much of the same material presented to the Council. She anticipated that the complete study would likely come before the Council in December. At this stage, she explained they had not yet reached the detailed dollars and cents phase of the study, but that level of detail would be arriving soon.

During discussion, Mayor Bierce commented that the report was not very uplifting,

and Alderman Wamser added that the public meeting had not been encouraging either. Ms. Mueller acknowledged they were "between a rock and a hard place," with no inexpensive solutions available. Various water supply options were discussed, including the possibility of staying on the groundwater system. She said this option could potentially require 10 additional well sites in the future. Another option under consideration was considering Lake Michigan as a water supply, utilizing the infrastructure of the City of Waukesha. Ms. Mueller also mentioned the idea of partnering with other municipalities.

Alderman Wamser expressed a preference for addressing the City's water issues locally rather than partnering with Waukesha. Ms. Mueller discussed the necessity of exploring all available options before bringing forward any recommendations to the Council. Additionally, Ms. Wagner suggested investigating partnerships with municipalities in areas with less contamination, given that significant costs would be involved regardless of the solution chosen. Ms. Mueller further discussed the challenges posed by increasingly stringent EPA regulations, with new contaminants being identified regularly, which continue to create ongoing issues for water systems. The ultimate goal, as she stated, is to provide a guiding document on pricing for at least the two most viable options by December for Council consideration. This document would encompass both the groundwater and Lake Michigan options, with necessary considerations for infrastructure and potential partnerships laid out succinctly for further discussions.

#### 4.2 Discussion on the project update for the Gun Club Lift Station replacement project

Mr. Kincaid reported that the Gun Club Lift Station project has been completed, and the road reopened, much to the relief of many community members. The site itself, now that the project has been wrapped up, looks much improved.

During construction, the team encountered some unexpected challenges, most notably an issue with generator sensors. However, these technical issues have been resolved, and the site received the necessary staff training to run the updated lift station effectively. Mr. Kincaid also shared that there had been additional tasks to adjust the parameters and settings, as well as training sessions to ensure that everything was operating smoothly. Furthermore, additional work involving the force main was required, which was not initially anticipated, but they have surmounted those obstacles.

The lift station has been operational for approximately two weeks and is successfully pumping waste toward Brookfield as it should be. Mr. Kincaid mentioned that the facility had experienced a couple of minor issues with electronics but, by and large, it operates as expected. The demolition of the old structure is complete, and the site transitioned to a visually appealing, fully functional station.

When asked about the road closure duration, Mr. Kincaid clarified that the closure lasted around two months and was extended from the original timeline due to a road failure. A sinkhole had appeared, prompting compaction tests and filling back in with a flowable fill to ensure stability above the underground facilities. The road officially reopened around October 6, 2025.

Alderman Wamser commented the completed project looked good, noting it was

higher than the old one, which could provide better protection from any potential flooding issues. Mr. Kincaid invited committee members to tour the facility and witness firsthand its substantial improvements. He described the lift station as 40 feet deep with essential plumbing and infrastructure located in the lower level—details not immediately visible from the surface but critical for function.

#### 4.3 Discussion and possible action on the status update PFAS Pilot Study Well #8

Ms. Mueller provided an update on the PFAS pilot program at Still River well, noting that the system was working as expected, though they were experiencing challenges with iron in the well water. An additional column had been added to the pilot test for iron pre-treatment before the water goes through the PFAS media. Ms. Mueller stated that the contractor was pleased with the results of the new iron removal pre-treatment system.

The pilot test is scheduled to continue through early spring 2026, with a typical nine-month testing process. At that point, the team will evaluate whether this treatment system is suitable for long-term implementation.

In response to questions from Mayor Bierce, Ms. Mueller confirmed that the system has been highly effective, with no detectable PFAS levels in the effluent water. She explained that the system uses resin-filled columns similar to those in water softeners, containing different layers of media. The first column removes iron, while the second captures PFAS. The PFAS stays trapped in the media, which must be replaced and disposed of at specialized facilities through incineration or landfilling.

Ms. Mueller also noted that the Village of Pewaukee had installed a temporary PFAS treatment plant on one of its contaminated wells, with an expected media lifespan of three years. For their own system, they plan to keep the treatment operations within the existing building footprint, requiring some excavation in the garage area to maintain the architectural character of the neighborhood.

### 5. Engineering Division

#### 5.1 Discussion and possible action regarding possible tree replanting within the City's right-of-way

Ms. Wagner provided information about tree replanting efforts within the City's right-of-way, explaining that this item was requested in response to ongoing tree removals without replacements. She referenced the 2022 tree inventory of city-owned properties, including parks and rights-of-way, which identified potential planting areas but may not have fully accounted for utility conflicts.

Ms. Wagner noted that the City has historically focused on removing hazardous trees to address liability concerns, with limited investment in tree maintenance or new plantings. She outlined several considerations for future street tree planning, including:

- Conflicts with existing utilities
- State laws permitting utilities to use the right-of-way

- Maintenance requirements such as pruning and leaf collection
- Clear zone requirements for roadway safety

She highlighted that some areas, such as Lindsay Road, could accommodate trees but may conflict with future trails or utility extension plans. Ms. Wagner recommended updating the City's tree ordinances, which are outdated and focus primarily on Dutch Elm disease, without addressing more current issues like the Emerald Ash Borer. She also emphasized the need for tree species diversity, noting the City currently has a high concentration of maple trees.

Ms. Wagner confirmed that current replanting efforts qualify the City for Tree City USA designation.

Mayor Bierce expressed support for tree planting, stating that while development over the past decades has led to significant tree loss, the City has a responsibility to the people who live here to maintain a healthy urban canopy. Alderman Wamser agreed and noted that staff would need proper education for tree care and maintenance.

Ms. Wagner suggested several options, including staff training, hiring a part-time position, or contracting with a consultant. In response to a question from Mr. Blackwood about requiring trees in new subdivisions, Ms. Wagner clarified that such requirements are currently left to the discretion of developers.

Budget considerations were discussed, with Ms. Wagner noting that no funding is currently in the 2026 budget, but allocations could be made later or funded through contingency resources.

**Motion was made and seconded (J. Wamser, M. Kreiter) to recommend to the Common Council the creation of a tree replanting policy.** Motion passed unanimously.

## 5.2 Discussion and possible action regarding changing fees charged for City-owned boat launches

Ms. Wagner provided an update on boat launch fees, noting that the city currently charges \$7 per launch and \$50 plus tax for a seasonal permit. She reported that the DNR recently updated its regulations, increasing the maximum allowable fees based on boat size.

Ms. Wagner recommended that the City charge the maximum allowable fees, as follows:

- \$13 per launch for boats under 20 feet (resident and non-resident)
- \$17 per launch for resident boats 20–26 feet
- \$25.50 per launch for non-resident boats 20–26 feet (150% of resident rate)
- Seasonal permits priced at 10 times the daily rate (\$130 for boats under 20 feet)

She noted that launch fee revenues have declined from approximately \$12,000 annually to around \$5,000, citing largely an increase in "phantom payments" where

empty envelopes are deposited in the payment box. The Sheriff reported the payment box now requires collection far less frequently than in previous years.

Ms. Wagner outlined plans to replace the launch in 2026 with a new concrete launch due to damage from heavy commercial use. The project will include extending the launch, replacing the piers, installing cameras to identify individuals responsible for damage, and implementing a digital payment system.

The committee discussed enforcement methods, and Ms. Wagner explained that license plate recognition cameras would be installed, allowing for automatic verification of payments. Enforcement at the Oak Street kayak launch would be more challenging since kayaks are not registered and that site has no parking area.

Mayor Bierce suggested extending the fee system to winter users to help offset costs. Ms. Wagner clarified that there is a separate section in the municipal code for winter recreation. The committee also discussed the possibility of implementing fees for the Oak Street kayak launch but acknowledged enforcement challenges.

**Motion was made and seconded by (J. Blackwood, M. Krieter) to forward the proposed boat launch fee adjustments to the Common Council.** Motion passed unanimously.

### 5.3 Discussion and possible action to create a policy for sidewalk installation, maintenance, and replacement for the City of Pewaukee

Ms. Wagner outlined the need for a formal sidewalk policy, explaining that as the City begins incorporating sidewalks into new subdivisions, it is important to establish clear and consistent guidelines. She provided an overview of policies from surrounding communities, noting that most place responsibility for snow removal and maintenance on adjacent property owners, with required snow clearing timeframes ranging from 12 to 84 hours. A few communities, such as Brookfield and Germantown, handle sidewalk maintenance directly. Ms. Wagner added that residents along Northview Road were previously told that the City would maintain that sidewalk, though policies could be updated with proper notice.

Mayor Bierce expressed support for assigning snow-clearing responsibility to property owners, and the committee agreed on a 72-hour timeframe following snowfall for sidewalks to be cleared.

The committee also discussed sidewalk installation and repair policies. Ms. Wagner proposed that in new developments, the developer would be responsible for installation costs, and neighborhoods requesting sidewalks in existing areas would be responsible for associated costs.

Mayor Bierce raised concerns about the need for public hearings for sidewalk repairs, suggesting a more streamlined process in which the City identifies necessary repairs and assesses the costs directly to property owners.

**Motion was made and seconded (M. Kreiter, J. Wamser) to forward a draft sidewalk policy to the Common Council.** Motion passed unanimously

6. Public Comment - Please limit your comments to two minutes. If further time for discussion is needed, please contact your District Alderperson prior to the meeting.

No public comments were received.

7. Adjournment

**Motion was made and seconded (M. Kreiter, J. Blackwood) to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 p.m.** Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Magdelene Wagner  
Director of Public Works