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WISCONSIN RAPIDS COMMON COUNCIL
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026
6:00 PM
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Wisconsin Rapids Common Council to be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 444 West Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, on Tuesday, August 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM. The meeting will be streamed live on the City of Wisconsin Rapids Facebook page and will also be broadcast live on Charter Cable Channel 985 and Solarus HD Cable Channel 3. If a member of the public wishes to access this meeting live via Zoom audio conferencing, you must contact the City Clerk at least 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting to coordinate your access. This meeting is also available after its conclusion on the City's Facebook page and Community Media's YouTube page, which can be accessed at www.wr-cm.org. It is possible that members of the Council may appear remotely via video or audioconferencing for this meeting.

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer in Lieu of Invocation**
- 4. Reading of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
 - A. July 21, 2026 (attachment #1)
- 5. Consider for Adoption the Actions of the Planning Commission, as follows:**
 - A. Planning Commission meeting held on August 10, 2026
 1. Approval of the report from July 6th, 2026, Planning Commission meeting
Motion by Marutz to approve the report from July 6, 2026, Planning Commission meeting;
second by Ferkey. Motion carried (7 – 0)
 2. Request from Theresa Cashman, Out of the Box Coffee House, for a special exception to exceed the maximum number of parking spaces at 3820 8th Street South (Parcel ID 3413806)
)Kyle Kearns provided a review of the request. Approval was recommended with the condition outlined in the staff report.
Motion by Daven to approve the request from Theresa Cashman, Out of the Box Coffee House, for a special exception to exceed the maximum number of parking spaces at 3820 8th Street South (Parcel ID 3413806), subject to the following condition:
 1. Community Development Department shall have the authority to approve minor modifications to the plans.Second by Bailey. Motion carried (7 – 0) Items 4-7 were moved up on the agenda.
 3. Request from Alderperson Madalyn Palmquist to review and consider modifications to Chapter 11 – Zoning as it relates to Data Center land use (Appendix B) – discussion only
Madalyn Palmquist read her document relating to the concerns and considerations for modification to Chapter 11 Zoning, Appendix B. Attorney Sue Schill provided information

and timelines on a conceivable zoning/development moratorium, amendments to the city ordinance, and the legalities of a binding referendum through direct legislation. Discussions ensued between Commission Members, Attorney Schill and Community Development Director Kearns, addressing the possible benefits and the disadvantages between pursuing City ordinance amendments versus adopting a moratorium. Chairman Zacher recognized persons in the audience who wished to speak, and they were requested to speak only regarding the agenda item outlined above, and were further cautioned against speaking on other topics or any pending data center application. Several residents from Wisconsin Rapids and neighboring communities, as well as others representing interested organizations, provided their comments, opinions and recommendations to the Planning Commission regarding data centers.

Eric Daven made a motion to direct staff to draft a 12-month moratorium over Chapter 11, Appendix A, section 14.03, Data Center, in order to address issues related to public health, safety, and rate-payer equity within the City, and to perform necessary infrastructure studies and better understand the use regulatory framework. The motion included that the item be placed on an agenda for a special meeting of the Planning Commission; second by Schiferl. Katy Bailey abstained and cited a conflict of interest. Motion carried (6 – 0)

4. Request for a Certified Survey Map to combine lots and dedicate right-of-way for street purposes at property northwest of the intersection of East Jackson Street and 2nd Street North (Parcel IDs 34-08178, 34-08177, 34-08176, 34-08174, 34-08172, 34-08171, 34-08170), totaling 9,876 square feet.

Mr. Kearns provided a synopsis of agenda items 4, 5, and 6.

Motion by Ferkey to approve the request for a Certified Survey Map to combine lots and dedicate right-of-way for street purposes at property northwest of the intersection of East Jackson Street and 2nd Street North (Parcel IDs 34-08178, 34-08177, 34-08176, 34-08174, 34-08172, 34-08171, 34-08170), totaling 9,876 square feet; second by Marutz. Motion carried (7 – 0)

5. Request for a Certified Survey Map to dedicate right-of-way for street purposes at 171 3rd Street North (Parcel ID 34-08158), totaling 544.4 square feet.

Motion by Schiferl to approve the request for a Certified Survey Map to dedicate right-of-way for street purposes at 171 3rd Street North (Parcel ID 34-08158), totaling 544.4 square feet; second by Thao. Motion carried (7 – 0)

6. Request for a Certified Survey Map to combine lots, including vacated Market Street and a vacated alleyway, and to dedicate right-of-way for street purposes at 400 Market Street (Parcel IDs 34-7751, 34-07747, 34-08151, 34-08161, 34-08160, 34-08149, 34-08150), totaling 329 square feet and 293 square feet along East Jackson Street and 180 square feet on Saratoga Street.

Motion by Marutz to approve the request for a Certified Survey Map to combine lots, including vacated Market Street and a vacated alleyway, and to dedicate right-of-way for street purposes at 400 Market Street (Parcel IDs 34-7751, 34-07747, 34-08151, 34-08161, 34-08160, 34-08149, 34-08150), totaling 329 square feet and 293 square feet along East Jackson Street and 180 square feet on Saratoga Street; second by Daven. Motion carried (7 – 0)

7. Community Development Department Update
Mr. Kearns announced that the kickoff for the Comprehensive Plan update had begun and that it is scheduled to be completed in the next 12-18 months.
8. Adjourn
Mayor Zacher adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

6. Consider for Adoption the Actions of the Standing Committees of the Common Council, as follows:

- A. Finance and Property Committee meeting held on August 4, 2026
 1. Call to Order
Chairperson Timm called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
 2. Consider for disallowance a claim by Michelle Laurel for injuries allegedly sustained while a patient in a City ambulance; disallowance is recommended by the City's insurance claims administrator. (see attachment)
It was moved by Cattnach, seconded by Penzkover to disallow a claim filed by Michelle Laurel for injuries allegedly sustained while a patient in a City ambulance. Motion carried, 3-0.
 3. Review and consider the public dedication of 544.4 sf of land from parcel 34-08158 for street purposes.
It was moved by Timm, seconded by Cattnach to approve the public dedication of 544.4 sf of land from parcel 34-08158 for street purposes. Motion carried, 3-0.
 4. Review and consider a public dedication of land from parcels 34-08170, 34-08174, 34-08176, 34-08177, 34-08178 for street purposes totaling 9,876 sf.
It was moved by Penzkover, seconded by Timm to approve the public dedication of land from parcels 34-08170, 34-08174, 34-08176, 34-08177, 34-08178 for street purposes totaling 9,876 sf. Motion carried, 3-0.
 5. Discuss Triangle Site Development at the northwest corner of East Jackson Street and 2nd Street North.
The Committee and staff discussed the history and development potential for the site, primarily related to housing, mixed-use, park and commercial. More specifically, the downtown master plan and Jackson Street reconstruction were discussed, as well as opportunities for affordable housing and a band shell. Further discussion at Common Council was encouraged.
 6. Audit of the bills
It was moved by Penzkover, seconded by Timm to approve check numbers 30672 to 30979 in the amount of \$2,884,339.65. Motion carried, 3-0.
 7. Set next regular meeting date
The next regular meeting of the Finance and Property Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 1, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
 8. Adjourn
There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.
- B. Public Works Committee meeting held on August 6, 2026

1. Call to order
The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.
 2. Discuss the creation of an electrical bike and scooter ordinance.
Chief Hostens provided a draft ordinance to the committee highlighting education of the public. Also, an ordinance would help support officer's enforcement of bicycle laws throughout the city. It may also be necessary to restrict certain roadway and sidewalks where it is not safe to travel. Chief Hostens mentioned bike rodeos would continue to be used for educational purposes. Tom Rayome, 1220 22nd St N, spoke regarding the issue of e-bikes within the city and the safety issues surrounding their use.
Motion by Austin, second by Pluess to direct staff to develop an ordinance on e-bikes.
Motion carried 3-0.
 3. Review and consider a revision to the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and Utility Terrain Vehicle Traffic (UTV) Ordinance.
Aldersperson Palmquist introduced this referral and highlighted specific regulations in the current. Stephen Schultz, 520 13th St N, spoke in favor of opening all the roadways. Julie Mohr, 3220 Norton St., spoke on issues with trailering UTVs from 32nd St N and Washington St to roadways that are open and would like to see all the roadways open to ATVs and UTVs. Tom Rayome, 1220 22nd St N, reminded everyone that a referendum was done on ATVs and UTVs on City roads. Bryan Marsch, 221 Two Mile Ave, spoke in favor of opening all roadways and urged the city try opening all roadways. Chief Hostens spoke on the enforcement of the current ordinance with no knowledge of ATVs and UTVs breaking any rules. Aldersperson Timm spoke on business advantage of allowing ATVs and UTVs and that it would be good for the city to open more roadways.
Motion by Pluess, second by Penzkover to adopt a revision to the ordinance to allow ATVs and UTVs on the following streets ~2,236ft of 48th St N, ~2,966ft of 64th St, ~1353ft of Washington St. Motion carried 3-0.
 4. Review the holiday calendar and set the garbage collection schedule for 2027.
Motion by Austin, second by Pluess to approve the calendar as presented. Motion carried (3-0).
 5. Review Engineering & Street Department Monthly Activity Report
The monthly reports were reviewed.
 6. Review the referral list.
Aldersperson Penzkover referred concerns about the expectation of an all-way stop at Lincoln St and Airport Ave and requested that a traffic study be conducted.
 7. Set Next Meeting Date
The next regular meeting is September 3rd, 2026 at 5pm
 8. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.
- C. Human Resources Committee meeting held on August 6, 2026
1. Call to order
Aldersperson Palmquist called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Review the monthly activities of the Human Resources Department.
Personnel- Hires/ Terms- YTD- 15 resignations/ retirements and 18 new hires. That is a 2-person increase from July, with both positions being in the police department. Life Insurance Transition to an on-line format has been completed. City staff have been collaborating on the modification and the rebuilding of the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and Continuance of Government (COG) in the event of a major incident. The City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) through Ascension will have the Quarter 3 in-person presentation on August 19, 2026. The program will take place at the library, and the topic will be Anxiety and Depression.
3. Discuss a referral from Alderperson Palmquist regarding salary compression within the Fire Department.
Motion by Palmquist seconded by Ferkey to approve the revised draft of the Pay Provisions Policy as it relates to salary compression. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

7. Reports of Other Committees, Commissions, Boards, and Department Reports:

- A. Other Reports

8. Referrals to Committees

9. Adjourn

Jennifer M. Gossick, City Clerk

The City of Wisconsin Rapids encourages participation from all its citizens. If participation at this meeting via audioconference is not possible due to a disability or other reasons, notification to the city clerk's office at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting is encouraged to make the necessary accommodations. Call the clerk at (715) 421-8200 to request accommodations.