

**COMMISSION ON PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES
COUNCIL ROOM, CITY HALL
OCTOBER 14, 2025
6:45 P.M.**

The Commission on Public Works/Utilities met in regular session, Chair Clough presiding.
On roll call: all members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared approved.

Chair Clough presented Director of Public Works Friemoth’s report on four burials at the Cemetery, installing culverts and performing trail maintenance in the Listeman Arboretum, moving and mulching leaves in the Parks and Cemetery, added three new Disc Golf Course holes near and around Mount Moldy, (these are removable – so they will not affect winter activities), Autumn Harvest Festival set up the tent, stage and tables, patching potholes, used asphalt millings to grade the rough area between Clay Street and Oak Street on W. Eighth Street by the Compost Site, equipment maintenance, hauling brush, cleaning catch basins, Water Department-daily testing and well rounds, utility locates, meter change outs, replaced two curb stops on West Street and W. Fourth Street, winterizing fire hydrants and inspecting caps, exercising water main valves, Sewer Department-daily testing and lift station rounds, lift station maintenance and inspections, grounds maintenance, mixer maintenance, locating and raising manholes, the intersection of Division Street and Hewett Street was milled and paved in a joint effort between the WI DOT, Clark County and City (it was paid for through special funding from the State taking Governor Evers approval). U.S. Highway 10 is now scheduled for replacement in 2028.

Chair Clough read Resolution No. 644 to Authorize Application for Urban Forestry Grant or Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant.

Motion Neville, second Poeschel, to accept and recommend to the Common Council that Resolution No. 644 be adopted. (See Common Council minutes of October 14, 2025, for the printed Resolution.) All Aye.

City Clerk Roehl presented the Third Quarter 2025 Water and Sewer Financial Statements.

Motion Poeschel, second Rochester, to adjourn. All Aye.

Daniel M. Clough, Chair

Rex R. Roehl, Clerk

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**COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL ROOM
OCTOBER 14, 2025
7:00 P.M.**

The Common Council met in regular session, Mayor Poeschel presiding. On roll call: all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared approved.

Council Member Petkovsek reported on the September 23, 2025 meeting of the Grants Committee regarding: 1) reviewing and updating the list of grants in progress and 2) discussion on and referral of the 2026 Grants Committee budget to the Finance Committee.

Mayor Poeschel reported on the October 2, 7 and 9, 2025 meeting of the Finance Committee regarding: 1) presentation of department budgets; 2) work on the 2026 budget; 3) adoption of the Wage Schedule for 2026, 4) recommendation of budget categories and levy amount of the 2026 budget to the Common Council for Public Hearing, Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:15 P.M. Total Budget \$3,954,326 – Proposed Levy including Tax Incremental Districts - \$1,463,473 – an increase of \$41,934, 5) a closed session for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or the conducting of other specified public business, as long as competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, 6) reconvening into open session, 7) discussion on and recommendation to purchase the Rib River Properties, LLC, 501 W. Eighth Street, Parcel No. 261.0832.000, land at a cost of \$60,000 and 8) discussion on and recommendation on a split vote to borrow for the following Capital Projects and getting loan proposals for \$400,000 with repayment over five years from the three local financial institutions for:

Police Station – Tuck pointing and repairs	\$ 35,000
Fire Department – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	202,500
Public Works Garage – Expansion and Construction	23,000
Public Works Compost/Materials Site Expansion – Land purchase and fencing	62,000
Cemetery – Columbarium – niche unit, setup, Concrete base and landscaping	62,500
Listeman Park Toys – Rubberized mulch and borders	<u>15,000</u>
Total	\$400,000

Council Member Clough reported on the October 14, 2025 meeting of the Commission on Public Works/Utilities regarding: 1) current activities, 2) discussion on, approval of and recommendation that Resolution No. 644 to Authorize Application for Urban Forestry Grant or Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant be adopted and 3) reviewed the Third Quarter 2025 Financial Statements.

Mayor Poeschel declared all reports filed as presented with the City Clerk.

Mayor Poeschel asked if there were any questions on the Finance Committee items (7 and 8).

Motion Clough, second Rochester, to accept the recommendation to purchase the Rib River Properties, LLC, 501 W. Eighth Street, Parcel No. 261.0832.000, land at a cost of \$60,000. All Aye.

Council Member Gelhaus stated that the City should not be borrowing money or paying anything at Listeman Park. The new ballfield was to be at no cost to the City, now the City wants to pay for mulch. The Ball Association should come in and tell the City why.

Council Member Neville stated it is an asset to the City, we cannot just leave it sit.

Council Member Rochester stated that ball tournaments bring people into the City and they spend money at local businesses.

Council Member Gelhaus stated the Ball Association should be paying for everything.

Motion Rochester, second Petkovsek, to accept the recommendation to borrow for Capital Projects as presented. On roll call: Council Member Gelhaus – Nay. All other members – Aye. 4-Aye, 1-Nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Poeschel presented Allyssa (Carney) Berg’s request to amend her February 13, 2024 request to keep chickens at 10 Clay Street. The property is .62 acres. The original approval granted five (5 hen) chickens. Allyssa Berg is the applicant, Phyllis Carney is the owner and is okay with her adding five more chickens for a total of ten.

Chief of Police Mankowski stated that he is a neighbor and never sees her chickens and has no concerns with increasing the number of chickens.

Motion Rochester, second Clough, to grant Allyssa (Carney) Berg, applicant, permission for 10 Clay Street, Phyllis Carney, owner, to have up to ten (10 hens) chickens, no roosters, subject to review if complaints are received or excess numbers of animals occur. All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel nominated Ashley Bryan to fill the vacant Historic Preservation Commission Member position.

Motion Clough, second Petkovsek, to accept the recommendation and appoint Ashley Bryan (2026) as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission. All Aye.

City Clerk Roehl presented the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics – Airport Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for Wisconsin Airports in the amount of \$ 9,414.02.

Motion Neville, second Rochester, to accept and appropriate the \$9,414.02 to Account No. 57350 Airport Outlay. Council Member Gelhaus-Nay. All other members-Aye. 4-Aye, 1-Nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Poeschel presented a thank you letter from the Wisconsin Air National Guard for the Neillsville Airports support of Volk Field, Camp Douglas, WI training scenarios and readiness.

Mayor Poeschel asked if there were any questions on the Commission on Public Works/Utilities item (2).

RESOLUTION NO. 644

RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE APPLICATION FOR URBAN FORESTRY GRANT OR URBAN FORESTRY CATASTROPHIC STORM GRANT

WHEREAS, the applicant, City of Neillsville, is interested in obtaining a cost-share grant from Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of funding urban and community forestry projects or urban forestry catastrophic storm projects specified in §23.097(1g) and (1r), Wis. Stats.;

WHEREAS, the applicant attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the applicant requests a grant agreement to carry out the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the applicant, City of Neillsville, will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share agreement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the applicant will budget a sum sufficient to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby authorizes and empowers the Director of Public Works, its official or employee, to act on its behalf to:

1. Sign and submit the grant application
2. Sign a grant agreement between applicant and the DNR
3. Submit interim and/or final reports to the DNR to satisfy the grant agreement
4. Submit grant reimbursement request to the DNR
5. Sign and submit other required documentation

Duane Poeschel, Mayor

Rex R. Roehl, City Clerk-Treasurer

Motion Rochester, second Clough, to accept the recommendation that Resolution No. 644 be adopted. All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel stated the next item is the Personnel Committee recommendation from September 22, 2025: With the upcoming City Clerk-Treasurer retirement/vacancy that an organization change be considered to move to an Administrator/Public Works, Clerk-Treasurer and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer.

Council Member Clough stated that he has read the “Innovation Planning Grant Study” prepared by Innovative Public Advisors several times. The Study has potential opportunities, recommendations and possible funding sources, but is hard to say “yes” or “no” without further information. There are no job descriptions to show what this would look like – are we going from 3 ½ positions to 4 full-time positions.

Council Member Clough stated he would like a closed session to go over these items, to hammer things out, this would be a major reorganization.

Motion Clough, second Gelhaus, to table this recommendation. On roll call: Council Member Petkovsek-Nay. All other members-Aye. 4-Aye, 1-Nay. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Matt Meyer reported on setup and firing the 4th of July fireworks, a pool fill, two dunk tanks, trucks in the Heritage Days Parade, conducting the water fights for Heritage Days, providing a truck and water for the Mud Bog event, verified the alarm systems at the new Gross Ford, hosted the Public Safety Night Out, provided traffic control and escort for the Highground Motorcycle Ride, provided trucks and crew for the Men’s Club Demo Derby at the Fair, attended Community Fire Hall and Rural Fire Association Board meetings, displayed a truck and turnout gear for the 24th Anniversary of 9-11, the DNR conducted an audit on the grant items received, provided a truck for the Granton Fall Fest parade, firefighters Vine, Calkins, Slenzka and Kallian provided fire extinguisher training to 137 employees at Atmus Filtration.

Fire Chief Meyer reported on responding to 18 calls this quarter: 8-City: a lift assist to EMS, 3 faulty alarms, a cancelled enroute to an alarm, a cancelled alarm before leaving the building, an assist to EMS with the UTV and a down power line standby. 9-Rural: a grass fire, a skidder fire, a one-car accident, a two-car accident, a cancelled enroute to a car accident, smoke odor in home, a cancelled enroute to an alarm, an On-Star activation with nothing found, a structure fire and a mutual aid to Spencer Fire Department for tenders to haul water for a barn fire.

Fire Chief Meyer thanked the City Crew for painting the Fire Hall parking lot lines, one firefighter has left the Department, new firefighters are needed, equipment is good, the old City firetruck has a leaking valve which needs repair, the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) are outdated and a grant has been applied for, this year’s Firemen’s Steak Feed served 1,178 steaks and 65 kids meals.

Chief of Police Mankowski reported on training, squad car maintenance, September parking enforcements, citations, warnings, office activities, officer activities, business patrols and contract policing.

City Clerk Roehl presented the Third Quarter 2025 City Financial Statements.

Tavern Operator’s License Applications:

Jacqueline S. Schoenherr and Kassandra Soward

Motion Clough, second Petkovsek, to grant all the listed licenses. All Aye.

Motion Neville, second Clough, that City Bills Nos. 873 to 945 in the amount of \$347,915.96 be paid. All Aye.

Discussion on having a meeting on the Personnel Committee recommendation that was tabled.

Motion Petkovsek, second Rochester, to adjourn. All Aye.

Duane G. Poeschel, Mayor

Rex R. Roehl, Clerk

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