

**COMMISSION ON PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES
COUNCIL ROOM, CITY HALL
NOVEMBER 10, 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.

Director of Public Works Friemoth reported on two burials at the Cemetery, winterizing Cemetery water lines, cleaning and closing water lines, mowing and mulching leaves in the Parks and Cemetery, working on the disc golf addition, Arboretum trail maintenance and brush chipping, patching potholes, leaf pickup in progress, equipment maintenance, hauling brush, street light maintenance, removing brush blocking signs, Water Department-daily testing and well rounds, utility locates, meter change outs, winterizing fire hydrants and inspecting caps, exercising water main valves exercising generators, putting up door hangers for delinquent utility bills and shut off notices, Sewer Department-daily testing and lift station rounds, lift station maintenance and inspections, sewer lining along U.S. Hwy 10 and on Hill Street, jetting sewer mains, hauling and field applying sludge, general plant maintenance and finished the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) grant application for 2026-2027.

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

Daniel M. Clough, Chair

Rex R. Roehl, Clerk

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**COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL ROOM
NOVEMBER 10, 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 October 28, 2025 meeting of the Grants Committee regarding reviewing and updating the list of grants in progress.

Council Member Petkovsek reported on the November 3, 2025 meeting of the Personnel Committee regarding: 1) a closed session on a City employee, 2) reconvening into open session, 3) the recommendation on a split vote of the Resignation Agreement and Release of All Claims for the City employee as contemplated in closed session and 4) discussion on information on Administrator position.

Council Member Neville reported on the November 4, 2025 meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee regarding: 1) discussion on construction of a pavilion at Cliff’s Park, 2) discussion on and recommendation to accept a \$500 donation for a bench in the Arboretum and 3) discussion on and recommendation to approve Phase 2 (construction of a concession stand) and Phase 3 revamping (new dugouts and fencing) of the existing ballfield in Listeman Park.

Council Member Gelhaus stated that they are asking for Phases 2 and 3 to be approved. It is stated that the City has agreed to provide 40 hours of labor to the ballparks and that has not been reached yet. Gelhaus disagreed stating it took Barth, Friemoth and two part-time people two days to take down the old pavilion, plus taking down and fixing toys.

Council Member Petkovsek questioned whether that work was part of Parks or the ballfield project.

Council Member Clough stated he would like accounting and further information on the City’s involvement.

Council Member Clough reported on the November 10, 2025 meeting of the Commission on Public Works/Utilities regarding current activities.

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

Jerilyn St. Amand stated that the ballfield will turn out like the skate park – no one uses it. St. Amand stated that Friemoth and Roehl do a very good job, but she disagrees with eliminating a position, you start eliminating positions and it will cost more money in attorney and technical service fees, there will be no cost savings.

7:15 P.M. – Mayor Poeschel declared the Public Hearing on the Proposed 2026 Budget for the City now open.

**CITY OF NEILLSVILLE
2026 CITY BUDGET**

EXPENDITURES AND CONTINGENCY

Operations and Maintenance	
General Government – 51000	\$ 1,091,808
Public Safety – 52000	998,649
Public Works – 53000	703,559
Health & Human Services – 54000	92,811
Culture, Recreation, Education – 55000	347,067
Conservation & Development – 56000	<u>44,355</u>
Total Operations and Maintenance	\$ 3,278,249
Capital Outlay – 57000	112,200
Debt Service – 58000	467,430
Contingency – 34000	<u>96,447</u>
Total Expenditures and Contingency	<u>\$ 3,954,326</u>

LESS: REVENUES OTHER THAN FROM PROPERTY TAXES

Taxes – 41000	\$ 295,234
Special Assessments – 42000	-0-
Intergovernmental Revenues – 43000	1,491,787
Licenses & Permits – 44000	11,415
Fines, Forfeits, & Penalties – 45000	23,500
Public Charges for Services – 46000	62,273
Intergovernmental Charges for Services – 47000	96,054
Miscellaneous Revenues – 48000	63,788
Other Financing Sources – 49000	<u>121,325</u>
Total Revenues	\$ 2,165,376
General Funds Applied	<u>414,981</u>
Total Revenue and Funds Applied	<u>\$ 2,580,357</u>

Proposed City Levy	\$ 1,373,969
Less: Computer State Aid	<u><4,255></u>
Net City Levy Before TIDs	\$ 1,369,714
PLUS: Tax Incremental Districts (TIDs)	<u>93,759</u>
Net City Levy	<u>\$ 1,463,473</u>

Proposed Local Tax Rate \$10.176965 per thousand

The City Clerk reported that the proposed 2026 General Fund Budget of \$3,954,326 is lower than the Consumer Price Index (2.7%) and lower than the Wisconsin Department of

Revenue Expenditure Restraint Program (3.6%) guidelines. The proposed 2025 tax levy of \$1,373,969 without TID's exceeds the State's levy limit of 0% plus net new construction (1.449% or \$16,460); however, the Finance Committee has recommended approving a levy limit adjustment increase: Section D, Line E \$262,708 for Debt Service Levy for general obligation debt authorized after July 1, 2005 – this would bring the City into compliance with the allowable levy limit for the City.

Mayor Poeschel called for appearances.

Jerilyn St. Amand stated that the City got rid of the taxi service, the roads are still bad. She doesn't understand where the money went, but something has to be done.

Mayor Poeschel called three times for further appearances – there being none.

7:19 P.M. – Mayor Poeschel declared the budget hearing closed.

Motion Neville, second Clough, to approve the Levy Limit Section D, Line E adjustment for Debt Service Levy for general obligation debt authorized after July 1, 2005 (\$262,708).
All Aye.

Motion Clough, second Rochester, to adopt the 2026 City Budget of \$3,954,326 with \$1,463,473 to be placed on the 2025 Tax Roll. On roll call: All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel stated the next item is the tabled Personnel Committee item from the October 14, 2025 meeting on 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. A motion is needed to take the item from the table.

Motion Clough, second Neville, to take this item from the table. All Aye.

Council Member Clough stated that the Personnel Committee is making a recommendation for a new reorganization of City government, this is a change in how the City is governed. We need to write new job descriptions, develop a chart of organization, a plan for modernization of digital and computerization. What are we going to have the people do, we should advertise outside the City Staff to have the opportunity to find people, you still have the option to hire from inside the organization.

Council Member Clough stated the study should not have mentioned individual names, increasing a part-time position to full-time, combining two full-time positions into one position. Changing the Mayor's responsibility, the department heads would now report to an Administrator. Clough stated the change is not going to save the City any money, it probably will be budget equal. There will be costs to change ordinances, etc. In the report it mentions a professional Administrator with a bachelor's or master's degree. The report mentions Friemoth by name, he is very good, but has neither, to set him up to succeed in a job he is not prepared for, he will have to have a conceptual job description and a clear organizational chart.

Mayor Poeschel stated that we have been working on this for about a year, work has been done on job descriptions, if we want a change, we need to know so we can move along and get the jobs up and running.

Council Member Gelhaus stated that he has talked with the author of the study, Jay Shambeau. Shambeau has four other cities going through this process. Plan the structure, job descriptions, advertise for a professional, if we are changing how this City is run, start off on the right foot.

Council Member Rochester stated we cannot pay our Police Department and get equipment. Friemoth, Grap and Winder can take classes.

Council Member Petkovsek stated we are getting off the agenda item and asked for a point of order.

Motion Petkovsek, second Neville, to call the question. On roll call: Council Member Petkovsek – Aye, Council Member Neville – Aye, Council Member Clough – Nay, Council Member Rochester – Aye, Council Member Gelhaus – Nay. 3-Aye, 2-Nay. Motion carried.

Motion Petkovsek, second Rochester to accept the Personnel Committee recommendation that 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. On roll call: Council Member Petkovsek – Aye, Council Member Rochester – Aye, Council Member Gelhaus – Nay, Council Member Neville – Aye, Council Member Clough – Nay. 3-Aye, 2-Nay. Motion carried.

Mayor Poeschel asked if there were any questions on the Parks and Recreation Board items (2 and 3).

Motion Neville, second Petkovsek, to accept the recommendation to accept a \$500 donation for a park bench in the Arboretum and appropriate \$500 to Account No. 57620 Parks Outlay. All Aye.

Motion Neville, second Rochester, to approve Phase 2 (construction of a concession stand) and Phase 3 revamping (new dugouts and fencing) of the existing ballfield in Listeman Park. Council Member Gelhaus – abstained. All other members – Aye. Motion carried.

City Clerk Roehl presented the 2026 dental insurance renewal from Heather Loniello, TriCor Insurance Agent for Delta Dental. The Employee Plan premium is going from \$42.41 to \$45.80 or \$3.39 (8%). The Employee and Spouse Plan premium is going from \$84.82 to \$91.61 or \$6.79 (8%). The Employee and Child Plan premium is going from \$86.48 to \$93.40 or \$6.92 (8%). The Family Plan premium is going from \$141.58 to \$152.91 or \$11.33 (8%). The monthly overall increase is 8%.

Motion Neville, second Clough to approve the 2026 Dental Insurance contract renewal with Delta Dental as presented. All Aye.

City Clerk Roehl presented the CliftonLarsonAllen 2025, 2026 and 2027 Audit Services Agreement in the amounts of \$32,970/\$33,705/\$34,440. This is a three-year agreement. It does not include the various required TIF District Audits. Discussion followed on TIF District Audits – historic information and costs.

Motion Neville, second Rochester, to approve the Audit Services Agreement with CliftonLarsonAllen as presented. All Aye.

Chief of Police Mankowski presented a review of the City’s Parking Fine amounts.

<u>Violation</u>	<u>Current Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Fee</u>
Three-Hour Parking	\$10.00	\$15.00
No Parking 2am – 5:30am	\$15.00	\$20.00
Handicapped Parking	\$30.00	\$75.00 \$150.00
Restricted Parking	\$20.00	\$40.00

Discussion followed on Handicapped Parking and increasing the proposal to \$150.00.

Motion Gelhaus, second Rochester to approve the Parking Fee Schedule as amended effective January 1, 2026. All Aye.

City Clerk Roehl reported on receiving the following donations from the Marguerite Listeman Foundation: \$3,500 for C.C. Sniteman Park Town Square – Clock Tower repair, \$1,000 for City Cable Channel – Equipment, \$2,500 for Beautification Committee – flowers, hanging baskets and seasonal flowerpot decorations and \$3,000 for Mural Project Committee – supplies for up to five murals.

Motion Clough, second Rochester, to accept and appropriate \$1,000 to Account No. 51100 Legislative – Council, \$5,500 to Account No. 55340 Celebrations and \$3,500 to Account No. 57620 Parks Outlay and to thank the Listeman Foundation for their donations. All Aye.

Chief of Police Mankowski reported on training, advertising for a part-time Police Officer (only one call received and they want more than the City pays per hour), equipment

purchases, squad car maintenance, October parking enforcement, citations, warnings, office activities, officer activities, officer assists, business patrols and contract policing.

City Clerk Roehl presented the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) First Notice of Non-Compliance with Section 70.05 Assessment Compliance in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. If the City is out of compliance in 2026, a Second Notice of Non-Compliance will be issued by the DOR. If we remain out of compliance in 2027, DOR issues an Order of Supervised Assessment. Roehl stated at the August 12, 2025 meeting the Council approved an Assessment Services Agreement with Associated Appraisal Consultants to correct this situation.

Tavern Operator’s License Application:
Lucy A. LeBrun

Motion Clough, second Neville, to grant. All Aye.

Motion Neville, second Gelhaus, that City Bills Nos. 980 to 1012 in the amount of \$95,240.06 be paid. All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel announced a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(b) considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter regarding a City employee.

Council Member Petkovsek asked if an open session has been requested, on checking with the City Attorney, only the individual and their attorney can be admitted to a closed session.

Motion Rochester, second Clough, to invite Director of Public Works Friemoth, City Clerk-Treasurer Roehl and the individual to remain for the closed session. All Aye.

Motion Rochester, second Neville to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(b) considering dismissal, demotion, licensing or discipline of any public employee or person licensed by a board or commission or the investigation of charges against such person, or considering the grant or denial of tenure for a university faculty member, and the taking of formal action on any such matter regarding a City employee.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Duane G. Poeschel, Mayor

Rex R. Roehl, Clerk

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