



City of Racine

City Hall
730 Washington Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
www.cityofracine.org

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wastewater Commission

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

5:30 PM

Racine Water Utility Conf. Rm.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 12 - Natalia Taft, John Tate II, Cory Mason, Anthony Beyer, Anthony Bunkelman, Jens Jorgensen, Jim Sullivan, Nancy Washburn, Nick Barootian, Rosalind Thomas, Jack Feiner and Kevin Salb

EXCUSED: 2 - Claude Lois and Marlo Harmon

[0791-25](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the July 16, 2025, Wastewater Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

A motion was made by Jorgensen, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Approved.

[0828-25](#)

Subject: Reconsideration of Item 0718-25; Communication from Utility Director Regarding Revenue Sharing Calculations 2026

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Legal Counsel retained by the Wastewater Commission, Attorney John St. Peter, addressed the Commission first by informing them of a letter dated the same day, August 20, 2025, that had been sent by the Utility's Engineering Consultant, Ruekert-Mielke, to the Utility Director relaying a possible error in the Revenue Sharing calculations. A few weeks prior, the City Attorney had inquired with them regarding the Revenue Sharing Calculation formulas with specific questions related to the application of TID revenue transfer exemptions. Upon initial review and investigation into the matter by Ruekert Mielke, it was discovered that the calculations had been modified in 2015 to exempt TID revenues which thereby "artificially reduced the revenue sharing allocations owed by the contributor RSP Parties and alternatively reduced the revenue sharing allocations due to the recipient RSP parties."

Brennen Fischer with Ruekert-Mielke, was also in attendance to address the matter with the Commission and to field any direct questions and concerns. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission on determining how to proceed with rectifying the collection of payments as well as concerns expressed about who will be ultimately

accountable for checking the calculations once received by Ruekert Mielke.

Attorney St. Peter reminded the Commission that the look back time period is addressed within the Sewer Agreement and that the aggrieved must make a case about how to interpret this time period. He further reiterated that the Commission is obligated to follow the Agreement and administer the proper procedures required for this kind of dispute.

A motion was made to defer the item in order to allow time for the City to file a formal letter of inquiry to the Commission about the error in calculations discovered as well as to propose their interpretation of the look-back period. This would also allow the Utility Director to send communication to the respective RSP parties about the error thereby giving allowance for follow-up questions or clarifications. The Commission would then be able to formulate a specific course of action for proceeding forward in the matter.

A motion was made by Mason, seconded by Washburn, that this file be Deferred.

[0792-25](#)

Subject: Communication from Utility Director Regarding Update on Sewer Agreement Material Change Negotiations

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Commission retained legal counsel, Attorney St. Peter, once again addressed the Commission relaying that there was nothing new to report at this time noting that the Material Change in Circumstance (MCC) was still active. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission relating to possible specific actions to take to help direct the process by ensuring that the municipal parties involved are actively meeting regularly to progress forward with the MCC. It was suggested that Attorney St. Peter draft a letter to notify the municipal parties involved that regular monthly updates are to be provided to him to share with the Commission.

A motion was made by Jorgensen, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Received and Filed.

[0793-25](#)

Subject: Request by the Village of Mount Pleasant for a Sanitary Sewer Extension for Seasons at Spring Street Development Project

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the sewer extension request for the Seasons at Spring Street Development Project, which will serve a 12-building, 220-unit multi-family development on the north side of Spring Street in the Village of Mount Pleasant. Per Sewer Agreement Section 3.3a, the Commission is required to approve all SSR party sanitary sewer extensions provided that they meet the requirements detailed in the section. The extension entails approximately 3,614 L.F. of 10" diameter sanitary sewer. The extension flows are expected to be well within the allocated conveyance and treatment capacities.

A motion was made by Beyer, seconded by Bunkelman, that this file be Approved.

[0794-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with IRS Roofing for Design and Construction Related Services

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Cost not to exceed 7% of the lowest responsible bid received (less Phase 1 fee)

The Utility Director reminded the Commission that they had voted in July to keep the existing roof structure and terra cotta material on the administration building of the treatment plant. A proposed agreement from Industrial Roofing Services was presented for proceeding forward with the roofing design and construction related services on the project. There is a 50-70 week lead time for the materials, to maintain consistency with material that is currently on the roof, as far as style, material, and color.

A motion was made by Mason, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Approved.

[0795-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Professional Services Proposals to Complete the 2020 Facility Plan Amendment Study

Staff Recommendation: To Allow Utility Staff to Negotiate Final Scope with Strand Associates and Enter into a Professional Services Agreement

Fiscal Note: \$290,000 to be paid by Cost of Service Allocated share from Requesting SSR Parties.

The Utility Director presented some background history on the facility plan expansion project, commencing with the request for more treatment capacity by the Villages of Sturtevant, Mount Pleasant, and Caledonia, back in 2020. Because the current treatment plant footprint is landlocked, alternative solutions had to be explored. As part of the process to proceed forward with design and preplanning, the DNR required the Utility to provide an analysis report on capacity in wet weather flow (inflow and infiltration - I/I) and capacity allocations to SSR parties. Subsequently, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed to determine the best method for proceeding forward. The Commission also issued an RFP to 5 engineering consulting firms to complete a Cost of Service Study (COSS) whose scope would consist of the following criteria:

- * Estimate cost to control I/I as opposed to expansion*
- * Evaluate capacity allocations amongst SSR parties*
- * Study the projected loss of industry because of capacity constraints*
- * Evaluate sending some flow to MMSD*

The three proposals received from Robinson Engineering, Strand Associates, and Carollo Engineering were each evaluated by Utility leadership based on specific criteria. As this is a request for professional services, the Utility Director alternatively

recommended Strand Associates, who has the highest proposal cost, as they are a reputable firm with whom the Utility has previously worked. Another major deciding factor is their partnership with Brown and Caldwell, who operates the Utility's hydraulic model and is familiar with how our system functions.

A motion was made by Thomas, seconded by Jorgensen, that this file be Approved.

[0392-25](#)

Subject: Communication and Possible Action Sponsored by Commissioner Mason Regarding City Resident Incentive Pay Differential

Fiscal Note: Potential impact of \$35,000 to \$45,000 on Wages Budget for 2026.

Commissioner Mason addressed the Commission on this item relaying the intent and desire to bring the Utility onto the same pay incentive system utilized by the City, whereby utility employees who are city residents would receive a 4% increase in their yearly salary. The Utility Director also presented some other thoughts for the Commission to take into consideration while weighing their voting decision on this item, such as impact on staff morale, fiscal impact, effects on recruiting and retention efforts based on the Utility's numbers compared with the City's without use of this benefit, as well as measuring the effectiveness of this benefit in creating systemic change.

A motion was made by Jorgensen, seconded by Barootian, that this file be Approved.

[0796-25](#)

Subject: Submission of the Proposed 2026 Operations and Maintenance Budget, and the Proposed 2026-2035 Capital Improvement Plan

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the proposed 2026 Operations and Maintenance Budget, along with the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2026-2035. The proposed budgets will be considered for approval at the September Wastewater Commission Meeting.

A motion was made by Tate II, seconded by Washburn, that this file be Received and Filed.

CLOSED SESSION

[0797-25](#)

Subject: Communication sponsored by Commissioner Taft Requesting that the Wastewater Commission Meet Regarding Bargaining and Development Opportunities, which, for Competitive and Bargaining Reasons, require a Closed Session

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Commission President Taft declared that the Closed Session item would be deferred until the next meeting as there were no significant updates from the City Attorney to report on at this time.

OPEN SESSION

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.