



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wastewater Commission

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room 303

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 9 - Natalia Taft, John Tate II, Anthony Bunkelman, Jens Jorgensen, Nick Barootian, Rosalind Thomas, Jack Feiner, Cory Mason and Marlo Harmon
EXCUSED: 4 - Jim Sullivan, Nancy Washburn, Claude Lois and Tony Beyer

[0416-26](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the April 15, 2026, Wastewater Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[0419-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with Ehlers to Prepare 2027 Revenue Sharing Calculations

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Ehlers Agreement based on hourly basis with cost not to exceed \$9,900.00 from Professional Services Budget. AECOM Agreement based on hourly basis with time and materials cost not to exceed \$8,515.00 also from Professional Services Budget.

The Utility Director presented a proposal from Ehlers Public Finance Advisors, that would allow them to perform the calculations for the 2027 Revenue Sharing Payments that are mandated as part of the Sewer Agreement, Section 7.1a, as well as annual payments to the Zoo, Museum, and Library, that is mandated in Section 8.2. There is a separate contract proposal from AECOM, who will assist with re-drawing some of the maps involved in the partial planning areas where GIS is not available to provide data on those tax parcels (Franksville, Raymond, Somers, and part of Caledonia).

Discussion arose on whether AECOM was working as a sub-contractor under Ehlers or if there were two separate contracts being proposed. Further questions ensued about amending the item description to reflect that there were indeed two separate contracts being proposed for Commission approval or if it would need to be brought back at the next meeting. The City Attorney was consulted via telephone to advise on the item, and since the fiscal note and attachments were reflecting two separate contract proposals,

he advised that the Commission could move forward with approving the item as presented.

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

[0420-26](#)

Subject: Communication from Utility Director regarding Photovoltaic Installations

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director reminded the Commission of approval being granted in 2025 for the Wastewater Utility to embark on an Energy Master Plan or "roadmap" to help evaluate the feasibility of a solar array being installed at the Treatment Plant. The Utility had sought out assistance from TY Lin to expedite the solar task to be able to take advantage of federal incentives that would soon be expiring. Mike Monte, from TY Lin, was in attendance virtually to present on this item. Highlights included the recommended zones for placing the solar distribution panels through a phased approach, potential cost estimates, as well as the recommendation of a Performance Contracting Request for Proposal delivery method, where the Utility would gather proposals from qualified vendors based on criteria, parameters, and scope established through consult with TY Lin. The Commission was in agreement with continuing to move forward with this project as its goals are in direct alignment with the City's overall carbon reduction mission.

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A motion was made by Mason, seconded by Barootian, that this file be Received and Filed.

[0422-26](#)

Subject: Communication sponsored by Commissioner Jorgensen, requesting permission to apply for a 2027 WI-DATCP Household Hazardous Waste Grant.

Recommendation of the Wastewater Commission on

05-20-2026: That the Wastewater Utility Director be granted permission to apply for a grant from WI-DATCP, (Grant Control #00701), to partially fund HHW activities in 2027, and to refer this item to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Recommendation of the Finance and Personnel Committee on

05-26-2026: To Approve.

Fiscal Note: This annual grant has a maximum of \$66,000 with a match of up to \$22,000 which will be recovered by HHW rates.

The Utility Director presented the item requesting permission to apply for a 2027 WI-DATCP grant, which is one that the Utility applies for each year to help cover operations and disposal costs incurred through the HHW collection events held from

April - October each year.

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

[0423-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of a Professional Services Contract Amendment with Full Service Organics Management, LLC (FSO) for Digester Cleaning Services

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director reminded the Commission of their approval back in March 2026 of an approved multi-year contract with Full Service Organics Management, LLC (FSO), who would oversee the cleaning of the digesters at the Treatment Plant. The cost of the process is based on the amount of wet tons that are pulled out of the digesters with equipment operated on diesel fuel. The item is being brought back to notify the Commission that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is no longer available so it is being amended to its closest match, also resulting in a negligible change in escalation price.

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

[0425-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order #4 on Contract D-22 Biogas Conditioning Project, Lee Mechanical (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: This is a zero-cost change order.

The Utility Director presented a no-cost change order that will extend the contract duration to align with the completion of the Engine/Blowers Contract, also currently happening simultaneously at the Treatment Plant.

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

[0426-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order #3 on Contract A-22 Chicory Rd Area Sewer Improvements, Miron Construction, Inc. (Contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: This is a zero-cost change order.

The Utility Director presented a no-cost change order that will extend the duration of the contract with no additional fiscal impact.

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

[0453-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Wastewater Commission 2026 Calendar

Meeting Dates

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Commission discussed whether or not to conduct a "Special Meeting" in June, in addition to the regular scheduled monthly meeting, to cover some Closed Session agenda topics that were likely to generate lengthy discussion that would hinder the Waterworks Commission from being able to start their meeting at a reasonable time.

No Vote was taken on this item. Commission President Taft closed out the meeting after discussion ended.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.