



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Waterworks Commission

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

6:00 PM

City Hall, Room 303

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that Commissioner Sullivan was present in a voting capacity for Commissioner Mason, who was absent from the meeting.

PRESENT: 7 - John Tate II, Natalia Taft, Jens Jorgensen, Jim Sullivan, Marlo Harmon, Nick Barootian and Rosalind Thomas

EXCUSED: 1 - Cory Mason

[0039-26](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the November 19, 2025, Waterworks Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[0040-26](#)

Subject: Communication from the Utility Director Regarding Approval of \$40 Million Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Loan Application and a \$10 Million Water Main Replacement Loan Application

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director updated the Commission on the Water Utility being awarded \$40 million in Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) loan money; half of which is principal forgiveness. There was also \$10 million awarded towards Water Main Replacement loans with an unexpected \$1.6M in principal forgiveness. The Commissioners commended Utility Staff on their hard work and dedication towards helping secure these funds to help advance the City's goals on replacing LSL's and repairing water mains. It was also stressed how important it is to keep residents informed about the importance of this project while also keeping the end-goal in sight amidst the hardships and stress of navigating through the city with multiple roads being torn up simultaneously during the construction phase. Utility Engineer, Chad Regalia, assured the Commission that the Utility is working together with the Department of Public Works as well as the Department of Transportation to ensure that work is being completed in conjunction with other projects as much as possible to streamline the process.

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

[0066-26](#)

Subject: Request to Authorize the Utility Director to Accept an Award of \$150,000 (Grant Control #694) from the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR), for a Lead Service Lateral Replacement Outreach Grant

Staff Recommendation: To Approve with a Referral to the Finance and Personnel Committee

Fiscal Note: Grant award of \$150,000.

The Utility Director presented the item pertaining to the acceptance of a \$150,000 grant awarded to the Utility by the WI-DNR to utilize towards activities being coordinated by Community Infrastructure Partners (CIP) in terms of outreach efforts with the Lead Service Line Replacement Project. This would include items and activities such as advertising costs, canvassing training and materials, coordination of community gatherings, staff training, data entry, project coordination and other incurred costs that are determined as eligible by the WI-DNR.

A motion was made by Harmon, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Approved and Referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

[0041-26](#)

Subject: Communication from the Utility Director Regarding the Triennial Sanitary Survey Findings

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the item by summarizing the findings from the Triennial Sanitary Survey that was conducted at the Water Utility in December 2025. No Significant Deficiencies with one deficiency, four recommendations, and an accolade towards the Utility's overall good record of compliance with monitoring and reporting requirements were all noted in the letter sent to the City by the WI-DNR. Drinking Water Superintendent, Joel Brunner, was present to speak in detail about the deficiency and the 4 recommendations, while detailing actions that the Water Utility is taking towards improving these areas of concern.

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

[0042-26](#)

Subject: Request to Authorize the Utility Director to Execute the Water Tower License Agreement Between the City of Racine and American Heartland Fiber Networks LLC (d/b/a E-Vergent) for Placement of E-Vergent's Communications Equipment on the City's Water Tower Located at 9000 Broadway Drive, Sturtevant, WI

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the item noting that the Utility would be collecting \$4,800/yr with a 3% annual escalator from E-Vergent for placement of their communication equipment on the Utility's Water Tower.

A motion was made bt Sullivan, seconded by Harmon, that this file be Approved.

[0043-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of AWIA Risk and Resiliency Amendment to Review Additional Software and Utility Connections by Strand Associates, Inc.

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Additional Funding of \$34,100.

The Utility Director presented the item by first noting that this was in relation to the findings from the Sanitary Survey Findings and the recommendation to provide more cybersecurity. This amendment with Strand Associates will fulfill the following:

- Evaluate the Risk Associated with the Transition Plan between the Utility and the City
- Cybersecurity Risk Review of the Additional Financial and Billing Software
- Review Fiber Optic Extension
- Update RRP based on Findings

The amendment will extend the existing contract to the end of June 2026.

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

[0044-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order No. 4 on Contract W-25-3 (rectifying), 2025 Water Main Replacement - Phase 2, Reesman's Excavating & Grading Inc. (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in a decrease of \$23,026.90, bringing the total contract amount to \$1,265,270.30.

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

[0052-26](#)

Subject: Request for Final Payment (retainage) on Contract W-25-3, 2025 Water Main Replacement - Phase 2, Reesman's Excavating & Grading Inc. (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract W-25-3 is complete at a final cost of \$1,265,270.30.

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

[0054-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order No. 2 (rectifying) on Contract W-25-2, 2025 Water Main Replacement - Phase 1, Earth X, LLC (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in a decrease of \$20,628.00, bringing the contract total to \$960,807.00.

A motion was made by Sullivan, seconded by Taft, that this file be Approved.

[0055-26](#)

Subject: Request for Final Payment (retainage) on Contract W-25-2, 2025 Water Main Replacement - Phase 1, Earth X, LLC (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract W-25-2 is complete at a final cost of \$960,807.00.

A motion was made by Sullivan, seconded by Taft, that this file be Approved.

[0053-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order No. 4 on Contract W-25-4, 2025 Lead Service Line Replacement, Miller Pipeline (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in an increase of \$94,130.33, bringing the contract total to \$3,247,972.30.

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

[0056-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order No. 1 on Contract W-25-7, 2025 Private Lead Service Replacements, Mid City Corp (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in an increase of \$16,326.94, bringing the contract total to \$448,726.94.

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

[0057-26](#)

Subject: Consideration of Change Order No. 1 (rectifying) on Contract W-24-2, 2024 Pavement Restoration, Conventional Concrete Systems (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract change results in an decrease of \$61,436.77, bringing the contract total to \$339,988.23.

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

[0058-26](#)

Subject: Request for Final Payment (retainage) on Contract W-24-2, 2024 Pavement Restoration, Conventional Concrete Systems (contractor)

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Contract W-24-2 is complete at a final cost of \$339,988.23.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.