



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Wastewater Commission

Monday, September 22, 2025

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room 207

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 9 - Natalia Taft, John Tate II, Anthony Beyer, Anthony Bunkelman, Jens Jorgensen, Nancy Washburn, Nick Barootian, Rosalind Thomas and Jack Feiner

EXCUSED: 5 - Cory Mason, Jim Sullivan, Claude Lois, Marlo Harmon and Kevin Salb

[0901-25](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the August 20, 2025, Wastewater Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[0934-25](#)

Subject: Election of Officers

Staff Recommendation: To Approve All Officers as Constituted

Fiscal Note: N/A

The floor was opened up for officer nominations:

Tate II nominated Taft for the office of Commission President.

Taft nominated Tate II for the office of Commission Vice-President, and Barootian for the office of Secretary.

With no other nominations presented, a motion was made by Thomas, seconded by Tate II to approve these nominations for Commission officers.

Let the record show that Commissioner Taft, who was in attendance virtually at this point, was excused for the remainder of the meeting due to other prior scheduled engagements.

CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Tate II, seconded by Washburn, to enter into Closed Session. The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: 8 - Tate II
Beyer
Bunkelman
Jorgensen
Washburn
Barootian
Thomas
Feiner

EXCUSED: 6 - Taft
Mason
Sullivan
Lois
Harmon
Salb

[0959-25](#)

Subject: Communication Sponsored by Commissioner Taft Requesting that the Wastewater Commission Meet Regarding a City Notice of Claim Regarding Shared Revenue Calculations

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

[0940-25](#)

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

OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Thomas, seconded by Tate II, to enter into Open Session. The motion **PASSED** by the following vote:

AYES: 8 - Tate II
Beyer
Bunkelman
Jorgensen
Washburn
Barootian
Thomas
Feiner

EXCUSED: 6 - Taft
Mason
Sullivan
Lois
Harmon
Salb

A motion was made by Tate II , seconded by Thomas, that item #0959-25 from the Closed Session be Received and Filed. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

A motion was made by Tate II , seconded by Thomas, that item #0940-25 from the Closed Session be Received and Filed. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

[0902-25](#)

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

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[0903-25](#)

Subject: Submission of the 2024 Racine Wastewater Utility Annual Report

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the 2024 Annual Report for submission, pointing out its usefulness as a reference tool for any persons who are interested in the Utility's performance over the past year. It is also noted that the Annual Report is posted on the Wastewater section of the City's website.

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

[0904-25](#)

Subject: Authorization for the Utility Director to Accept the 2026 WI DATCP Household Hazardous Waste Grant

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: \$48,634.93 grant to be used for HHW operations in 2026.

The Utility Director requested authorization for the Utility to accept the Wisconsin DATCP HHW grant offer of \$48,634.93 for the year 2026.

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

[0928-25](#)

Subject: Request from the Utility Director for Authorization to Submit CWFL Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for FY2027 Main and Goold Interceptor

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director requested authorization to submit a CWFL-ITA & PERF to the DNR for the N. Main & Goold Interceptor Project for FY2027, an interceptor rehabilitation project to improve wet weather management.

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

[0929-25](#)

Subject: Request from Utility Director for Authorization to Submit CWFL Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for FY2027 Engine/Generator Project Phase II

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director requested authorization to submit a CWFL-ITA & PERF to the DNR for the Engine/Blower Project - Phase 2, for FY2027. This project will add redundancy and increase capacity to take conditioned biogas from digestion and convert it to electricity to offset the demand with renewable energy. Phase 1 of this project is currently under construction and is slated to be completed in 2026.

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

[0930-25](#)

Subject: Request from the Utility Director for Authorization to Submit CWFL Intent to Apply (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for FY2027 Lift Station #1 Upgrade

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Wastewater Utility Director requested authorization to submit a CWFL-ITA &

PERF to the DNR for the Lift Station Upgrade, for FY2027. This project will involve an evaluation and upgrade of Lift Station #1, the largest of all 14 lift stations operated by the Utility.

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

[0931-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of a Professional Services Contract Amendment with Strand Associates to Prepare ITA and PERF Applications for Fiscal Year 2027

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: No cost change order.

The Utility Director presented the proposed contract from Strand Associates for services that would allow the firm to assist in the process of uploading and submitting the ITA & PERF applications and paperwork to the WI-DNR for consideration and approval.

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

[0932-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of a Professional Services Contract for VOIP Phone Services for Water and Wastewater Utilities

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the proposed services contract, while indicating that the need for this had spurred from safety issues at both the Water and Wastewater Utilities with the copper lines failing at both locations.

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

[0933-25](#)

Subject: Request by the Village of Mount Pleasant for a Sanitary Sewer Extension for Pike River Cross Phase II Project

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the sewer extension request for the Pike River Crossing - Phase 2 Development Project, which will serve a 12-building, 102 multi-family development located north of Spring Street and west of CTH V. This new extension will drain into the Mount Pleasant Interceptor. 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 3,292 L.F. of 8" diameter sanitary sewer. The extension flows are expected to be well within the allocated conveyance and treatment capacities.

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

[0935-25](#)

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

Staff Recommendation: To Approve with a Referral to the Committee of the Whole (COW)

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the 2026 Operations and Maintenance Budget (O&M), and the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget, and recommended for approval as well as referring to City Finance for inclusion into the City Budget.

A motion was made by Tate II, seconded by Thomas, that this file be Approved and Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

[0936-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of the 2026 Sewer Service Rates

Staff Recommendation: To Approve with a Referral to the Committee of the Whole (COW)

Fiscal Note: Class I Rates for City Residents to increase by 3.1%; and 5.9% for Caledonia and Mount Pleasant.

A motion was made by Thomas, seconded by Washburn, that this file be Approved and Referred to the Committee of the Whole.

[0939-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of 2026 Household Hazardous Waste Rates

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: No rate change recommended.

The Utility Director presented the Household Hazardous Waste Rates and recommended no rate changes for the year 2026.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.