



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Final

Wastewater Commission

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

5:30 PM

Wastewater Treatment Plant Conf. Rm.

The meeting was called to order by Commission President, Natalia Taft, at 5:35 p.m. at the conclusion of the preceding tour of the Treatment Plant offered to Commissioners.

ROLL CALL

Let the record show that Commissioner Sullivan was present and voting in the capacity of the current Commissioner vacancy for the City.

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

EXCUSED: 2 - Claude Lois and Kevin Salb

[0715-25](#)

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the June 18, 2025, Wastewater Commission Meeting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

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

[0716-25](#)

Subject: Communication from the Utility Administrative Manager Regarding Budget Expenditures through June 30, 2025

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Highlights of the Financial Report were given by the Utility Administrative Manager, Ken Scolaro.

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

[0717-25](#)

Subject: Proposal from Ruekert-Mielke to perform 2027 Revenue Sharing Calculations

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Cost of proposal not to exceed \$15,400.

The Wastewater Utility Director, along with Brennen Fischer from Ruckert-Mielke, presented a proposal from Ruckert-Mielke to perform the 2027 Revenue Sharing Calculations as required in the Sewer Agreement section 7.1a, as well as annual payments to the Zoo, Museum, and Library that is required in section 8.2.

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

[0718-25](#)

Subject: Communication from Utility Director Regarding 2026 Revenue Sharing Calculations

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

Brennen Fischer, with Ruckert Mielke, presented on the results of the 2026 Revenue Sharing Amounts. The payments from 2026 showed a trending increase dispersed across the contributing communities of the Villages of Mount Pleasant, Caledonia, Sturtevant, and Wind Point; with an overall increase from \$2,651,027 in 2025 to \$2,741,528 for 2026.

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

[0719-25](#)

Subject: Consideration and Possible Action to Extend the Curative Action Resolution Time Periods

Staff Recommendation: To Approve the Curative Action Extension Up to the Next Commission Meeting

Fiscal Note: N/A

The legal counsel retained by the Commission, Attorney John St. Peter, was present to address and update the Commission on this item. He informed the Commission that after the last extension on the curative actions was voted on by the Commission in April, that communication was sent to the involved municipal parties asking for a status update on the progression of the meetings, to which he received no response, thereby prompting further inquiry with follow-up emails. Attorney St. Peter once again reminded the Commission that their sole responsibility is to administer the process, while laying out potential actions to take with where they are at with the current situation as follows:

- 1) Continue to extend the curative actions
- 2) Take no action while continuing to allow the involved parties to participate in fruitful discussions
- 3) Declare the Material Change in Circumstances to be resolved while leaving the door

open for the City to re-file without prejudice.

Discussion ensued amongst the Commission with varying opinions and thoughts as to the benefits of continuing the extensions as well as the length of time for the extensions; as well as thoughts on quantifying the material change by an outside expert. The motion that was brought to the table and voted on consisted of granting an extension on the curative actions, with the expectation that ongoing discussions continue amongst the involved municipal parties with the respective party representatives updating Attorney St. Peter on progress, so that he in turn can provide a monthly update to the Commission. It was also stressed that the Commission's ability and willingness to continue granting extensions is contingent upon progress being made during these meetings with the involved municipal parties.

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

[0720-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of Wastewater Commission Directors Liability Insurance Policy Renewal

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Insurance premium of \$17,105 and broker fee of \$2,837.

The Utility Director presented the policy renewal proposal provided by Atlantic Specialty Insurance Co., at a cost of \$17,105, which is an increase of 1.2% from last year (plus an additional \$2,940 broker fee). The policy would provide \$1,000,000 officer liability and \$1,000,000 employment practices liability insurance for the inter-municipal Commission governing body.

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

[0721-25](#)

Subject: Communication from Utility Director Regarding 2024 Financial Audit Update

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented an update on the 2024 Financial Audit Results, which were presented to the Commission at the June meeting. The Commission had expressed concerns over the deficiencies that were reported and had directed that a meeting be held between the Utility Directors, the City Finance Director, Commission Presidents and the City Administrator to address the topics of efficiency, transparency, and alignment with the city's accounting software. The Utility Director reported that the meeting had been held and that internal control concerns were being addressed with adjustments in the current software modules at little to no cost to the Utility. He further reported that provisions to achieve these goals are being incorporated into the 2026 fiscal budget.

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

Received and Filed.

[0722-25](#)

Subject: Consideration of a Professional Services Agreement with Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) for Air Permitting Consulting

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Cost not to exceed \$50,000.

The Utility Director presented the proposed agreement from Short Elliot Hendrickson (SEH) for air permitting consulting. Under this proposed agreement, SEH would assist with on-call, as needed air-permitting reporting assistance, DNR engagement and advocacy, emission testing, and compliance. These services will be critical for the start up of the new engine generator in the future.

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

[0728-25](#)

Subject: Communication from Utility Director Regarding Treatment Plan Roofing Options

Staff Recommendation: To Move Forward with the Replacement of the Existing Roof in Kind

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented options for the Commission to consider for the repair of the roof on the administrative building of the treatment plant located at the forefront of the wastewater plant as you drive in off Wisconsin Avenue. The building currently has a terra-cotta clay roof that is showing signs of age disrepair. The Utility Director presented the recommendations acquired from an outside evaluation which recommended either keeping the current terra-cotta clay style or switching to an industrial flat roof in order to avoid unnecessary structural modifications to the existing building structure. Given the historical nature of the building in the City as well as the longevity of the current roof structure and material, the Commission was in great favor of keeping the existing roof structure and material and voted to replace the roof with the same style, material, and color, even if it did require a longer lead time with the ordering process.

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

CLOSED SESSION

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

AYES: 12 - Taft
Tate II
Mason
Beyer
Bunkelman
Jorgensen
Sullivan
Washburn
Harmon
Barootian
Thomas
Feiner

EXCUSED: 2 - Lois
Salb

[0729-25](#)

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 Jorgensen , seconded by Harmon, to enter into Open Session. The motion PASSED by the following vote:

AYES: 12 - Taft
Tate II
Mason
Beyer
Bunkelman
Jorgensen
Sullivan
Washburn
Harmon
Barootian
Thomas
Feiner

EXCUSED: 2 - Lois
Salb

A motion was made by Washburn , seconded by Jorgensen, that this file be Received and Filed. The motion PASSED by a Voice Vote.

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.