



City of Racine

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wastewater Commission

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room 303

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: 9 - Natalia Taft, John Tate II, Cory Mason, Anthony Bunkelman, Jens Jorgensen, Jim Sullivan, Nancy Washburn, Rosalind Thomas and Tony Beyer

EXCUSED: 5 - Claude Lois, Marlo Harmon, Nick Barootian, Jack Feiner and Kevin Salb

1169-25

Subject: Approval of Minutes for the October 15, 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.

1185-25

Subject: Communication from Utility Staff Regarding Participation in a Study with The Water Research Foundation

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director asked for RWWU Plant Superintendent, Mary-Frances Klimek, to be recognized to give background information on this item. The Water Research Foundation (WRF) is seeking participation from local utilities across the state to gather input through meeting participation and surveys about proposed data centers being established in local communities and the impact on the utilities. The plan is to use this data to establish a decision-making tool kit of information for utilities and businesses to use when considering the impact that data centers will have on the surrounding environment in the local communities. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission concerning potential bias and objectivity from the consultant, Carollo, as well as the WRF. Superintendent Klimek assured the Commission this would not be an issue for the Utility. The Commission voted to receive and file the item with the expectation that if the proposal by Carollo is chosen by WRF, that the information be brought back to the Commission with the highlights of their proposal.

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

1203-25

Subject: Submittal of Pretreatment Rates for 2026

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director introduced the item by stating that the Utility is required by the Federal and State governments to finance and implement a self-funding industrial pretreatment program, which monitors pollutants that enter the sanitary system. He then asked for Field Services Director, Amanda Kaminski, to be recognized to speak more detail to this item. She informed the Commission that the Utility is looking to make a slight change in how the Pretreatment Rates are calculated by using a flat rate increase versus more of an itemized rate increase. She relayed that the current method of itemizing everything to calculate the rates results in huge percent increases and decreases causing the rate to fluctuate dramatically every year. By using a flat rate, the intent is to stabilize the fees. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission pertaining to comparison of the two methods, as well as whether or not the flat rate model would be balanced between larger scale industries vs. smaller industries. The Field Services Director relayed that this was a non-issue since each industry's sampling criteria is billed based on their flow, loading, frequency, and size of their industry. The motion was made to approve the use of a new flat rate model with the caveat of still comparing both methods each year when reporting to the Commission.

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

1047-25

Subject: Annual Update Regarding City of Racine Peak Flow Mitigation Plan

Recommendation of the Wastewater Commission on 11/19/25: To Receive and File

Recommendation of the Wastewater Commission on 10/15/25: To Defer Until the November Commission Meeting

Fiscal Note: N/A

City of Racine Public Works Commissioner, John Rooney, presented the annual update on the City's Peak Flow Mitigation Plan, highlighting ongoing peak flow reduction strategies including mainline and lateral replacement & lining, manhole lid replacement & sealing, and ongoing progress on the pilot sump pump program. The City expects that the newly approved 2026 budgeted position of an I/I Coordinator housed and operating out of the Customer Service Department will amp up the interest and output of sump pump installations for the City. Commissioner Rooney also mentioned that DPW hopes to address the issues with laterals intertwined with the RWWU collection system and potential solutions in 2026 as part of their Mitigation plan and update for the next year. The Wastewater Commission approved the City Plan at the October 17, 2022, meeting to remove the sewer moratorium for treatment peak hour flow capacity exceedances. This report signifies Year 4 of the City's 7-Year Plan.

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

1182-25

Subject: Annual Update Regarding Village of Caledonia Sanitary Sewer Capacity Peak Flow Mitigation Plan

Staff Recommendation: To Receive and File

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Village of Caledonia Public Services Director, Tony Bunkelman, presented an update on the Village's Mitigation Plan, highlighting completed improvements such as high flow alarms being incorporated into the SCADA system, activation of diversion into an Attenuation Basin, extended operating volumes in wet wells at lift stations to maximize inline storage, manhole repair work, and a Central Lift Station Facility Plan approved by the Wisconsin DNR as well as an Attenuation Basin Construction Plan. Improvements in progress were also highlighted including the River Bend Lift Station.

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

1184-25

Subject: Request by the Village of Caledonia for a Sanitary Sewer Extension for Thomas Farm Development Project

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the sewer extension request for the Thomas Farm Development Project, which will serve 62 new residential lots in the Village of Caledonia. 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 3,889 L.F. of 10" diameter sanitary sewer. The extension flows are expected to be well within the allocated conveyance and treatment capacities. Concerns arose from Commissioners as to whether the entry point can handle additional flow, but Commissioner Bunkelman relayed that the historical max with the design storm parameters cannot be reduced or removed. Also, within the sewershed, an attenuation basin project will be going to bid within the next year that will store additional flow.

A motion was made by Sullivan, seconded by Washburn, that this file be Approved. The motion passed with one nay vote recorded.

0828-25

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

Staff Recommendation: To Defer this Item

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented a communication from Commission Attorney John St. Peter, in which he updated the Commission on the status of the issue with the miscalculation of the Revenue Sharing payments performed by Ruekert-Mielke. He

reported that all parties signatory to the 2002 Sewer Agreement were immediately updated with a correspondence after the October Commission meeting in which the error was initially presented to the Commission for discussion and appropriate follow-up action. This was followed by a virtual meeting on October 31, 2025, conducted by Attorney St. Peter, in which he informed the parties that the Commission had authorized him to retain the services of Ehlers to review and confirm the accuracy of the Revenue Sharing Calculations. With the support from the signatory parties, a proposed scope letter will be sent to Attorney St. Peter and the Utility Director from Ehlers discussing the proposed next steps and action required.

Attorney St. Peter thus advised the Commission to defer any action on the Revenue Sharing calculations until a report from Ehlers was received. Discussion ensued amongst the Commission with the primary concern being the time-sensitivity of determining and locking in the look-back period for the miscalculation. An initial motion to preserve the City's rights for looking back at the years inclusive of 2025, 2024, 2023, and 2022 by allowing the Commission to rectify the application of the Revenue Sharing formula while looking for an outside party to analyze & validate the accuracy of the applied formula was made by Commissioner Mason and seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. This was followed by an amended motion made by Commissioner Jorgenson to have an accountant or consultant go back to all of the years when the miscalculation occurred beginning at the starting point of error in 2015 until the starting point of the look-back period in 2022 to determine the validity of the formula during that time period as well.

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

1172-25

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

Staff Recommendation: To Approve Curative Action Extension up to 6 months

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented a brief historical narrative of the timeline of the Material Change in Circumstances item as it has evolved since the original filing by the City in June 2024, and the Commission's decision to postpone taking curative actions as laid out in the Sewer Agreement to allow for party led resolutions up to 90 days with regular updates on progress as requested by the Commission retained legal counsel. Attorney St. Peter had also updated the Commission in his correspondence from the previous agenda item that the City officials as well as officials from the Village of Mt. Pleasant had met recently to explore the possible settlement of the City's Notice of Potential Material Change in Circumstances regarding the 2002 Agreement. He was informed by the involved parties that there are plans to continue the settlement discussions.

Discussion ensued with concern from Commissioners regarding the drawn out length of this process and determining at which point the Commission steps in to enforce the next steps. The majority of the Commission agreed that they had not yet arrived at that point of intervention. A motion was made to extend the curative action extension for up to 6 months.

A motion was made by Taft, seconded by Sullivan, that this file be Approved. The motion passed with one nay vote recorded.

1186-25

Subject: Consideration of Amendment No. 1 of Master Services Agreement with Strand Associates

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: N/A

The Utility Director presented the item describing how Strand Associates, like many other consulting firms, requires a master services agreement in addition to their project specific scope agreements to establish a relationship with the Utility and as a basis for operational or technical assistance work at time and material rates. The proposed amendment would add 4 years to their current 6 year contract originating from 2019.

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

1187-25

Subject: Consideration of Professional Services Agreement with TY Lin for Energy Roadmap Study

Staff Recommendation: To Approve

Fiscal Note: Lump sum of \$250,000 from professional services over 2026 and 2027.

The Utility Director presented the item reminding the Commission that they had voted to approve TYLin to prepare an energy management scoping memo for the Utility in 2024. The Utility had then solicited 3 firms with a proven track record in energy master planning via the Request for Quote process. The compensation price point was set at \$250,000 with the expectation for the firms to deliver their services in that range. TYLin is recommended by the Utility based on their qualifications and background experience in delivering services in this area.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.