CITY OF STEVENS POINT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2025
7:00 PM

Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

1. Roll Call.

Present:
Ald. Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.

Others Present:
Mayor Wiza, Clerk Yenter, Director Kivela, C/T Ladick, Tax Specialist Susan Pagel, Chief Kussow, Director Lemke, Executive Assistant Dowling, Director Kremer, Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn, Attorney Beveridge.

2. Salute to the Flag and Mayor's opening remarks.

3. Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council on specific agenda items other than a "Public Hearing" must register their request at this time. Those who wish to address the Common Council during a "Public Hearing" are not required to identify themselves until the "Public Hearing" is declared open by the Mayor.

4. Persons who wish to address the Mayor and Council for up to three (3) minutes regarding a non-agenda item.

Ald. Shuda spoke about the passing of Ron Carlson and honored him by speaking about his years of service to the community. Mr. Carlson served the community with his thirty-two years of service to the City of Stevens Point Police Department, Salvation Army, Elder Abuse Team, Portage County Child Passenger Safety, Big Brother Big Sisters of Portage County, Stevens Point Youth Girls Softball, Portage County Planning and Preservation Committee, Portage County United Way, Special Olympics, and the Police and FIre Commission.

Susan Pagel, 1108 Francis Street, spoke about their candidacy running for City Clerk.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

5. Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of January 21, 2025.

b. Actions of the Police and Fire Commission special meeting of February 12, 2025:
2. Discussion, with possible action, to approve a conditional offer of employment from the Stevens Point Police Department to Dolorosa Thomas. Expected start date of Monday, February 17th, 2025.
3. Discussion, with possible action, to move forward with the employment of new entry-level Firefighter/Paramedics.

c. Actions of the Park Commission meeting of February 12, 2025:
3. Presentation of the Stevens Point Forestry Department Management Plan by Wachtel Tree Science, Inc.
4. Adoption of the Stevens Point Forestry Department Management Plan.
5. Award of the 2025 and 2026 Emerald Ash Borer Treatment contract.
6. Discussion on updated master plan concept drawings for Goerke and Zenoff Parks.

d. Minutes and Actions of the Plan Commission meeting of February 3, 2025:
4. Director's Report.

e. Actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners meeting of February 11, 2025:
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.
4. 2025 Capital Operations and Maintenance Plan.

f. Actions of the Airport Commission meeting of February 11, 2025:
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.
4. 2025 Capital Operations and Maintenance Plan.

g. Minutes and Actions of the Personnel Committee meeting of February 10, 2025:
2. Director Kivela request certification pay for the Electrical Inspector position.
3. Director Kivela request for overlap - Assistant Assessor Position, Community Development Technician Position and Permit Technician Position.

h. Minutes and Actions of the Board of Public Works meeting of February 10, 2025:
3. To approve the detour agreement from WisDOT to utilize Highway 66 during the summer of 2026.

i. Minutes and Actions of the Public Policy and General Government meeting of February 10, 2025:
2. License List
3. Request to Hold Event/Street Closing.

j. Minutes and Actions of the Finance Committee meeting of February 10, 2025:
2. Approval of agreement to lease a portion of the building at 1466 Water Street to One Big Tent Inc.
3. Approval of setting lot prices for the Forest Creek Subdivision.
4. Approval of Claims Paid.

k. Statutory Monthly Financial Report by Comptroller/Treasurer.

Jane Johnson, 615 Sommers Street, spoke in favor of agenda item 5j2, approval of agreement to lease a portion of the building at 1466 Water Street to One Big Tent Inc. and referenced the partnership of the city and a non-profit in helping neighbors on the economic margins.

President of One Big Tent Board Tim O'Brien, 3400 Jordan Lane, spoke in favor of agenda item 5j2 and thanked Director Kivela for working with One Big Tent. Mr. O'Brien spoke to the mission of One Big Tent to promote human dignity, providing ready access to resources, connecting people to resources, and being with neighbors in crisis.

Treasurer of One Big Tent Judi Cumley, 4275 Sterling Drive Plover, spoke in favor of agenda item 5j2 and discussed One Big Tents numbers regarding providing assistance within the community.

Ald. Morrow moved, Ald. Christianson seconded, to approve the consent agenda.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. Resolution - A request from Brian McManus, representing 3535 Jefferson Street LLC, to rezone an unaddressed parcel bounded by Texas Avenue, Jefferson Street, & Pinecrest Avenue (Parcel ID 281240833101949) from the "B-4" Commercial District to the "M-1" Light Industrial District.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue, spoke against the resolution due to the loss of the trees and suggested building a warehouse at other locations nearby.

Hans Walther, 520 Greenbriar Avenue Village of Park Ridge, spoke against the request to rezone due to safety concerns on Pinecrest Avenue, the addition of semi-trucks daily, and pedestrian safety on Jefferson Avenue.

Amy Walther, 322 Pinecrest Avenue Village of Park Ridge, spoke against the request to rezone and discussed the comprehensive plan for the City of Stevens Point, no sidewalks on the truck route, that there are residential zones with children, and concerns for safety.

John Okonek, 2916 Dixon Street, spoke against the request to rezone due to safety concerns for the residential area due to an increase in traffic and no sidewalks.

Patricia Baker, 509 Linwood Avenue Village of Park Ridge, spoke against the request to rezone due to safety concerns and discussed the state statutes surrounding a comprehensive plan.

Ald. Guthrie moved, Ald. Buse seconded, to approve the resolution.

Ald. Morrow spoke about concerns regarding future plans for the site, the potential sale of the site, and the trees.

Ald. Buse spoke in favor of the rezoning due to the scope of the request.

Ald. Lang spoke about his concern with safety and the need for a traffic study as well as a potential update on the comprehensive plan for Stevens Point.

Ald. Shuda spoke about his support for the residents, therefore, would not be in favor of the request.

Ald. Kneebone spoke about the original zoning of the property upon purchase and concern for safety.

Ald. Steinmetz spoke about needing more information prior to supporting the request.

Ald. Broderick spoke about concerns from the public as criteria to evaluate.

Ald. Keymer spoke about being open to reconsidering the request in the future after addressing safety concerns.

Ald. Guthrie spoke in favor of the request due to the value of a business with good-paying jobs being within walking distance of employees, city staff unanimous approval, as well as the current zoning as M-1 could bring additional traffic.

Ald. Christianson spoke in favor of the request due to the current zoning not protecting against something being built that could produce more traffic as well as long-term ownership of the property,

Call for the vote: Ayes: Buse, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: Morrow, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer. Motion failed.

Ald. Morrow moved, Ald. Shuda seconded, to postpone until review of a site plan for the project.

Ald. Buse questioned if Plan Commission can approve a site plan for M-1 even though the zoning is currently B-4.

Attorney Beveridge answered that there is nothing that prohibits a site plan from being created to be informative of the discussion on the request of a zoning change. Attorney Beveridge also discussed that a site plan need not go through an approval procedure or be reviewed by Plan Commission due to Plan Commission already having made a recommendation on the request of rezoning.

Ald. Buse questioned if the site plan needs to proceed to Plan Commission.

Mayor Wiza recommended the site plan be presented to Plan Commission as a discussion item for the public to review and have open dialogue.

Ald. Buse questioned what the standards are of a site plan.

Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator Kuhn spoke about the contents of a site plan.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

7. Resolution - A request authorizing the rewrite of the Stevens Point Zoning Ordinance.

Jane Johnson, 615 Sommers Street, spoke in favor of the request in order to sustain planet earth and as a means to help others make the most use of their finances.

Trevor Roark, 601 Washington Avenue, spoke in favor of the request due to habitat loss, water quality degradation, climate change, housing affordability, inefficient land use, and that the city has lost property tax revenue.

Ald. Broderick moved, Ald. Kneebone seconded, to approve the resolution.

Ald. Kneebone spoke in favor of the rezone as a means of forward-thinking.

Ald. Lang thanked the city staff for bringing this request to the forefront.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Request from the City of Stevens Point to list and sell 60 lots within the Forest Creek Subdivision.

Ald. Birr moved, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the request.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Guthrie, Keymer, Broderick, Birr, Steinmetz, Kneebone, Shuda, Lang, Buse, Morrow.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Ordinance Amendment - Approve the amendments in Chapter 9, Sections 9.05 and 9.12.

Ald. Birr moved, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the ordinance.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Kneebone, Steinmetz, Birr, Broderick, Keymer, Guthrie, Christianson.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.