CITY OF STEVENS POINT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2025
7:00 PM

Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

1. **Roll Call.**

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

Excused:
Ald. Guthrie and Morrow.

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.**

Keith Kedrowksi, 1536 Water Street, spoke about university students and the need to maintain strong relationships with them within the community.

Deb Baker spoke on behalf of her mother Henrietta Garski of 450 Franklin Street and discussed the concerns regarding the location of the sidewalk on Grant Street.

Mayor Wiza clarified that Public Works Director, Scott Beduhn, had been in contact with Henrietta Garski to discuss.

5. **Presentation to the Mayor and Council: Wanda Cartrette and Jaclyn Hager: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Overview.**

President Wanda Cartrette as well as Vice President Jaclyn Hager spoke about their volunteer run, national non-profit organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The mission of the organization is to build and deliver beds at no cost to families for children that are sleeping on the floor. With 200+ children waiting for beds within our community, Sleep in Heavenly Peace has partnered with Ashley Furniture for mattresses and is requesting community involvement. To learn more, the website is shpbeds.org.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

6. **Consent Agenda:**

a. **Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of April 21, 2025.**

b. **Actions and Minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of May 8, 2025:**
   3. Approval of Minutes.
   4. Confirmation of Bills.
   6. Election of Commission President and Secretary.
      • Following the election, the President will appoint liaisons to the Police Department and Fire Department.
   8. Discussion, with possible action, to approve a hat donation (approximately $500) from Commissioner Jason Behrendt to both the Fire Department and the Police Department.
   9. Discussion, with possible action, to approve Officer James Harper from probation status to permanent status with completion of the 18-month probationary period on June 4th, 2025.
      • Officer Harper is present and to be introduced to the PFC.
   10. Discussion, with possible action, to approve a donation to the Police Department from Tony Cimaroli (owner of Culvers, Division St.). The donation, valued at $300, consists of an inflatable wind dancer (in the shape of a police officer) purchased through the Police Lights of Christmas program.
   12. Discussion, with possible action, on the promotion of Motor Pump Operator/Paramedic Justin Thomson to the position of Lieutenant/Paramedic.
   13. Discussion, with possible action, on the appointment of Firefighter/Paramedic Kraig Arndt to the position of Motor Pump Operator/Paramedic.
   14. Discussion, with possible action, on the City Mitigation Plan.
   15. Discussion, with possible action, to accept a donation for $500 from WILMA (Wisconsin League of Musky Anglers) for the Live Scope and Side Scan Sonar.

c. **Actions of the Park Commission meeting of May 7, 2025:**
   4. Inflatable dome depicted on the Goerke Park draft masterplan concept.
   5. Including the Parker Building and Rec Center Building (armory) within the next draft of the Goerke Park masterplan.
   6. Southern area of the proposed Goerke Park masterplan (e.g. proposed parking lot, existing hockey rink/ice rink, shotput, discus and green space/parking area.
   7. Proposed bus lane, parking lot drop off and existing softball field area.
   8. Location of the proposed outdoor aquatic center/pool location within the Goerke Park draft concept plan.
   9. Proposed northern parking lot, Prais Street Drive, playground, basketball court and tennis court areas depicted in the Goerke Park draft concept plan.
   10. Any other items for Goerke Park to include in the next draft masterplan concept.
   11. Zenoff Park Master Plan Draft concepts.
   12. To select a Chairperson for the Board of Park Commissioners.
   13. To select a Vice-Chairperson for the Board of Park Commissioners.

d. **Minutes and Actions of the Plan Commission meeting of May 5, 2025:**
   2. Report of the April 7, 2025 meeting of the City Plan Commission.
   6. A request from Susan Crawford and Stephen Klein for a fence waiver to install twelve-foot-tall privacy fencing along the rear lot line of the property located at 221 Union Street (281240829300109), 237 Union Street (Parcel ID 281240829300110) & 301 Union Street (Parcel ID 281240829300111), consistent with Ch. 23.01(16)(g).
   9. A request authorizing the City of Stevens Point to sign a petition for a special meeting of the Portage County Business Park Owners' Association for the following purposes:
      •To consider and vote upon an amendment to the Portage County Business Park

Deed Restrictions and Protective Covenants.
•To consider and vote upon a resolution adopting a plan of dissolution and liquidation of the Portage County Business Park Owners' Association.
11. March 2025 Monthly Report.
12. Director's Report.

e. Actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners meeting of May 12, 2025:
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.

f. Actions of the Airport Commission meeting of May 12, 2025:
2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.
4. 2025 Capital Operations and Maintenance update/amendment.

g. Minutes of the Special Board of Public Works meeting of May 6, 2025.

h. Minutes and Actions of the Public Policy and General Government meeting of May 12, 2025:
2. License List.
3. Request to Hold Event/Street Closing.

i. Minutes and Actions of the Finance Committee meeting of May 12, 2025:
4. Approval of Funding for Architectural Services for Designing a Replacement City Hall.
5. Approval of Additional Funding for the Purchase of a Fire Truck.
6. Approval of Funding for Capital Improvements to the Airport.
7. Approval of Additional Funding for the Goerke Park Press Box Project.
8. Approval of the Designation of the Official Newspaper for City Publications.
9. Approval of AECOM Change Order Number 2 for the Design of the South Segment-Phase 1 of the Business 51 Project.
10. Approval of an Agreement with AECOM for the Final Design of the South Segment-Phases 2 and 3, of the Business 51 Project.
11. Approval of Agreement with Transcendent Technologies for Property Tax Software.
12. Approval of Claims Paid.
13. A. Negotiating the Acquisition of Real Estate and Temporary Limited Easements for the Business 51 Project.

j. Statutory Monthly Financial Report by Comptroller/Treasurer.

k. Mayoral Appointments.
-Board of Review: William Yudchitz, for a five-year-term, expiring April 30, 2030.

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

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

7. Resolution - A request from Charles Koch, representing Koch-Taub Joint Revocable Trust, for a conditional use permit to construct a detached garage with a reduced rear yard setback at 1665 Main Street (Parcel ID 281240832102017), consistent with Ch. 23.02(1)(h)(3).

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

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

8. Resolution - A request from Norman Myers Jr, representing Point Paradise Family LP, for a conditional use permit to operate a non-owner-occupied tourist rooming house on the property located at 1316 Ellis Street (Parcel ID 281240832100711), consistent with Ch. 23.02(1)(f)(3)(i).

Ald. Christianson asked if this request was for the church itself.

Mayor Wiza answered that it was for the church itself.

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

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

9. Ordinance Amendment - A request from the City of Stevens Point to amend the Official Street Map of the City of Stevens Point. Said request establishes Starling Court as a planned future public street within an unaddressed parcel bounded by Hoover Road and Heffron Street (Parcel ID 281230803140102).

Ald. Birr moved, Ald. Lang seconded, to approve the ordinance amendment.

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

10. Ordinance Amendment - A request from the City of Stevens Point to amend the Official Street Map of the City of Stevens Point. Said request extends Evelyn Court and Joe Street as a planned future public street within an unaddressed parcel bounded by Golla Road, Brilowski Road & Regent Street (Parcel ID 281240826400563).

Ald. Kneebone moved, Ald. Steinmetz seconded, to approve the ordinance amendment.

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

11. Ordinance Amendment-Section 9.05(ae) relating to downtown parking extending from two hours to four hours.

Mayor Wiza spoke about a letter, drafted by the Downtown Business Improvement District Board, to address the request to extend downtown parking from two hours to four hours. The letter will be attached within the Common Council minutes as well as available at the City Clerks office at 1515 Strongs Avenue.

Ald. Kneebone suggested to offer the first two hours for free and then additional hours would be a minimal fee.

Ald. Lang suggested to also add Strongs Avenue between Clark Street and Brawley Street to the extended parking list.

Mayor Wiza spoke about bringing this suggestion separately because there had not been any discussion.

Ald. Birr moved, Ald. Christianson seconded, to approve the ordinance amendment.

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

12. Approval of Amendments to the Downtown Targeted Area Master Plan.

Mayor Wiza spoke about the public event hosted by Community Development to discuss the redevelopment plan for the Shopko block. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 28 at Midstate Technical College, 1001 Centerpoint Drive, from 6pm-7:30 pm.

Ald. Christianson moved, Ald. Lang seconded, to approve the amendments to the Downtown Targeted Area Master Plan.

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

13. Approval of a land swap agreement with Portage County for the exchange of various properties including 1039 Ellis St. and the City's ownership interest in the City Hall/Courthouse building.

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke against the land swap agreement due to having more space than is needed as well as concern that no studies have been done.

Ald. Christianson spoke about this being a good first step and that the next action item will give more information to make even more informed decisions.

Mayor Wiza clarified that architectural analysis has been done, and that estimates have been started.

Ald. Buse questioned about the survey map that is referenced and asked how it will be generated.

Mayor Wiza answered that there are multiple parcels and that upon acquisition by the city there will be one parcel.

Ald. Kneebone spoke about the historical value of the building as well as the opportunity for the city to generate revenue by renting out the additional space.

Mayor Wiza spoke about the cost savings to the taxpayers of Portage County of fifty million dollars versus building a new city hall.

Ald. Keymer moved, Ald. Buse seconded, to approve the land swap agreement.

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

14. Approval of a Contract with Somerville, Inc. - Architects and Engineers for Preliminary Architectural Services for Designing a Replacement City Hall.

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke against the contract and referenced the Great Lakes building report due to not understating the spatial needs and would like to see the contract broken down into a needs-based analysis and then start deciding if the building is optimal.

Mayor Wiza clarified that a space needs analysis had been completed several years ago and that staff had been updating it.

Ald. Lang moved, Ald. Broderick seconded, to approve the contract.

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

15. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Dear Mayor Wiza,

May 15, 2025

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Downtown Business Improvement District (BID). Our downtown area serves as a vital hub for commerce, culture, and community activity, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to ensuring its continued vibrancy and accessibility for residents, visitors, and business patrons alike.

During our May meeting, several downtown businesses advocated for a revision of the current parking restrictions, specifically the repeal of the two-hour parking limit and the implementation of a more pragmatic four-hour parking policy. After discussions with stakeholders within the BID, we believe this adjustment would positively impact the economic vitality and visitor experience in our downtown district.

The two-hour parking restriction has presented challenges for both customers and businesses. For patrons enjoying a leisurely meal, attending meetings, or buying goods, this limited time frame often feels restrictive, leading to a hurried experience or, at worst, a deterrent to visiting the area altogether. Similarly, businesses face difficulties in accommodating clients or hosting events that require longer durations.

Switching to a four-hour parking limit would alleviate these issues and better align with the needs of our community. A more generous time frame fosters a welcoming environment, encouraging visitors to explore the downtown attractions that make Stevens Point unique. It also supports longer stays that encourage greater spending and engagement, directly benefiting the local economy.

We are confident that this change would not only enhance the usability of parking spaces but also boost the overall appeal of downtown Stevens Point, further solidifying its position as a thriving destination for locals and tourists alike. Additionally, we believe this adjustment can be implemented with minimal disruption to existing systems while maintaining proper oversight and enforcement to ensure fairness and effectiveness.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to our city. Please feel free to reach out to me directly, Executive Director Kreuser, or other members of the BID to discuss this proposal further.

Sincerely,

Brian P Cummins

Chair, Downtown Business Improvement District