

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Community Room  
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

December 15, 2025  
7:00 PM

**OR**

**Zoom Teleconferencing**

**1. Roll Call.**

**Present:**

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

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

Mayor Wiza discussed points of clarification on agenda items that were postponed. These items include the proposed grant to Partnering Together for a proposed warming center as well as agenda items 9 and 10. Mayor Wiza also clarified that item 16 is not an ordinance amendment but instead a resolution.

**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.**

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke against the proposed homeless shelter and requested more community outreach and planning.

Sherry Hughert, 3050 Lindbergh Avenue, spoke against the proposed homeless shelter due to the business model and the staffing.

**Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:**

**5. Consent Agenda:**

- a. **Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of November 17, 2025 and Special Common Council Meeting of December 2, 2025.**
- b. **Minutes of the Police and Fire Commission special meeting of December 2, 2025.**
- c. **Actions of the Park Commission meeting of December 3, 2025:**
  5. **2026 fees and charges for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.**
  6. **Request by Director Kremer to pursue permitting that would allow for a future walking path along the Wisconsin River in Mead Park.**
- d. **Minutes and Actions of the Plan Commission meeting of December 1, 2025:**

2. Report of the November 3, 2025 meeting of the City Plan Commission.
  8. A request from the City of Stevens Point to acquire the property located at 1625 Ellis Street (Parcel ID 281240832101401).
  10. Director's Report.
- e. Actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners meeting of December 8, 2025:
2. Approval of minutes.
  3. Approval of department claims.
  4. Commissioner Compensation.
- f. Actions of the Airport Commission meeting of December 8th, 2025:
2. Approval of minutes.
  3. Approval of department claims.
- g. Minutes and Actions of the Personnel Committee meeting of December 8, 2025:
3. Ratification to approve 2026-2028 collective bargaining agreement with the Stevens Point Police Officers Organization.
  4. Request to approve 2026 base wage agreement between the City of Stevens Point and Teamsters General Union, Local 662 - Utilities.
  5. Request to approve 2026 base wage agreement between the City of Stevens Point and Teamsters General Union, Local 662 - Streets / Parks.
- h. Minutes of the Board of Public Works meeting of December 8, 2025.
- i. Minutes and Actions of the Public Policy and General Government meeting of December 8, 2025:
2. License List.
  3. Request to Hold Event/street closing.
- j. Minutes and Actions of the Finance Committee meeting of December 8, 2025:
4. Approval of funding for repairs to the salt shed.
  5. Approval of funding for the purchase of 1625 Ellis Street.
  7. Approval of Claims Paid.
- k. Statutory Monthly Financial Report by Comptroller/Treasurer.
- l. Mayoral Appointments:
- Appoint 2026-2027 Poll Workers.
  - Reappoint Ray Schmidt - Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners for a five-year term expiring September 30, 2030.
  - Reappoint Tara Manzke - Business Improvement District Board as a business owner for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2027.
  - Reappoint Hanna Cutler - Business Improvement District Board as a business owner for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2027.
  - Reappoint Ald. Mary Kneebone - Redevelopment Authority for a five-year term (or Aldermanic term) expiring December 31, 2030.
  - Appoint Craig Cook - Business Improvement District Board as a business owner for a two-year term expiring December 31, 2027.
  - Appoint Mike Beacom - Redevelopment Authority for a five-year term expiring December 31, 2030.
  - Appoint Jeff Bushman - Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners, filling the unexpired term for Mae Nachman, expiring September 30, 2026.
  - Appoint Jeff Bushman - Airport Commission, filling the unexpired term for Mae Nachman, expiring April 30, 2027.
  - Appoint Brenda Jones - Police and Fire Commission to fill the unexpired term of

**Tom Zenner, expiring April 30, 2027.**

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

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

**6. Adoption of the Housing Affordability Report for permit year 2024.**

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke against and discussed writing style, timing, and requested that permitting be completed online.

Ald. Kneebone moved, Ald. Shuda seconded, to approve the adoption.

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

**7. Property Use and Maintenance Agreement with the Stevens Point Business Park Business Improvement District (BID) and the City of Stevens Point for the Business Park's common areas.**

Ald. Steinmetz moved, Ald. Broderick seconded, to approve the agreement.

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

**8. Request to accept transfer of ownership from Stevens Point Business Improvement District (BID) and place the resolution on file.**

Ald. Steinmetz moved, Ald. Birr 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 - Chapter 10 (City Parks): Codification of existing park rules into permitted activities and prohibited uses at the Bukolt Park Skatepark.**

Item was postponed.

**10. Ordinance Amendment - Chapter 10 (City Parks): Creation of 10.21 prohibiting sunflower seed usage on baseball/softball diamonds at Zenoff Park.**

Item was postponed.

**11. Ordinance Amendments - To approve the amendments in Chapter 9, Section 9.06 for stop signs on Oak Avenue at the intersection of Heffron Street.**

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**12. Resolution — Combination of two or more wards for voting purposes to facilitate the use of common polling places.**

Clerk Pagel gave a brief overview of the resolution correcting a clerical error.

Ald. Lang moved, Ald. Steinmetz seconded, to approve the resolution.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**13. Resolution - Establishing Alternate In-Person Absentee Voting Location for Spring 2026.**

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**14. Resolution – Directing Spring Primary Election 2026.**

Clerk Pagel gave a brief overview of the resolution.

Ald. Christianson moved, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the resolution.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**15. Resolution Authorizing Submission of Vibrant Spaces Grant Application.**

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

**16. Ordinance Amendment - A request from Portage County to amend the Stevens Point Comprehensive Plan. Said request amends the future land use designation of the property located at 825 Whiting Avenue (Parcel ID 281230805101103) from**

## **'Institutional/Government' to 'Commercial/Office/Multi-Family.'**

Mary McComb, 2100 Elk Street, spoke against the resolution and discussed prior land use designations.

Ray Cal, 1233 Maria Drive, spoke against the resolution and discussed the referendum votes.

County Board Supervisor Mike Splinter, 1475 Torun Road, Town of Hull, spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed the merits of the vote on a zoning change and staff recommendation.

Mayor Wiza made a request from the body to allow speakers that have signed up for agenda items 16, 17 and 18, to discuss all items at one time to assist with efficiency but also give speakers more latitude on time.

No objections from Alderspersons.

Bill Bushman, 5516 Elmwood Avenue, spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed the subsidizing of the home as a financial decision.

Alan Buchanan, 1208 Black Bear Trail, spoke against the resolution and discussed the referendum votes.

Alex Macomber, 2633 Helen Street, spoke against the resolution.

Mary Ann Laszewski, 1209 Wisconsin Street, spoke against the resolution and discussed timing as well as the landscape.

Jenny Burton, 5718 Sandpiper Drive, spoke against the resolution and discussed operations in other municipalities, quality of care, and staffing.

Eric Olsen, 2025 West River Drive, spoke against the resolution and discussed zoning standards, public interest, and long-standing ownership.

Nancy Roppe, 39 Angelo Court, Park Ridge, spoke against the resolution and discussed emergency management services statistics, acres to be rezoned, and application for the conditional use permit.

Liz McDonald, 1760 Strongs Avenue, spoke against the resolution and discussed the applicant representing voters.

Mildred Neville, 1709 Jefferson Street, spoke against the resolution and discussed the administrative staff report.

County Board Chair Ray Reser, 1501 County Road ZZ, Township of New Hope, spoke in favor of the resolution.

Representing the applicant of Portage County, Kevin Ramakrishna, 22 East Mifflin Street, Madison, spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed the timeline and the zoning change. Mr. Ramakrishna spoke about current agreements negotiated and designed to ensure long-term use should a change of use occur or if Ensign attempts to sell, thus opening up a negotiating period for Portage County to acquire the property back.

County Board chair Dave Ladick, 4517 Nicolet Avenue, spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed the vetting process.

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed the property entering back onto the tax roll as well as the accuracy behind the zoning change.

Portage County Executive, John Pavelski, spoke in favor of the resolution and discussed the use of the property not changing and the timeline of the financial struggles of the Portage County Healthcare Center.

Karlene Ferrante, 1324 Portage Street, spoke against the resolution and discussed the administrative staff report, comprehensive plan, and public interest.

Ald. Christianson moved, Ald. Morrow seconded, to approve the resolution as presented.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Keymer, Birr, Steinmetz, Shuda  
Buse, Morrow.

Nays: Guthrie, Broderick, Kneebone, Lang. Motion carried.

**17. Resolution - A request from Portage County to rezone the property located at 825 Whiting Avenue (Parcel ID 281230805101103) from the "R-2" Single-Family Residence District to the "R-4" Multiple Family I Residence District.**

Ald. Guthrie asked staff if there was something pressing about the zoning change occurring now prior to uncertainties with the sale of the Portage County Health Care Center.

Director Kivela answered that there was not anything pressing, however, large organizations seek certainty. Therefore, the conditions of a sale are common practice. Director Kivela also spoke about Portage County having the ability to operate in an R-2. However, it is of the staff's opinion that an R-4 is more appropriate for a nursing home.

Representing the applicant of Portage County, Kevin Ramakrishna, 22 East Mifflin Street, Madison, confirmed that rezoning was a condition of closing and that this is a standard practice.

Ald. Christianson asked if approval of a rezoning could be made conditional on a sale proceeding forward.

Attorney Beveridge spoke about not setting this precedent.

Ald. Guthrie asked staff to explain if zoning were to change to R-4, but if the sale of property were not to occur, what would the impact be on the current operations of the Portage County Health Care Center.

Director Kivela answered that staff's recommendation would be that the Portage County Health Care Center operates within an R-4.

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

Call for the vote: Ayes: Morrow, Buse, Lang, Shuda, Steinmetz, Birr, Keymer,  
Christianson.

Nays: Kneebone, Broderick, Guthrie. Motion carried.

**18. Resolution - A request from Portage County for a conditional use permit to operate a nursing home on the property located at 825 Whiting Avenue (Parcel ID 281230805101103), consistent with Ch. 23.02(1)(f)(3)(g).**

Ald. Christianson moved, Ald. Shuda seconded, to approve the resolution.

Call for the vote: Ayes: Christianson, Keymer, Birr, Steinmetz, Shuda  
Buse, Morrow.

Nays: Guthrie, Broderick, Kneebone, Lang. Motion carried.

**19. Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

**Public Notice is Hereby Given  
that a Quorum of the City of Stevens Point's  
Common Council, or any committee thereof, may attend the following:  
Holiday Party  
Monday December 15, 2025  
Immediately following the Council Meeting  
At  
Great Northern Distilling  
1011 Second Street  
Stevens Point, WI 54481**