

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI

January 20, 2026
7:00 PM

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

1. Roll Call.

Present:

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

Excused:

Ald. Buse.

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.

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke about open meeting laws, transparency, structure of meetings, rules surrounding meetings, use of electronic devices during meetings and standardized meetings.

Consideration and Possible Action on the Following:

5. Consent Agenda:

a. Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of December 15, 2025.

b. Actions of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of December 4, 2025:

4. Approval of Minutes.

5. Confirmation of Bills.

8. Discussion, with possible action, on approval of promotions of Sgt. Ross Wierzba and Sgt. Alex Beach to Lieutenant on a date to be determined in January 2026, due to promotion and retirement.

9. Discussion, with possible action, on approval of Lead Officer Jason Dienger and Lead Officer Cole O'Neil to Sergeant pending approval of Wierzba and Beach, on a date to be determined in January 2026.

10. Discussion, with possible action, on approval of an eligibility list good through February 15, 2026, for Lieutenant and Sergeant (pending Chief's promotional process).

11. Discussion, with possible action, on approval to hire David Swanson and

Joseph Romano as Officer Recruits w/training with the anticipated start date of December 8, 2025.

12. Police Chief Report.
13. Discussion, with possible action, for approval on the promotion of Battalion Chief Jared Hopfensperger to the position of Division Chief of the Fire Bureau, effective January 5, 2026.
14. Discussion, with possible action, on the ability to continue running an Internal/External hiring process for possibly two Battalion Chief positions within the Stevens Point Fire Department in 2026.
16. Fire Chief Report/EMS Report/EM Report.

Actions of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of December 8, 2025:

3. Discussion, with possible action, on selecting the next Stevens Point Chief of Police.

Actions of the Police and Fire Commission meeting of January 6, 2025:

3. Approval of Minutes.
4. Confirmation of Bills.
7. Approval of Lt. Joe Johnson to serve as Interim Assistant Chief starting January 7, 2026, and ending February 22, 2026.
8. Police Chief Report.
9. Discussion, with possible action, to hire a new Battalion Chief for the City of Stevens Point Fire Department.
10. Discussion, with possible action, on the proposed Charging Policy for the Stevens Point Fire Department.
11. Discussion, with possible action, to move forward with the WI-TF1 MOU Agreement with the City and Stevens Point Fire Department.
12. Discussion, with possible action, on the newly completed 2026-2031 Strategic Plan for the Stevens Point Fire Department.
13. Fire Chief Report/EMS Report/EM Report.

c. Minutes and Actions of the Plan Commission meeting of January 5, 2026:

2. Report of the December 1, 2025 meeting of the City Plan Commission.
6. A request from Bill Pritchard, representing the Elizabeth Revocable Trust, for a conceptual subdivision plat review for a proposed subdivision on an unaddressed parcel off of West Zinda Drive (Parcel ID 281240831401241).
7. April-November 2025 Monthly Reports.
8. Director's Report.

d. Actions of the Board of Water and Sewerage Commissioners meeting of January 12, 2026:

2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of department claims.

e. Actions of the Airport Commission meeting of January 12, 2026:

2. Approval of minutes.
3. Approval of departments claims.

f. Actions of the Transportation Commission of January 12, 2026:

2. Approval of November 10, 2025 minutes.
3. Approval of the November and December 2025 Financial/Claims Reports.

g. Minutes of the Board of Public Works meeting of January 12, 2026.

h. Minutes and Actions of the Public Policy and General Government meeting of January

12, 2026:

2. License List.

- i. **Minutes and Actions of the Finance Committee meeting of January 12, 2026:**
 - 5. Approval of funding for the purchase of a Bobcat Toolcat for the Parks Department.**
 - 6. Approval of Claims Paid.**
- j. **Statutory Monthly Financial Report by Comptroller/Treasurer.**

Jackie Shimke, 440 West Trillium Court, spoke about consent agenda item 5c6 and reckless driving on West River Drive.

Mayor Wiza spoke about a point of clarification for item h. The correct minutes for approval have been handed out and will be added to the Common Council minutes.

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

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

6. Request to approve the Cover Sheet for the previously approved Land Swap Agreement with Portage County.

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke against the land swap agreement.

Mayor Wiza spoke about the land swap agreement cover sheet and how it clarifies key points that include a single point of access at City Hall no sooner than June 1, 2026 and that Portage County agrees to vacate the use of the building at 1039 Ellis Street no later than January 23, 2026. An amended cover letter that addresses an easement was handed out to the body and will be included within the Common Council minutes.

Ald. Christianson moved, Ald. Lang seconded, to approve the request with the amended clarification added to it.

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

7. Ordinance Amendment - Section 15.02: Aldermanic District Boundaries.

Clerk Pagel gave a brief overview of the Ordinance Amendment.

Ald. Guthrie asked how the electors impacted by a polling location change have been noticed.

Clerk Pagel clarified that nearly 7,000 postcards were sent out in August to all electors impacted.

Mayor Wiza asked if moving forward with a larger notice going out to electors if Alderpersons could receive notification.

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

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. To award the 1039 Ellis Street Demolition Project #25-801 to Robinson Brothers Environmental, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$344,885.00.

Mayor Wiza gave a brief overview of the bid with the demo to start on January 26, 2026 and be shovel ready by May 26, 2026.

Andrea Olson, 410 Franklin Street, spoke in favor of the bid.

Ald. Morrow moved, Ald. Keymer seconded, to approve the award.

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

Nays: None. Motion carried.

9. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
PUBLIC POLICY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 12, 2026 - 6:05 PM**

**Community Room
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

OR

Zoom Teleconferencing

1. Roll Call.

Present:

Ald. Keymer, Birr, Steinmetz, Lang.

Excused:

Ald. Buse.

2. License List:

- A. "Class B" Beer & Liquor License: Holiday Inn Convention Center at 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point for license period beginning February 3, 2026.**
- B. Temporary Class "B" Beer License: St. Joseph Parish, 1709 Wyatt Avenue, Stevens Point, Winterfest on February 13, 2026 at 1709 Wyatt Avenue, Stevens Point.**

No concerns from law enforcement.

Ald. Steinmetz moved, Ald. Lang seconded, to approve the license list.

Call for the vote: ayes, all; nays, none; motion carried.

3. Adjournment.

Adjourned at 6:06 p.m.

**COVER SHEET FOR THE LAND SWAP AGREEMENT BETWEEN
PORTAGE COUNTY AND THE CITY OF STEVENS POINT**

This cover sheet applies to the attached Land Swap Agreement between Portage County and the City of Stevens Point (the Land Swap Agreement). For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are acknowledged, the Parties acknowledge and agree as follows:

1. At its May 19, 2025 meeting, the City of Stevens Point Common Council approved the attached Land Swap Agreement.
2. At its May 20, 2025 meeting, the Portage County Board of Supervisors also approved the same, attached Land Swap Agreement.
3. Except as set forth in this cover sheet, the attached Land Swap Agreement between the Parties is incorporated herein by reference.
4. Any provisions in the Land Swap Agreement to the contrary notwithstanding, this cover sheet modifies the Land Swap Agreement to explicitly include the following provisions:

The date of the City vacating its 27% occupancy of the County/City building is expected to be in July of 2027, the specific date of which will be determined and mutually agreed upon.

Separate and apart from the City vacating its ownership interest and transferring it to the County, the County will have full and independent authority to take all necessary security steps, including single-point access to the entire courthouse building, facility, and structure, no sooner than June 1, 2026.

County agrees to relinquish any storage provisions, as outlined in item 4 of the agreement, and vacate all use of the building no later than January 23, 2026, to allow the City's demolition contractor to begin on January 26, 2026.

The County shall have the right and authority to terminate the ingress and egress easement upon construction completion of the City's new building facility on the Ellis Street property.

Other than the foregoing provisions, all other terms and conditions of the Land Swap Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

5. Each Party has read this cover sheet and its attachment and certifies that it will comply with all its terms and conditions and that the official executing this document has lawful authority to bind the Party.

For the City of Stevens Point:

For Portage County:

Mike Wiza, City of Stevens Point Mayor

John Pavelski, Portage County Executive

Date of Mayor's Signature: _____

Date of County Executive's Signature: _____