CITY OF NEENAH
PUBLIC SERVICES AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Weber called to order the meeting of the Public Services and Safety Committee meeting at 5:00 PM.

Roll Call

Public Works Office Manager took roll. Alderman Defferding, Pollnow, Steiner, and Weber present. Alderman Linski excused.

Also Present**:** Mayor Borchardt, City Attorney Rashid, Clerk Nagel, Police Chief Olson, Assistant Police Chief Bernice, Interim Public Works Director Rohloff, Finance Director Rasmussen, Community Development Director Nieforth, Alderman Neumann, Alderman Bruno, Frank Cuthbert, Becky Heidke-Kwiatkowski, Scott Becher, Tanner Mann, Douglas Krueger, MaryBeth Matzek, and Andrew Leonard

Public Appearances

Chairperson Weber opened Public Appearances at 5:56

Chief Olson announced that the Police Department will be ending their contract with Flock Camera effectively immediately.

Andrew Leonard, 1747 Legacy Lane, Neenah-Mr. Leonard discussed on-going issues with storm drains and dirt on the road in the Freedom Meadows subdivision.

Scott Becher, 1061 Green Acres Lane, Neenah-Mr. Becher commended the mayor for better public hearing notices.

Tanner Mann, 833 W. Harris Street, Appleton-Mr. Tanner expressed frustration over the delay in addressing the Flock contract and lack of response from city council members. He stated that Flock lied to the city and police department and cautions against the city entering into similar contracts with Axon.

Alderman Bruno, 1002 E. Forest Avenue, Neenah-Alderman Bruno thanked staff for helping provide information to her constituents after the storm while she was on vacation.

Nathaniel Miller, 981 Grove Street, Neenah-Mr. Miller discussed the cancellation of the Flock contract and the need for the community to be the customer and not the city or police department when entering into these types of contracts.

Doug Krueger, 113 Van Street, Neenah-Mr. Krueger suggested a local security system for neighborhood surveillance, highlighting its benefits and potential implementation.

Alderman Steiner explained the importance of evaluating facts and considering different points of view in decision making. He reassured the residents that were in attendance regarding the Flock cameras, that council members took the Flock issue seriously and emphasized the need for balanced decision making.

Chairperson Weber closed Public Appearances at 5:15 PM.

New Business

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of the August 11, 2026, meeting and the Special Meeting Minutes of the August 19, 2026, meeting

Motion by Pollnow, seconded by Defferding to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2026, and Special Meeting of August 19, 2026.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

New Business

Process for Future Agenda Items from Committee Members

Motion by Weber, seconded by Steiner, to approve the trial of a new process for future agenda items placement on the Public Services and Safety Committee.

Alderman Pollnow stated that he objects to the proposed new process, saying it gives too much authority to the committee Chair and conflicts with the existing rulebook. He stated that adopting separate rules for each committee is a slippery slope and believes the matter should be handled by the Rules Committee instead. He stated that he will not support the proposal.

Alderman Defferding stated that he and Chairperson Weber have discussed this and he has been very open about his disagreement. He stated that he reviewed the city's rulebook, and under the section on petitions, it clearly states that any member of the Common Council may request that an item of business be placed on an agenda for the appropriate standing committee or for the Common Council. The request is to be delivered to the City Clerk, who then coordinates with the Committee Chair, the Mayor, and the affected staff members to place the item on the agenda. The agenda preparer is then responsible for placing it properly, consistent with Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin

Statutes, as determined by the City Attorney. Alderman Defferding stated that the language in the rulebook as he interrupts it is very clear that any council member has the ability to do put an item on a committee agenda. He stated that is one the basic and essential duties as alderpersons.

Alderman Defferding stated that, he can't help but feel that what is being proposed uses additional processes in a way that ultimately stalls important topics, and more importantly, it shifts priority away from elected officials and onto staff in situations where staff may have a conflict of interest. He stated that our role is to put items on the agenda, debate them, and determine whether they benefit our residents, whether by improving efficiency, achieving cost savings, or simply addressing concerns brought forward by the public. He stated that he will not be voting for this.

Alderman Steiner stated that he is open to listening to Chairperson Weber's perspective. He stated that he is interested in knowing what the big conflicts are between the section of the petitions.

Chairperson Weber stated that the whole intent was to have a trial period of this process to make sure that the committee itself was all in on something and let everybody have a chance to weigh in, whether or not they thought it was an important topic to take further. He stated that otherwise we would get stuck in the bureaucracy of every alderman putting everything they want on every agenda, and we never get through anything, and it becomes excessive work for staff. Chairperson Weber stated that there is no clear process for getting things on the committee's agendas and feels that the rulebook were not being interpreted correctly. Chairperson Weber stated that he is happy to take this item to the rules committee if that's the way that this committee wants to go. He stated that he thought it would be more effective and more efficient by putting it threw a trial period to work out the issue before taking it the Rules Committee and Council.

Alderman Steiner stated that Alderman Weber's intent has always been to problem-solve, and he consistently operates with the highest integrity. His goal with this proposal was to make the process clearer and more consistent. As we discuss this, I think it's important that we focus on the substance of the issue itself and keep our comments directed at the topic, not at the motives of individuals. I have never experienced Alderman Weber acting with any intent to mislead, deceive, or manipulate the process. That's simply not who he is. He encourages all of us to keep the conversation centered on the procedural concerns, not personal insinuations or comparisons that suggest negative intent. We can disagree on the details, but we should acknowledge that this proposal was brought forward in good faith.

The Committee discussed the intent of the proposed process, providing correct information to the public, and transparency.

City Attorney Rachid stated that for historical reasons, the City of Neenah has not established formal rules governing its committees. As a result, questions about the source of procedural authority have now become a point of discussion. Under

Wisconsin law, when neither ordinance nor previously established rules exist, a committee has the authority to adopt its own internal rules if it chooses. That is the understanding I have relied upon in reviewing this matter. What is being considered here is simply an attempt by this committee—without implicating the other standing committees, commissions, or boards—to create and adopt its own procedural rules.

City Attorney Rashid cited Section 2-86 of the City's ordinances states that the Committee on Rules may convene as provided in subsections (A) and (B), and that one of its duties is to establish rules for the Common Council as well as for committees, commissions, and boards. Historically, however, previous Common Councils have not exercised that authority to set rules for committees. In this absence—or "vacuum"—it is appropriate for a committee to adopt its own rules if it wishes to do so.

City Attorney Rashid stated that the proposal before this committee is entirely appropriate. If the committee chooses to proceed, any adopted rules would then be forwarded to the Common Council for further consideration and a vote. Alternatively, the council could convene the Committee on Rules to undertake this task instead.

Mayor Borchardt stated that he wanted to offer some perspective, having sat in both roles—first as a committee member last year, and now as mayor. What we were trying to accomplish with this proposal was simply to streamline the process and to reduce how much authority ends up resting solely with the Chair. Previously, agendas were inconsistent, items were added or withheld unpredictably, and answers to certain requests weren't always provided. That's what prompted us to take a closer look at how this could be improved.

Mayor Borchardt stated he wants to be very clear that the intent is not to prevent anyone from having a voice. The challenge is that every committee seems to operate differently. Finance handles things one way; Public Safety does it another. That inconsistency makes it confusing for staff—who they should respond to, when they should respond, and under what structure. He stated that right now staff members are asking, "Where do I send this information?" "How do I get this on an agenda?" "Who makes that decision?" Because of that, we thought using a Council Directive model would be a good starting point. It's a method everyone understands, it's predictable, and it keeps staff from having to navigate multiple versions of committee procedures.

Mayor Borchardt emphasized that during tenure, no one is going to be denied information. You will receive what you need, and you will receive it as quickly as staff can produce it. But I also recognize the workload these requests place on staff, and I want a system that is organized, consistent, and efficient. So, as you work through this process and decide how you want it structured, please keep in mind that the goal is to ensure everyone is heard while also giving staff a clear, consistent process to follow.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 2/2 (Alderman Defferding/Alderman Pollnow).

Motion Fails

Special Event Permits

The Committee had no questions.

Liquor Licenses

Recommend approval of the Temporary Extension of the "Class B" Fermented Malt Beverage License to Lion's Tail Brewing Company for Oktoberfest

Report

Motion by Steiner, seconded by Pollnow to recommend the Common Council approve the Temporary Extension of the "Class B" Fermented Malt Beverage License to Lion's Tail Brewing Company, 116 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, for Oktoberfest, to be held on Friday, September 18, 2026, and Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

Recommend approval of the Temporary Extension of the "Class B" Fermented Malt Beverage License Grainworks Old + New

Report

Motion by Steiner, seconded by Pollnow to recommend the Common Council approve the Temporary Extension of the "Class B" Fermented Malt Beverage License Grainworks Old + New, W Doty Avenue, Neenah, for Annual Bourbon Drawing, to be held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 10 AM to 4 :00 PM.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

Public Works General Construction and Department Activity Report

1) Contract 12-25 (Courtside Fields Pond): Final Payment is being completed.
2) Contract 1-26 (Elm, Reed, Laudan Utilities/Street): All utility work is complete. Contractor has started to grade and gravel road. Concrete work is set to start week of 8/24.

   Alderman Defferding shared concerns with Public Works Interim Director Rohloff about residents getting flat tires while driving down Reed Street and Elm Street, and also the litter that is on the street from the contractor. Interim Director Rohloff stated will follow up with the engineers about his concerns.

   Alderman Defferding asked if these roads are being narrowed. Public Works Interim Director Rohloff stated that he could not answer that question but would find out and get back to him.
3) Contract 2-26 (Henry, Sterling, Winneconne):
   a) Sterling/Greenfield: Concrete repair is complete. Paving is scheduled the week of 9/7.
   b) Henry: South of Winneconne: Utility work is complete. Project is in the resting period. Grading and graveling of road is tentatively scheduled for the week of 9/14.
4) Contract 4-26 (Misc. Concrete Pavement/Sidewalk Repair): A schedule has not been set.
5) Contract 5-26 (Misc. Asphalt Pavement Repair): About 30% of the work has been completed.
6) Pavement Marking: All work is completed accept for the part of Winneconne Ave associated with the Henry Street project.
7) Fahrner Asphalt completed chip sealing on S. John Street, N. John Street, Edward Street, Helen Street, and Jean Street.
8) City Hall Master Plan: Consultant is in the process of sending departments plans of their areas to review. The consultant will then set up meetings with each department to get feedback.
9) Freedom Acres/Homes at Freedom Meadows: Nothing new to report.

   Interim Public Works Director Rohloff stated that Mr. Leonard spoke with him on Monday about some of his concerns. I also had a tour of the site with Mr. Kaiser before he retired, so I am familiar with the issues being raised. Dust control is clearly an ongoing concern, and in the short term we will continue monitoring it and requiring mitigation as needed. Long term, the project is included in the 2028 Capital Improvement Plan. I understand that this timeline is not satisfactory for residents who would like the issue to be addressed next year. However, from a planning and budgeting standpoint, that schedule reflects both our staff capacity and our financial constraints, as these projects require upfront financing. He stated that Alderman Pollnow and he had discussed this as well. It is a very real problem. The photographs illustrate part of the issue, but they do not capture the full extent of what is happening on-site.

Alderman Pollnow asked if the city has a specific ordinance that prohibits the dumping of dirt on the road. He stated that he would like to be able to refer to an ordinance if one exists.

City Attorney Rashid stated that he will look in the Municipal Code.

Alderman Pollnow stated if there has been any progress on determining responsibility for enforcing these permit and site-plan requirements? Interim Director Rohloff stated that he and Director Nieforth talked about convening several departments to determine who will be responsible and how the enforcement process will work. He stated that he does think we can establish the groundwork.

10) Church St Ramp: Wells Sealants and Restoration will be scheduling work to make some ramp repairs this year. Work will focus on haunches and vector plates starting at the 8th level.

11) The Kittiver Lift station pump rails and discharged pipes failed. The cost of repairs is estimated to be between $12,000 to $15,000.

Alderman Pollnow asked for an update on the Benzene study that was required by the DNR for the S. Commercial Street project. Interim Director Rohloff stated he was not familiar with this issue and will follow up with staff and report back.

Alderman Pollnow asked about the sidewalk on Baldwin Street. City Attorney Rashid stated that this relates to the property owned by Century 21, Don Christensen. He stated that before Gerry left, he sent me a note saying he had reviewed the easement and that everything looked fine. He stated that staff engineer Eckhart contacted him today and it is my understanding that he will be handling this moving forward. He stated that we should be close to finalizing this matter.

Alderman Defferding asked what the status is of the storm cleanup.

Mayor Borchardt stated that a press release will go out Thursday, August 27th informing residents of the City’s plan. He stated that the final pass through the impacted storm area will begin at 6:00 AM Monday, August 31st and continue through Friday, September 4th for structural and building material debris along with brush and yard waste.

Announcements and Future Agenda Items

Pavement markings on the 1st Street and N. Commercial Street and S. Commercial Street and Oak Street (Defferding).

<u>Adjournment</u>

Motion by Pollnow, Seconded by Defferding to adjourn at 5:55 PM.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mroczkowski

Lisa Mroczkowski
Public Works Office Manager