

Common Council Minutes
Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – 6:00 PM

[A broadcast of this meeting can be viewed and heard through this link on the City's YouTube channel.](#)

The Common Council of the City of Neenah, Winnebago County, Wisconsin, met in regular session at 6:00 PM, May 6, 2026 in the Council Chambers of Neenah City Hall. Mayor Borchardt in the chair.

Present: Alderpersons Bruno, Ellis, Erickson, Linski, Pollnow, Steiner, Weber, and Defferding, Director of Finance Rasmussen, Director of Community Development & Assessment Nieforth, Director of Public Works Kaiser, City Attorney Rashid, and City Clerk Nagel.

Also Present: Park & Recreation Director Kading, Police Chief Olson, Fire Chief Teesch, and those listed on the attached sign-in sheets.

Mayor Borchardt called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

- I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. The Clerk voice roll call as the Alderpersons recorded their attendance in the Board Portal, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

- II. Proclamations
 - A. May 9, 2026 Stamp Out Hunger, Letter Carriers' Food Drive Day
Mayor Borchardt read and signed the proclamation for Stamp Out Hunger.

 - B. May 21-22, 2026 American Legion, Neenah Post 33 and the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 33 Poppy Days.
Mayor Borchardt read, signed, and presented the proclamation to the Legion Auxiliary who were present to accept it. The Legion Auxiliary also gave a short presentation on the Poppy.

- III. Introduction and Confirmation of Mayor's Appointment(s)
 - A. Appoint Shannon Moskal to the Neenah Arts Council for three-year term expiring April 2029. **(Unanimous Consent)**
Seeing no objections, the Council proceedings of the regular meeting of April 21, 2026 were approved by unanimous consent.

Clerk Nagel swore-in Ms. Moskal.

- IV. Approval of Council Proceedings
 - A. Approval of the Council Minutes and Proceedings of April 21, 2026 Organization and Regular Meetings. **(Unanimous Consent)**
Seeing no objections, the Council proceedings of the regular meeting of April 21, 2026 were approved by unanimous consent.

- V. Presentation of Petitions
 - A. Receive and make recommendation for future consideration Petition P2026-01 Submitted by Andrew Leonard, 1747 Legacy Lane, to move forward with a temporary road improvement no later than Spring 2027 due to ongoing safety,

accessibility and quality-of-life concerns with the Freedom Meadows and Freedom Acres subdivisions. **(Attachment)**

Mayor Borchardt advised Council that he would be looking for a motion to receive and place on file, as well as a recommendation for both petitions to be referred to a Committee of the Whole for further attention.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Bruno to receive and place on file petition P2026-01, and to send the petition to a future Committee of the Whole within 2-3 weeks. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

- B. Receive and make recommendation for future consideration Petition P2026-02 Submitted by Jacob Schreiber, 1710 Sovereign Lane, to move forward with a revised plan of final roads installed in 2028 in the Freedom Meadows and Freedom Acres subdivisions. **(Attachment)**

Alderman Pollnow questioned the validity of this petition. There's a very vague definition of a petition in the Council Rules, and since this is the first electronic petition received made some aldermen question the validity of it. Attorney Rashid advised that electronic signatures are allowed by the legislature for various reasons. Just because the signatures are electronic does not negate the integrity of the petition. The electronic signatures are taken at face value unless the petition is challenged or some reason to doubt the signature.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Bruno to receive and place on file petition P2026-02, and to send the petition to a future Committee of the Whole within 2-3 weeks. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

- C. Any other petition received by the City Clerk's Office after distribution of the agenda.
No additional petitions were received by the City Clerk's office.

VI. Public Hearings

- A. Consider Special Use Permit 1-26 by the Fox Valley Islamic Society to establish a private school located at 2680 Marathon Avenue.
Mayor Borchardt opened the public hearing at 6:14 PM. After three calls for comment, none were heard. Mayor Borchardt closed the public hearing at 6:17 PM.
- B. Consider Ordinance 2026-06 amending Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances relating to Plan Commission membership.
Mayor Borchardt opened the public hearing at 6:18 PM. After three calls for comment, none were heard. Mayor Borchardt closed the public hearing at 6:18 PM.
- C. Consider Ordinance 2026-08 amending Chapter 22 of the Municipal Code relating to Shoreland-Wetland Zoning.

Mayor Borchardt opened the public hearing at 6:19 PM. After three calls for comment, none were heard. Mayor Borchardt closed the public hearing at 6:19 PM.

- D. Consider Ordinance 2026-09 Section 22-161 and creating Chapter 22 Article VI Shoreland Zoning.
Mayor Borchardt opened the public hearing at 6:20 PM. After three calls for comment, none were heard. Mayor Borchardt closed the public hearing at 6:20 PM.

VII. Plan Commission Report Pertaining to the Public Hearings

- A. Plan Commission meeting of April 28, 2026: (Ald. Erickson) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
1. Commission recommends Council approve a Special Use Permit for a private school located at 2680 Marathon Avenue subject to the conditions of the Special Use Review Letter. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Erickson, Seconded by Pollnow to approve as recommended by the Commission. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.
 2. Commission recommends Council approve Ordinance No. 2026-06, amending Chapter 26 of the Code of Ordinances relating to Plan Commission membership. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Erickson, seconded by Steiner to approve as recommended by the Commission. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

This is problematic for Alderman Pollnow because it has not been on a School Board Agenda for discussion with the School Board itself. He didn't like how the ordinance change eliminates representation of the School Board. This will bring the Plan Commission membership from eight to seven.

Mayor Borchardt has been in conversations with staff and due to the fact that there is no requirement for a School Board Member to be a resident of the City of Neenah is problematic for representation on the Plan Commission. Dr. Harrison confirmed with Mayor Borchardt that there wasn't much interest from the School Board to be on the Plan Commission.

Council President Steiner, through research, added that it was not the norm to have a School Board Member on the Plan Commission. The School Board Membership stemmed from many years ago when the School Board and the city were under the same jurisdiction and authority. This membership was a historical spill-over from that period of time. Council President Steiner also has not heard of any concerns raised by the School Board members in regard this change.

This is still problematic to Alderman Pollnow because it wasn't talked about with the School Board as it hadn't been on their agenda.

Alderman Ellis gave a history of the Fiscal Review Board. The school district is much larger than the city. The School Board has issues that have nothing to do with the city, and vice versa; the city has no control over what the School Board does. The city's doors are open to anyone, anytime, and if there is something that is going on staff reaches out to the school. Therefore, to insure that members of the Plan Commission are City of Neenah residents, it would be in the city's best interest to approve this ordinance amendment.

3. Commission recommends Council approve Ordinance No. 2026-08, amending Chapter 22 of the Code of Ordinances Shoreland-Wetland Zoning. **(Roll Call Vote)**

Motion by Tami Erickson, second by Scott Weber to approve as recommended by the Commission. Motion carried in a roll call vote 7-1 with Defferding dissenting.

Alderman Defferding asked for some history on the item. Director Nieforth gave a brief synopsis of the history per the memo. Shoreland zoning is not just limited to Lake Winnebago, it could mean any streams or tributaries to the Neenah Slough, Lake Winnebago, etc. The amendment is attempting to bring everyone to the same set of rules to follow.

4. Commission recommends Council approve Ordinance No. 2026-09, creating Article VI (Chapter 22) Shoreland Zoning. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Tami Erickson, second by Mark Ellis to approve Ordinance 2026-09 as recommended by the Commission. Motion carried in a roll call vote 7-1 with Defferding dissenting.

VIII. Public Forum

- A. Gerald Van Ryken, 654 McKinley Street - Shared a heartwarming story about his son, Gabe, and the community's support for autistic children.
- B. Lynsey Gonzalez, 1634 Valor Place - Discussed the impact of roads in the Freedom Meadows and Freedom Acres subdivisions. Ms. Gonzalez requests a practical solution for temporary road repairs.
- C. Josh Spatz, 1651 Fonders St – Talked on how it blows his mind that a city doesn't prioritize their roads to get them completed in a timely fashion.

IX. Mayor/Council Consideration of Public Forum Issues

- A. Alderman Ellis complemented the Freedom Meadows and Freedom Acres group on how respectful and patient they were in handling the road situation.

X. Consent Agenda – None

XI. Reports of Standing Committees

- A. Regular Public Services and Safety Committee meeting of April 28, 2026: (Chairman Weber/Vice Chairman Pollnow) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
1. Committee recommends Council approve Ordinance 2026-05, amending Chapter 2 of the Code of Ordinances relating to Plan Commission membership. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Weber, second by Ellis to approve Ordinance 2026-05 as recommended by the committee. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 6-2 with Pollnow and Defferding dissenting.

Again, Alderman Pollnow voiced his opinion on how he feels this is a missed opportunity for communication with the School Board.

2. Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of 2026 New Way Sidewinder ASL from Envirotech Equipment, Menomonee Falls, WI, in the amount of \$391,732.00 and also City logos, new 2-way radio and additional safety lighting not to exceed \$2,000, utilizing 2026 Budgeted Capital Equipment funds and have the remaining budget balance be put into Capital Reserves. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Weber, second by Pollnow to approve the purchase of a New Way Sidewinder ASL as recommended by the committee.

Alderman Pollnow had discussion with Director Rasmussen regarding putting the excess dollar amount in the Budgeted Capital Equipment funds. Therefore, Director Rasmussen is recommending wait until the 2027 budget process to avoid a shortfall in the general fund this year.

AMENDED MOTION: Pollnow to amended the motion on the floor to remove the verbiage relative to capital reserves. The amended motion was seconded by Ellis. No further discussion. Motion carried in a voice vote, 8-0.

ORIGINAL MOTION RESTATED: Motion by Weber, seconded by Pollnow approve the purchase of 2026 New Way Sidewinder ASL from Envirotech Equipment, Menomonee Falls, WI, in the amount of \$391,732.00 and also City logos, new 2-way radio and additional safety lighting not to exceed \$2,000, utilizing 2026 Budgeted Capital Equipment funds and have the remaining budget balance be put into Capital Reserves, as amended. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

3. Committee recommends Council approve the Purchase of a 2026 Freightliner Tandem Axle Chassis Patrol Truck-No Salter from Truck Country, Kaukauna, WI in the amount of \$130,800.00 and the snow equipment package from Monroe Truck Equipment, De Pere WI in the amount of \$155,491.00 with a total price of \$286,291.00 utilizing 2026 Budgeted Capital Equipment funds of \$285,000.00, with the balance of \$1,291.00 coming from Capital Equipment Reserve fund. **(Roll Call Vote)**

Motion by Weber, seconded by Pollnow to approve as recommended by the Committee. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

4. Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of Advance SW5500 Sweeper in the amount of \$37,814.00 and a Factor Cat XR 700v2 Scrubber in the amount of \$30,816.00, both from, Conger Toyota-Lift, Neenah WI for a total cost of \$68,630.00, utilizing 2026 Capital Equipment funds and have the remaining budget balance be put into Capital Reserves. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Weber, seconded by Ellis to approve the purchase of Advance SW5500 Sweeper in the amount of \$37,814.00 and a Factor Cat XR 700v2 Scrubber in the amount of \$30,816.00, both from, Conger Toyota-Lift, Neenah WI for a total cost of \$68,630.00, utilizing 2026 Capital Equipment funds. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.
5. Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of 702 95-gallon carts from Sierra Container Group for a cost of \$41,174.50 with funding to come from capital reserve funds. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Weber, seconded by Pollnow to approve as recommended by the Committee. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.
6. Committee recommends Council approve the replacement of blacktop in South Lot. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Weber, seconded by Pollnow to approve the replacement of blacktop in the Police Department South Parking Lot. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

Police Chief Olson explained this the project is under budget.

- B. Regular Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of April 27, 2026: (Chairman Erickson/Vice Chairman Ellis) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
 1. Committee recommends Council approve entering into an agreement with CivicPlus to license and configure Recreation Management software, at a cost of \$38,572.88 for the first year, and annual renewals afterward, with funding coming from the Information Systems capital equipment budget for multi-year software licensing. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Erickson, seconded by Bruno to approve as recommended by the Committee. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.
 2. Committee recommends Council approve the purchase of equipment and services from One Source Technologies to upgrade existing Access Control hardware at the Neenah Police Department at a cost not to exceed \$24,000, with funding coming from Information Systems capital equipment budget for technology upgrades. **(Roll Call Vote)**

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Pollnow to approve as recommended by the Committee. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

3. Committee recommends Council approve Resolution 2026-03 for the 2026 Community Development Block Grant and authorization to enter into agreements for the activities, subject to approval by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Erickson, seconded by Bruno to approve as recommended by the Committee. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 6-2 with Pollnow and Defferding dissenting.

Alderman Pollnow has issue with taking money from the federal government because a lot of this money is used for blight elimination. As a result of this blight elimination there have been properties taken out of taxation which doesn't help the operating tax levy. It is too easy to use these dollars removing properties that are on the tax roll, that is why he will be voting against this.

Alderman Ellis commented that the utilization of these funds that comes back to us from impart city residents who have contributed to, benefits the community as a whole. He has seen firsthand the good that the CDGB funds have done for older areas of the city, turning them around, making those neighborhoods a desired place to live.

Alderman Defferding feels that accepting the CDBG funds distorts the pricing of the housing market by messing up the actual supply and demand of the market. With the current market, it is important is for properties to reflect their actual value. If this trajectory continues, then the city just becomes gatekeepers on who gets to have what, which isn't the appropriate avenue to take. There is no actual research to show that CDBG funds have assisted in taking communities out of poverty. The money comes from the federal government but it still comes from people's pocketbooks, just a different side of the wallet. For these reasons, he can't in good faith support this.

Council President Steiner provided additional items that are covered by CBDG funds. There are individuals in our community that just need help, especially with the rising costs. This is money well spent. There are all sorts of distortions across the housing market. The purpose of the CBDG funds, which is not a huge sum of money, can be really powerful and really helpful for those in desperate need the assistance.

4. Committee recommends Council approve Debt Management Policy as presented. **(Roll Call Vote)**
Motion by Erickson, seconded by Pollnow to approve as recommended by the Committee. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

- XII. Reports of Special Committees and Liaisons and Various Special Projects Committees
 - A. Regular Plan Commission meeting of April 28, 2026: (Council Rep Erickson) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
 - 1. Action taken under Public Hearing.
 - B. Report from the Community Development Authority Meeting of May 4, 2026 - Director Nieforth
 - 1. Parking presentation
 - 2. How often will the CDA meet. A recommendation is every other month was discussed.
 - 3. Elected committee officers,
 - 4. talked about current projects in the city.

Director Nieforth responded to Alderman Pollnow's question regarding Developer side parking agreements.

- C. Report from the Bergstrom Mahler Museum Board of Directors Meeting of April 29, 2026 – Alderman Bruno
 - 1. The museum is now temporarily closed to finish renovation and reinstallation of exhibits. The reopen date is Tuesday, May 12th. The ribbon cutting will be June 26th and Family Day of June 28th.
 - 2. Our Time Shine Renovation Project fundraiser was given.
 - 3. Spring Fund Drive now through June 15th.

XIII. Council Directives

- A. Motion by Defferding to start a general obligation debt strategy for the next four years. Motion was seconded by Pollnow. **(Roll Call Vote)**

Alderman Defferding retracts his motion, Alderman Pollnow retracts is second on this Council directive based on the Debt Policy work done by Director Rasmussen.

XIV. Unfinished Business

- A. None.

XV. New Business

- A. Any announcements/questions that may legally come before the Council.
- B. Mayor Borchardt recapped the Touch of Truck Event.
- C. Alderman Defferding brought up concerns about the Emergency Management Committee not meeting amongst the current flooding.

XVI. Closed Session

- A. The Common Council may convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(g) to confer with City Attorney who will render advice concerning strategies with respect to pending litigation involving the City, specifically regarding: a condemnation (just compensation) appeal filed relative to 105 W. Winneconne Avenue. B. The Common Council may reconvene into open session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(2) to consider or act on any item (s) discussed in closed session. XVII. Adjournment concerning strategies with respect to pending

litigation involving the City, specifically regarding: a condemnation (just compensation) appeal filed relative to 105 W. Winneconne Avenue.

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Pollnow for the Council to convene into closed session The Common Council may convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(g) to confer with City Attorney who will render advice concerning strategies with respect to pending litigation involving the City, specifically regarding: a condemnation (just compensation) appeal filed relative to 105 W. Winneconne Avenue. B. The Common Council may reconvene into open session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(2) to consider or act on any item (s) discussed in closed session. XVII. Adjournment concerning strategies with respect to pending litigation involving the City, specifically regarding: a condemnation (just compensation) appeal filed relative to 105 W. Winneconne Avenue. The Common Council may reconvene into open session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(2) to consider or act on any item (s) discussed in closed session. No further discussion. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

At 7:24 PM, the Council convened into closed session

The Council adjourned in closed session without reconvening into open session.

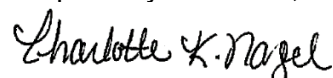
- B. The Common Council may reconvene into open session pursuant to Wis. Stats. §19.85(2) to consider or act on any item (s) discussed in closed session.

XVII. Adjournment

Motion by Ellis, seconded by Bruno to adjourn. No further discussion. Motion carried in a voice vote 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

[A broadcast of this meeting can be viewed and heard through this link on the City's YouTube channel.](#)

Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Nagel, City Clerk

**CITY OF NEENAH – COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 AT 6:00 PM
ATTENDANCE SHEET**

NAME	ADDRESS
1. Patti Julius	141 Andrew Ave Neenah
2. Kent & Charis Pridling	868 Jumblebrook Rd, Neenah
3. Frank Cuthbert	1533 Fallow Drive, Neenah
4. GERALD "GAS DAD" VAUGHAN	654 MCKINLEY ST - NEENAH.
5. Kurt Burk	1708 Sovereign (NEENAH)
6. ANDREW LEONARD	1747 LEGACY
7. Dick & Eileen CLARK	1642 VALOR PL
8. Pamela Less	1709 Founders St.
9. Lynsey Gonzalez	11634 Valor Pl
10. Kris Pohlman	1721 Freeman Dr.
11. Vicki Hanson	368 Stanley Ct. Neenah
12. Jill Futsch	25 5th St Waukesha WI
13. Megan Gunderson	1654 Founders St
14. MARK NEUMAN	509 CHATHAM CT NEENAH
15. Jacob Schreiber	1710 Sovereign way
16. Kaiti Mayhorne	1617 Liberty Ave Neenah
17. Sara Werner	1011 Grand Oak Court
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**CITY OF NEENAH – COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 AT 6:00 PM
ATTENDANCE SHEET**

NAME	ADDRESS
1. Heather Jelinski	1733 Freeman Dr.
2. Norma Mammadov	1702 Founders St
3. Mary Koclowski	954 Gay Dr #2
4. Barbara Bodenhagen	402 Monroe St
5. Donna Smith	936 Gay Drive #2 Neenah
6. Josh Spitz	1651 Founders St
7. Shannon Moskal	1083 Congress St.
8. Nancy Wagner	1705 Freeman
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**CITY OF NEENAH – COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 AT 6:00 PM
ATTENDANCE SHEET**

NAME	ADDRESS
1. Dennis Kuffel	410 Keefe St.
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