

CITY OF NEENAH
PUBLIC SERVICES AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 8, 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, Parks & Recreation Director Kading, Alderman Neumann, Alderman Bruno, Frank Cuthbert, Becky Heidke Kwiatkowski, Scott Becher, Tanner Mann, Josh Tidwell, Kate Hancock-Cooke, Marilyn Fahrenkrug, Brintney Biedscheid, Russell Ziebell, Meg Johnson, Nathaniel Miller, Patrick Woodbridge, Jordon Loeck, Cari Tetzlaff, Josh Hilgendorf, and MaryBeth Matzek

Public Appearances

Chairperson Weber opened Public Appearances at 5:02

Tanner Mann, 833 W. Harris Street, Appleton-Mr. Tanner urged the council to end the Flock Safety contract. He stated that there were five alleged false claims that Flock made regarding their end-to-end encryption, pattern-of-life tracking, people-tracking features, heat-mapping, and data collection practices. He stated that ALPR technology is too extreme for community use and that local governments lack the cybersecurity expertise to evaluate or oversee such systems. Mr. Tanner noted that currently there is bipartisan federal concern about ALPRs and believes seeking a new vendor would be inappropriate. Mr. Tanner asked the council to discontinue Flock and avoid ALPR technology entirely, except possibly for limited use for parking enforcement.

Patrick Woodbridge, 1112 Breezewood Ln, Neenah-Mr. Woodbridge stated he is attending as an interested listener and supports cancelling the city's agreement with Flock. He stated that Flock has a reputation for not removing their cameras when asked and sometimes reactivating them without the municipality's knowledge. He urges that if the city officially cancels the contract, there should be a concrete plan for removing the cameras—possibly taking them down and storing them, as Oshkosh reportedly did.

Nathaniel Miller, 981 Grove Street, Neenah-Mr. Miller explained that he had concerns about Flock's behavior operating within contract language but outside of verbal assurances to the city. He clarified he was never frustrated by the council taking time to learn, but by how community members were treated compared with Flock's salespeople. He stated that residents' concerns were dismissed, while corporate

representatives were treated as neutral experts. Mr. Miller hopes the experience encourages future respect for constituents and greater skepticism toward sales-driven presentations.

Josh Hilgendorf, 527 Grove Street, Neenah-Mr. Hilgendorf stated that he supports ending the city's contract with Flock but warns against immediately choosing another ALPR vendor. He argued that many problems stem from how ALPR systems and contracts are structured, not just from Flock itself, and noted that other companies like Axon have their own concerns. Mr. Hilgendorf recommend pausing, creating clear local rules and protections first, and then deciding whether the city should use ALPR technology at all.

Marilyn Fahrenkrug, 1543 E. Paynes Point Rd, Town of Vinland-Ms. Fahrenkrug stated that she avoids Neenah because Flock cameras create unwanted surveillance, and she asked that tax dollars not fund such technology. She noted that many communities are rejecting Flock and replacing it with Axon, whose integrated policing platform links multiple surveillance tools, retains data longer, and connects to federal systems. Ms. Fahrenkrug argued Axon is not as ethical as claimed and urges the committee to reject any spending on citizen surveillance.

Jordon Loeck, 649 Grove Street, Neenah-Mr. Loeck supports ending the Flock contract and appreciates the work the chief and others have put into reviewing the issue. He cautioned that if the city considers another vendor, it must proceed carefully, noting that companies like Axon are already advertising aggressive surveillance tools. Mr. Loeck warned that choosing a new vendor without caution would be "playing with fire."

Meg Johnson, Oshkosh-Ms. Johnson stated that she oppose any contracts with Flock, Axon, or other ALPR or advanced surveillance vendors, saying these companies have acted in bad faith and damaged community trust. She urged the council not to pursue another surveillance contract and to listen to constituents' concerns.

Chairman Weber closed Public Appearances at 5:17 PM

New Business

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of the August 25, 2026

Chairperson Weber stated that changes were made on Tuesday and the amended minutes were posted.

Aldersperson Pollnow stated that he would like time to review the amended minutes before approving.

Motion by Pollnow, seconded by Defferding to defer approval of the minutes of the August 25, 2026 meeting until the meeting of the Public Services and Safety Committee meeting on September 29, 2026.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

New Business

Flock Safety

Chief Olson stated that Flock has been a major issue for months and says his role is to balance community safety with residents' concerns. He noted that while some people want Flock removed, others have urged him to keep it because it has helped solve crimes. Chief Olson stated that the tipping point for him was the incident two weeks ago in Sheboygan. He stated that the police department has already deactivated all Flock cameras and is waiting for the official council process to conclude to bag the cameras and have the cameras removed.

Chief Olson stated the police department will not move forward with an advisory committee or any ALPR technology until state legislators clarify what is allowed. He stated the recommendation for now, is to end funding for Flock entirely.

Motion by Pollnow, seconded by Defferding to recommend the Common Council approve the resolution amending the 2026 Capital Improvement Plan for the City of Neenah to remove funding for its contract with Flock Group, Inc.

Alderman Pollnow asked for clarification on the termination process for the Flock contract. He asked if the city must send Flock an official cancellation letter to initiate the process.

City Attorney Rashid stated that he has drafted a letter and it will be sent to Flock Group Inc. once the resolution has passed the Common Council. He stated that will start the 30-day notice of intent to terminate the contract for non-funding. Attorney Rashid stated that once the resolution is ratified, the city has the right to then bag the cameras.

Chairperson Weber addressed concerns that some residents felt disrespected during discussions about Flock. He stated that he did not recall anyone being treated disrespectfully and apologized if anyone felt that way. Chairperson Weber noted this committee, the council, and the police chief have spent many hours on this issue and have treated everyone respectfully.

Alderman Steiner stated that all the alderpersons took the issue seriously and that the police chief carefully evaluated the situation. He appreciated residents' passion and noted it took time for officials to learn the details. He emphasized that everyone involved cares about the community and believes the city is now making the right decision.

Alderman Defferding cited a Supreme Court ruling suggesting broad electronic surveillance violates the Fourth Amendment and warns that modern ALPR systems go far beyond plate reading and can expand through software updates. He argued that any surveillance infrastructure could lead to warrantless monitoring and urge the city to rebuild trust and avoid such technologies.

Alderman Pollnow thanked the public and those that showed up at each meeting.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0

Motion Carried

Park Donation Acceptance

Director Kading stated that Bergstrom Corporation is donating \$30,000 to the City for the replanting of trees in Riverside Park. He stated that staff recommends the funds be placed in the Tree Trust Fund to be used for the purchase of trees.

Director Kading stated that the trees will be planted this year.

Motion by Pollnow, seconded by Defferding to recommend the Common Council approve the acceptance of the donation of \$30,000.00 to the Tree Trust, from Bergstrom Corporation, for the specific purpose of replanting trees in Riverside Park with funds being placed in the Tree Trust.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0

Motion Carried

Liquor Licenses

Recommend approval of the Temporary Extension of the "Class B" Beverage License to Cedar Neenah LLC for Annual Cornhole Tournament

Clerk Nagel stated that Cedar Bar and Grill will be fencing in the area.

Report

Motion by Pollnow, seconded by Defferding to recommend the Common Council approve the Temporary Extension of the “Class B” Beverage License to Cedar Neenah, LLC, 1330 S. Commercial Street, Neenah, for the Annual Cornhole Tournament, to be held on September 26th and 27th, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

Recommend Approval of the Joint Powers Agreement, Winnebago County 911 Emergency System

Report

Motion by Pollnow, seconded by Defferding to recommend the Common Council approve the Joint Powers Agreement, Winnebago County 911 Emergency System.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

Public Works General Construction and Department Activity Report

1) Contract 1-26 (Elm, Reed, Laudan Utilities/Street):

- a) Elm Street: The Contractor is scheduled to continue concrete curb, sidewalk, and driveway construction week 9/7/2026. The Contractor is scheduled to finish concrete curb, sidewalk, and driveway construction week of 9/14/2026.

Alderman Defferding asked for clarification the Block Grant process. He stated that residents have not received any information about their applications. Mayor Borchardt stated that he and Director Nieforth will be having a conversation about this and the process for the grants.

- b) Reed Street: The Contractor is scheduled to begin concrete curb, sidewalk, and driveway construction week of 9/7/2026 and continue the week of 9/14/2026.

Alderman Defferding stated that he would like information regarding 628 Reed Street and the placement of the installed sump pump pit as it is related to the storm sewer lateral that was installed on at this location.

Office Manager Mroczkowski stated that she will follow up with staff and have someone get back to him.

- c) Laudan Boulevard: The Contractor is scheduled to begin concrete curb, sidewalk, and driveway construction week of 9/7/2026 and continue the week of 9/14/2026.
- 2) Contract 2-26 (Henry, Sterling, Winneconne):
- a) Sterling/Greenfield: The contractor is scheduled to fine grade and pave the roadway with hot mix asphalt week of 9/7/2026. Restoration of terraces and lateral areas with topsoil, fertilizer, seed and hydro mulch is set for the week of 9/14/2026.
 - b) Henry: South of Winneconne: The contractor is scheduled to remove the existing concrete and install a new gravel road base week of 9/7/2026.
 - c) Winneconne Ave: The Contractor is scheduled to remove the existing concrete and install new gravel road base week of 9/7/2026. The Contractor is scheduled to finish installing the new gravel road base week of the 9/14/2026.
- 3) Contract 4-26 (Misc. Concrete Pavement/Sidewalk Repair): A schedule has not been set.
- 4) Contract 5-26 (Misc. Asphalt Pavement Repair): About 30% of the work has been completed.
- 5) Pavement Marking: All work is completed except for the part of Winneconne Ave associated with the Henry Street project.
- 6) City Hall Master Plan: The consultant received feedback from departments. Staff will meet with consultant to discuss feedback on 9/22/2026.
- 7) Freedom Acres/Homes at Freedom Meadows: Staff is working on inviting residents from Freedom Acres and area landscaping contractors to an information meeting.
- Alderman Pollnow asked for more information about this meeting. Mayor Borchardt stated that he is looking at the first week of October. He stated that he will talk to staff about this on Wednesday.
- 8) Church St Ramp: Contractor is hoping to start work this year. Contractor is having scheduling issues.
- 9) Tornado Debris Removal: The crews from LGS-DTEK have effectively finished their clean up phase. They have a standby truck available, but their work has now transitioned to chipping of debris. City crews will continue to clean up debris on an as needed basis. LGS is in the process of getting DNR permits to authorize chip disposal. This approach is more cost effective than landfilling the chips. Due to the timing of this work, the work will not be completed within the 45-day window for emergency work. Staff will be issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for continued debris removal and monitoring services to keep us eligible for Federal reimbursement if a Federal Emergency is declared.
- 10) Commercial Street Soil Remediation: As reported last week, TRC received the go ahead from the DNR to install monitoring wells in the terrace along Commercial Street to monitor the contaminants in the street that were detected last year. City

crews assisted with traffic control. Staff will keep the committee informed as the monitoring results are available.

Announcements and Future Agenda Items

None

Adjournment

Motion by Pollnow, Seconded by Defferding to adjourn at 5:47 PM.

Call for vote by Chairman Weber

Motion vote 4/0.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Mroczkowski".

Lisa Mroczkowski
Public Works Office Manager