



**City of Neenah
Common Council Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 6:00 PM
Neenah City Hall
211 Walnut Street
Council Chambers**

[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 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers of Neenah City Hall.

Mayor Borchardt is the chair.

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

Also Present: Parks & Recreation Director Kading, Library Director Hardina-Willhelm, Fire Chief Teesch, Police Chief Olson, Assistant Police Chief Bernice, Information Technology Director Schroeder, Human Resources & Safety Director Barber, and those on the attached sign-in sheets.

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

I. Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

The City Clerk called a voice roll call as the Mayor/Aldermen recorded their attendance in the RollCall-Pro System followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Alderman Erickson.

II. Proclamations

A. National Public Works Week May 17 – 23, 2026

Mayor Borchardt read the proclamation aloud and thanked the Public Works Department for all their work.

III. Introduction and Confirmation of Mayor's Appointment(s)

A. None.

IV. Approval of Council Proceedings

A. [Approval of the Council Minutes and Proceedings of May 6, 2026 regular session.](#)

(Unanimous Consent)

Seeing no objections, the above Minutes and Proceedings were ordered approved as written.

V. Public Forum

A. Speakers should give their name and residential address (not mailing address) and are allowed five minutes to speak on any topic.

Mayor Borchardt opened the public forum at 6:03 PM.

1. Marty Schrampfer, 1234 Maple Street – spoke on the proposed e-bike ordinance 2026-07. He explains the definition of an e-bike according to state statute 340.01, emphasizing its speed and motor limitations. He argues that electric motorcycles, not e-bikes, are the real issue, as they are faster and can be purchased by juveniles. Mr. Schrampfer highlights that electric motorcycles are already illegal and should be addressed through education and enforcement. The e-bikes provide big health benefits and would like to see their use remain unrestricted. Mr. Schrampfer gave the Council a handout regarding current state laws.
2. Lyn Biedermann, 1350 Green Acres Lane – Spoke on the proposed e-bike ordinance 2026-07. She questions the lack of community input and the definition of a trailer in the ordinance. Ms. Biedermann shares her personal struggles with health issues and how her e-bike helps stay active. She expresses frustration at the potential restrictions on e-bike use, especially for those with mobility issues. Ms. Biedermann emphasizes the need for responsible enforcement of existing laws rather than new restrictions.
3. Sara Maas, 615 Hansen Street - Spoke on the proposed e-bike ordinance 2026-07. She discusses her email to the council, highlighting concerns about the ordinance's impact on practical transportation. She points out that the ordinance seems to be prohibiting trailers on e-bikes, which is not practical for parents or those using e-bikes for errands. Ms. Maas questions the enforceability of the ordinance and the practicality of stopping riders based on battery status. She suggests focusing the ordinance on unsafe behavior rather than the type of bicycle used.
4. Aaron Roecker, 605 Elm Street - Spoke on the proposed e-bike ordinance 2026-07. He commends the Council for considering safety but suggests the ordinance is short-sighted. He highlights the nationwide and statewide use of e-motorcycles and the need for a comprehensive approach. He expresses concern about the potential negative impact on downtown Neenah and the community's image. Mr. Roecker recommends focusing on the real issue of e-motorcycles and ensuring the ordinance does not penalize responsible e-bike users.
5. Raymond Jahnke, 203 Joseph Court - Spoke on the proposed e-bike ordinance 2026-07. He shared an experience with an electric scooter, which he considers more of a problem than the e-bikes.
6. Dennis Kittel, 410 Kraft Street - Spoke on the proposed e-bike ordinance 2026-07. Mr. Kittel is president of the Fox Cities Greenways, and expressed concern about the lack of community input and the ordinance's impact on trails and green space. He emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to address the issue of e-motorcycles and the importance of involving stakeholders in the discussion. He highlights the technicalities of helmet standards and the need for a clear process for signage and enforcement.

After additional calls for public comments, none were heard. Mayor Borchardt closed the Public Forum at 6:33 PM.

VI. Mayor/Council consideration of public forum issues

- A. Alderman Pollnow expresses concern about e-bikes and e-scooters emphasizing the need to eliminate safety hazards.
- B. Alderman Ellis shares a personal story about saving a child from danger, emphasizing the broader issue of e-bike safety. He discusses the need for a collective approach among adjoining communities. He mentions the involvement of the police chief and city attorney in finding solutions.
- C. Alderman Weber stresses the goal is to ensure safety for everyone, although acknowledges that the proposed ordinance may not please everyone.

VII. Consent Agenda

- A. Receive and place on file the Police Department's 1st Quarter Statistics.
- B. Temporary Extension of Licenses Premises Application to Lion's Tail Brewing Co., for Smoke on the Fox, 116 S Commercial Street, to be held on June 8, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM.

Seeing no objections, the above Consent Agenda was ordered approved as written.

VIII. Reports of standing committees

- A. [Regular Public Services and Safety Committee meeting of May 12, 2026](#): (Chairman Weber/Vice Chairman Pollnow) (Minutes can be found on the City website)

- 1. Committee recommends Common Council enact Ordinance 2026-07 regulating E-Bikes and E-Scooters, and mandating helmet wear by those users under Section 16.

MSCRP Weber/Ellis to postpone any action on this ordinance to the June 3, 2026 Council Meeting. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

Alderman Weber explained currently the city does not have an ordinance relating to e-bikes and e-scooters, therefore, it is important to get something on the books. Ordinances can be revisited, updated, and tweaked. Change does not please everyone but wants residents to understand that safety is first; this was not meant to be an inconvenience anyone.

Aldermen Pollnow is concerned about the process of bringing the ordinance back to Council versus referring it back to committee. He doesn't feel there is enough time for three units of government to have the same ordinance.

City Attorney Rashid explained the changes made to the ordinance was based on public feedback from the City of Menasha. He had provided Council via email earlier today fairly minimal corrective language. Interestingly enough, the corrective language covers many of the public comments heard tonight; trailers, children, and pets, as well as the ability to operate e-bikes on sidewalks while not under power. Rather than accept the recommended changes tonight, it would be brought back on June 3rd. These recommended changes are coming for the Menasha City Attorney based on their public comments.

Attorney Rashid explained that through the Municipal Court interactions, the issue of the e-bike motor capacity is dealt with through state statute. There have

been some violations of motor capacity in which the e-bike is considered a motorcycle versus an e-bike.

Alderman Defferding voted against this ordinance in committee because he didn't feel there was enough public input from stakeholders, e-bike users, and e-bike sellers. There needs to be a consensus with the governed before an ordinance such as this is passed. He would like to see it go back to the committee but will vote for this to go back on the June 3rd Council meeting.

Alderman Ellis asked an educational synopsis of how the ordinance came to be recommended to the Council. City Attorney Rashid gave a historical synopsis of how the three municipalities, Cities of Neenah, Menasha, and Village of Fox Crossing, all worked collaboratively to bring forth the e-bike ordinance to their respective governing boards. The legislature recognized that these are not motorcycles nor are they bicycles, and have authorized local governments to regulate them. This ordinance is to assist the police department and give officers tools to monitor and stop them, and to provide education and give them helmets. This is not to make it difficult for responsible riding.

Alderman Ellis explained that we have to start with basic rules and laws and make the ordinance as non-political as possible. This is an emotional issue which is respected. But at the end of the day, we need to have confidence in our police chiefs, in our police departments, in our legal departments to bring forward a solid base for an ordinance. There might be some tweaks from time to time but it's a solid base to start.

Alderman Steiner supports the postponement until the next council meeting to review the suggested changes. He emphasizes the importance of balancing safety with reasonable restrictions. He acknowledges the value of e-bikes as a mode of transportation and a source of joy for many people. He expresses confidence in the proposed ordinance and its potential to address safety concerns effectively.

Alderman Erickson asked Police Chief Olson about the enforcement of the e-bike usage, particularly whether officers can determine if someone is pedaling or using battery power. Chief Olson explains that officers can easily identify if someone is pedaling by observing if their feet are moving.

Alderman Erickson shares concerns about children using e-bikes incorrectly and the need for education and enforcement. Chief Olson reassured the Council that the ordinance is designed to protect citizens without setting officers up for failure.

- B. Regular Finance and Personnel Committee meeting of May 11, 2026: (Chairman Erickson/Vice Chairman Ellis) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
 - 1. Committee recommends Council approve conducting a market review in the amount of \$22,950 with Cottingham & Butler.

MSCRP Erickson/Pollnow to approve the market review as recommended by Committee. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

Director Barber explained the focus of this study is to compare the city's salary plan to other municipalities to ensure market competitiveness. The review is a smaller study aimed at updating the salary plan based on market conditions. The timeline is to start as soon as possible. Data is expected to be back in the fall in time for the budgeting decisions.

2. Committee recommends Council approve the First Amendment to the Edgewater Door Development Agreement.

MSCRP Erickson/Bruno to approve the First Amendment to Edgewater door Development Agreement as recommended by Committee. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

Director Nieforth provided details about the new facility being constructed by Edgewater Door on Schultz Drive. The amendment formalizes an adjusted timeline and acknowledges the progress made by Edgewater Door. Some new jobs will be added with new equipment and processes.

3. Committee recommends Council approve the proposed Capital Project Carry Forwards from 2025 to 2026.

MSCRP Erickson/Bruno to approve the 2025 to 2026 Capital Project Carry Forwards as recommended by the Committee.

Amended motion by Pollnow/Defferding for \$845,695 of the 2025 carry forwards to go towards lowering the debt. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

Finance Director Rasmussen supports and agrees with the proposed amendment.

Original motion restated: MSCRP Erickson/Bruno to approve the 2025 to 2026 Capital Project Carry Forwards as recommended by the Committee and as amended. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

4. Committee recommends Council approve the proposed Information Systems restructuring as detailed in Director Schroeder and Director Barber's memo dated May 11, 2026. (Attachment)

MSCRP Erickson/Bruno to approve the Information Systems restructuring as recommended by Committee. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

5. Committee recommends Council reclassify the Mechanic Assistant to a Mechanic, and to create a Lead Mechanic position. (Attachment)

MSCRP Erickson/Bruno to approve the reclassification of the Mechanic Assistant as recommended by Committee. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

6. Committee recommends Council approve the internal equity increases for four employees. (Attachment)
MSCRP Erickson/Bruno to approve the internal equity increases for four employees as recommended by Committee. Motion carried in a roll call vote, 8-0.

IX. Reports of special committees and liaisons and various special projects committees

- A. [Regular Plan Commission meeting of May12, 2026](#): (Council Rep Steiner) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
 1. Meeting cancelled, no report.
- B. [Board of Public Works meeting of May 14, 2026](#): (Vice Chairman Ellis) (Minutes can be found on the City website)
 1. Informational only items, no report.
- C. [Report from the Business Improvement District Board \(BID Board\) Meeting of May 19, 2026 – Alderman Bruno](#)
 1. Board members will visit downtown businesses to get feedback from business owners.
 2. Music events are ready for the summer season. Save the date for June 10th Summer Kickoff Concert, and opening day of the Farmer’s Market is June 3th.
 3. National Main Street America Survey was done with Neenah having strong role and unique experiences driving the business mix.
- D. [Report from the Library Board Meeting of May 20, 2026 – Alderman Erickson](#)
 1. Summer programming is in full swing.
 2. Staff have been visiting schools throughout the district for summer program sign-up.
 3. Summer lunch program information was given.
 4. Library statistics were given.
- E. [Report from the Neenah Arts Council of May 13, 2026 – Alderman Erickson](#)
 1. Planning is underway for summer activities. June 27th the Arts Council will be at the Farmer’s Market with youth lighthouse activity.
 2. Additional actives are planned throughout the summer as well.
- F. [Report from the Landmarks Commission of May 13, 2026 – Alderman Bruno](#)
 1. Reported on the Landmarks Commission activities, including updates to the historic preservation ordinance and plans for a historic tour.

X. Presentation of petitions

- A. Any other petition received by the City Clerk’s Office after distribution of the agenda.

XI. Council Directives

- A. **Motion by Alderman Pollnow, seconded by Alderman Defferding to direct staff to develop a policy on rate evaluation for stormwater and sanitary sewer rates to be conducted every three-years with committee and council for review.**

Alderman Pollnow believes it is important to have this policy completed before Director Kaiser retires early August.

XII. Unfinished Business

A. None.

XIII. New Business

A. Any announcements/questions that may legally come before the Council.

1. Alderman Deffereding inquired on the Zoning Code Steering Committee. Director Nieforth provided an update on the committee's kickoff meeting, public outreach plans, and upcoming public input meeting. Stakeholders include local architects and developers who work closely with the code, former Community Development Director Hayes, a member from the BID Board, a member from Plan Commission, and Council President Steiner.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Alderman Pollnow, seconded by Alderman Linski to adjourn. Motion carried in a voice vote 8-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,



Charlotte Nagel, City Clerk