

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

May 28, 2025, 6:30 PM

Present: Ann Bonikowske, Alice Brown, Jim Roenz, Mary Eck, Mark Lehrer, Aaron Timm. City Employees: Josh Smith, Logan Hass. Audience: Brandon Strelow (Cedar Corp), Joe Pingel (Cedar Corp), Mary & Jim Hlaban, Mary Craig, Deb Sarna, Al Moede, Chuck & Cyndee Ostermeier, Jason Pomeroy, Paul Bonikowske, Andy & Melissa Habeck, Ben Hlaban, Peggy & Randy Underwood, Nick Heise, Kurt Kolosso, Jason & Juliee Bessette, Nina Much, Susan Kennon, Deb Linjer, Elizabeth Bessette, Rod Beyer, Shane Schuelke, Harry Schaefer, Dan Pomeroy, Scott Bonikowske, Todd Niemuth, Roger Suehs, Brian Finger, Coleen Phelan, Mark Hilderbrand, Travis Laird, Mark Craig, NBC 26.

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM on May 28, 2025 at the Manawa Municipal Building by Mary Eck.

Moved Roenz/Timm to approve agenda of May 28, 2025. Carried.

Cedar Corporation presented a dam feasibility study. Brandon said the library parking lot will be paved tomorrow. The shoreline stabilization will then be complete. \$700,000 is the cost to remove the dam and that includes the powerhouse. City could look into TIF #3 if it can cover any dam costs. Would need to amend to include. Jim Roenz asked if dam needed to be repaired prior to the flooding event. Joe said hard to say. From what we know probably not. Ann Bonikowske asked if the DNR would not allow a dam to come back in. Joe said DNR has never said that and if they did, they would have said something after the flooding event. Ben Hlaban asked is there potential for 100% covered in costs for dam removal. Joe said there is potential. Hard to say until the state budget is finalized. There is a competitive DNR Grant for that. There have been 28 dam failures in Wisconsin in the last 10 years. It would take 2 to 3 years to either build or remove the dam. Ben said he is concerned if a spillway gets put in the water temperature would change. Would prefer bottom flow. Joe said top flow would be the cheaper option then bottom flow. Nick Heise said he prefers to see a referendum vote from residents if a dam should be rebuilt or removed. Ann asked if state budget could be pushed to September for approval. Joe said he has not heard that yet. Mark Craig said without the dam the trail is being flooded out often. If a dam were to come back there would need to be significant updates to the trail. Mary Craig said every time it rains the trail gets flooded out. After the Stampede Run the trail will be permanently closed. Deb Sarna said from my understanding City can't move forward until they figure out the funding. People who have water front properties want the dam back. Jason Bessette asked how many dams have Cedar Corp worked on. Joe said Cedar has repaired many dams but have never done a full reconstruction. Joe said you don't see dams being fully rebuilt much in the state. Jim asked could cost come in less than 8.4 million to build dam. Brandon said yes it can. We estimated the cost with the construction taking place in 2027.

Moved Brown/Bonikowske to adjourn at 7:35 pm. Carried.

Logan Hass, City Clerk