

**CITY OF MANAWA  
COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 20, 2025 6:00 pm**

Proceedings of the Manawa Common Council meeting held Monday, October 20, 2025. Called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Frazier pursuant to open meeting regulations, Pledge of Allegiance and roll call. Alderpersons present on roll call: Mary Eck, Alice Brown, Ann Bonikowske, Jim Roenz, Mark Lehrer, Aaron Timm, Mayor Mike Frazier. City Employees: Josh Smith, Jason Severson, Sue Vater Olsen, Logan Hass. Audience: Carol & John Mauser, Ben Hlaban, Mark & Helen Hildebrand, Jeanette Much, Kevin Wege, Gene Griffin, Rick Zemple, Brady Dallman, Debra Linjer, Susan Kennon, Al & Melinda Moede, Scott Bonikowske, Michele Much, Tara Heise, Mary Craig, Mark Craig, Tom & Karen Squires, De Ann Miller, Tom & Jan Zimmerman, Rod & Jackie Beyer, Daniel Pomeroy, Jason Pomeroy, Jason Bessette, Lizzy Bessette, Chuck & Cyndee Ostermeier, Ken & Ahnna Groholski, Jeff Wagner, Paul Bonikowske, Floyd Gerl, JoAnn Schuelke, Roy Suehs, Mary Mann, John Smith, Jeremy Karpinski, Dave Sarna, Harry Allen, Nina Much, Troy & Arlene Schultz, Kim Hass, Mike & Dee Lynch, Brian Finger, Randy & Peggy Underwood, Melissa Habeck, Bev Dallman, Coleen Phelan, Jeromy Schuelke, Jon & Deborah Schuelke, Norm & Heather Walbruck, Gary & Kerri Jepson, Casey & Nick Heise. Moved Eck/Lehrer to approve the agenda of October 20, 2025. Carried.

Moved Eck/Roenz to approve the council meeting minutes of September 15, 2025. Carried.

Moved Timm/Eck to approve of the Bills of Allowance \$140,972.85. Carried.

**Audience:** Al Moede – Dam: Al said Town of Little Wolf is losing 13 million in value because there is no dam right now. City Council voted unanimous to bring back the dam. Would like to see City move faster on project. John Smith – Dam: John said without the dam property values along the pond will lose value. Other tax payers' property values will make up what was lost. Which means higher taxes for everybody else. City has not been transparent. City voted unanimous to bring mill pond and dam back. Cedar Corp doesn't bid out dams. City should check with other companies on cost of building a dam. Downriver from dam is muck. The Little Wolf Rive Trail continues to flood which is why it is closed. With no dam it effects more than just the Mill Pond. Pollywog is affected because it has no water now. I'm sure City Council doesn't even know that. I don't see fundraisers happening or City trying to raise funds. Without the dam City is losing revenue. The issue is transparence. All businesses in City lose when there is no dam. With dam money circulates. There needs to be more talk on the Mill Pond. I'm still passionate about the City even though I haven't been the Mayor the last few years. Jason Bessette said no longer get to do many activities because there is no dam. It has been 15 months and still nothing. City had 120 years to have a plan in place when something like this happens. Please make a decision on the dam. Manawa should change the slogan to where dreams are broken. Mike Lynch said we moved here because of the pond. I want it back. Dave Sarna said Mike Frazier what do you want to see happen to the dam. Mayor Mike Frazier said if City can afford a new dam, I'm for it. City has lots of projects to take care of. City of New London is going through it right now. Dave Sarna said I think the dam project should be your number one priority. Jeromy Schuelke said why were there no grants applied for. Why is dam account at bank not advertised more. Ken Groholski said what has the City been doing. Mayor Mike Frazier said Attorneys from Little Wolf and City are working on an agreement. Ken Groholski said how often do you call attorney. Mayor Mike Frazier said once a week. Ken Groholski said you should be calling once a day. Ben Hlaban said there are partnerships that the City can pursue for the river. The longer you wait the more problems arise with it. Kerri Jepson said with the new assessments to properties people will be surprised with their tax bill. Mark Criag said I own walking trail. I have been involved with City government for many years. Building of the dam won't happen overnight. Town of Little Wolf was involved with an agreement with City in regards to the Dam. Little Wolf wanted out so they got out of the agreement. Now Little Wolf wants to get back in it.

**Public Hearing:** Moved Eck/Brown to open public hearing for the abandonment of Inn Street between Mill Street and Factory Street. Carried.

Public Comment: Melissa Habeck said still don't feel like there is transparency. City needs better communication about the dam.

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Moved Bonikowske/Eck to close public hearing. Carried.

**Finance:** Sewer rate study: Harry Allen from Ehlers presented the sewer rate study. 2010 was last sewer rate increase. Recommendation is 26% for next year which would be around an additional \$24 a quarter. Over the next several years there will be 3% increase. Part time job: Moved Eck/Bonikowske to allow Nick Weed to drive bus for Kobussen Buses part time. Carried.

**Protection:** Solid waste ordinance: Moved Roenz/Eck to update ordinance 268 solid waste. Dumpsters not allowed at single family residences. Carried. Low speed vehicle ordinance: Moved Roenz/Brown to adopt ordinance 289-33 low speed vehicle provisions in 35 mph or slower zones in the City. Carried. Off-road vehicle ordinance: Moved Roenz/Eck to update unauthorized off-road vehicle operation on roadway ordinance Chapter 289-34. Carried. Moved Roenz/Bonikowske to renumber ordinances Chapter 289-33 and Chapter 29-34 to 289-35 and 289-36. Carried.

**Recycling:** Mark Lehrer said at the recycling meeting nothing was brought up about closing the recycling center.

**Mayor:** Mayor Mike Frazier said 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary benches were placed at Triangle Park and will be at Lindsay Park.

**DPW:** Josh Smith went over the Public Works report. Jetting sewers is completed for the year. Flushing hydrants started today will last a couple of days. The Triangle Park bandstand project was complete right before Homecoming. Concrete was poured for the new benches, curb and gutter and for the new City Hall air conditioner. New fuel tank was installed and is operational. Vac trailer coming in next week for cleaning out catch basins. Parks will be closed November 1<sup>st</sup>. Working with WRWA to do an energy study on the water and wastewater system.

**Police:** Police Chief Jason Severson went over his report. Manawa hosted the Standard Reunification Method training last week. Attended anaphylaxis training at the Library. Received donation towards epi pens. Will provide epi pens to all departments in the City.

**Fire:** Fire Chief Josh Smith went over fire report. Fire department has 3 new members. Assisted with Homecoming events. Fire Prevention took place 2 weeks ago with presentations at schools. Will be providing safe crossing spots during Trick or Treating along with handing out candy and batteries. At 94 calls for the year with 10 since last meeting.

**Library:** Director Sue Vater Olsen said working on programs and events at the Library. Have new wood chips. Creating a teen advisory board to see what teens want at the Library.

**Clerk:** Financial Report: General Fund balance – \$67,156.19; Government Pool – \$37,441.67; Park Fund - \$3,248.13; Dam Fund - \$3,437.53. Licenses: Moved Eck/Roenz to approve operator's licenses for Nadine Danke, Taylor Devine, Kurt Werner, Tammy West. Carried. Appraisal: Moved Roenz/Lehrer to approve Preuss Appraisal agreement for 2026 and 2027. Carried. Street closing: Moved Bonikowske/Brown to accept request by Miracle on Bridge Street to close S. Bridge Street from Union Street to E. 4th Street for parade and fireworks on Saturday December 13 from 5:00 pm to 5:30 pm. Carried.

**Resolutions:** Abandonment of Inn Street Resolution: Moved Eck/Bonikowske to approve Resolution 2025-4 abandonment of Inn Street between Mill Street and Factory Street. Carried.

**Other business:** Committee of the Whole will meet on Monday October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Moved Eck/Roenz to adjourn into closed session at 7:39 pm per 19.85 (1) (e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session for dam agreement update. Carried. Moved Eck/Bonikowske to return to open session at 8:34 pm to make any recommendations arising from closed session. Carried.

Moved Brown/Bonikowske to adjourn at 8:37 pm.

Minutes submitted by Logan Hass, City Clerk