

Water & Sewer Commission Meeting

April 27, 2026

The Independence Water & Sewer Commission met on Monday, April 27, 2026, at City Hall, 23688 Adams Street. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. by Randy “Fritz” Conrad. Present were Craig Konter, Richard Warner, Tom Jensen, Jason Ekern, Water Superintendent Joe Galewski, Mayor Tom Kloss, City Attorney Rick Schaumberg, Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch, and City Clerk Dawn Smieja.

Proof of Giving Public Notice: Yes, public notice was properly posted.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Jason Ekern, seconded by Craig Konter, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Approval of Minutes –March 30, 2026: Motion by Tom Jensen to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2026 meeting as presented. Seconded by Richard Warner. Motion carried unanimously by a vote of acclamation to approve.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

- A. Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported to the Commission that the Wisconsin DNR had submitted the Hydraulic Analysis report to FEMA and was awaiting a response. FEMA has since responded and indicated that additional information is required before proceeding.
- B. Water Pipe Survey:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported that 138 surveys remain outstanding.
- C. Water Service for 35194 & 35214 Diagonal Street:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported that the new meters were ordered and that he installed the meter at 35194 Diagonal Street. The property owner at 35214 Diagonal Street has not yet responded. Galewski stated that he will post another notice and, if necessary, seek law enforcement assistance to gain access for installation of the new meter, as required by City ordinance.
- D. Water & Sewer Bills:** City Clerk Dawn Smieja and Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch reported that the number of issues related to undelivered Water & Sewer bills was significantly lower this month than in previous months.
- E. Water & Sewer Truck:** Commission member Craig Konter inspected the Water & Sewer truck and agreed that corrective action is needed. Water Superintendent Joe Galewski

presented the Water & Sewer truck for the rest of the Commissioners to inspect. City Clerk Dawn Smieja recommended that the Commission review the budget before making a decision regarding the purchase of a new truck.

Agenda Amendment: Motion by Tom Jensen, seconded by Jason Ekern, to amend the agenda and move to Item G, Water & Sewer 2026 Budget. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

- G. **Water & Sewer 2026 Budget:** Deputy Clerk Abby Bautch reviewed the 2026 Water and Sewer budget with the Commission. The Commission discussed preparing spec list to provide to dealerships for bids on a new Water & Sewer truck. Once bids are received, the matter will be brought before the City Council for approval, including possible financing through a City loan, and then returned to the Water & Sewer Commission at its next meeting.

Motion by Tom Jensen, seconded by Jason Ekern, to approve the 2026 Water & Sewer Budget contingent upon verification by the Deputy Clerk that all loans and repayment to the City are included in the budget. The Deputy Clerk will email all commissioners with her findings. Roll call vote: Ayes—5, Nays—0. Motion carried.

- F. **Nonresidential Cross Connection Program:** City Attorney Rick Schaumberg reviewed the 2024 agreement and compared it with the proposed 2026 agreement. He contacted Hydrocorp with questions regarding the program, and Hydrocorp provided responses for the Commission's review. Water Superintendent Joe Galewski also contacted General Engineering to request a bid. Motion by Tom Jensen, seconded by Craig Konter, to approve the 2026 agreement with Hydrocorp for the Nonresidential Cross Connection Program. Motion carried unanimously by vote. The agreement will be signed by Water & Sewer Commissioner Randy Conrad and City Clerk Dawn Smieja and returned to Hydrocorp.

New Business:

- A. **DNR Inspection:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski will be submitting his response to the DNR regarding his plan to address the City's deficiencies.
- B. **Travel Reimbursement:** City Clerk Dawn Smieja reviewed the employee handbook regarding travel reimbursement for conferences and other City-related events. She noted that employees should use a City vehicle, if available, before using a personal vehicle, this was recommended by the City's insurance company.
- C. **Invoices for Water & Sewer:** City Clerk Dawn Smieja reported that she and the Deputy Clerk will verify that invoices are coded to the correct GL accounts. After review, the Street Department and Water & Sewer Department will be shown the GL accounts so

then they will be responsible for their respective invoices and then inform the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of which GL accounts they want each invoice to be charged too.

Superintendents Report:

- A. Disconnect Update:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski and Kenny Olson posted 61 disconnect notices.
- B. Whitehall Road Leak:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski reported a leak found on Whitehall Rd by Lenice and Greg Pronschinske property (23296 Whitehall Rd.). Leak will be fixed on Wednesday April 29, 2026.
- C. Well Media:** Water Superintendent Joe Galewski took a sample of the media in the filter from the well at the request of the DNR. Galewski is waiting for the results. Since it has been a while since it has been replaced it is something the Water & Sewer Commission will need to be talked about in the future and budgeted for.

Commissioner Report: No report.

Items for Next Agenda

- A.** Water Service for 35194 & 35214 Diagonal Street
- B.** Water & Sewer Bills
- C.** Water & Sewer Truck
- D.** Facility Plan Review with Davy Engineering
- E.** Status update on Water Pipe Survey
- F.** Disconnect Update
- G.** Water & Sewer Ordinance

Future Date for the next Meeting
May 20, 2026 @ 6:15pm

Closed Session: Motion by Jason Ekern, seconded by Tom Jensen, to enter closed session. Roll call vote: Ayes—5, Nays—0. Motion carried.

Motion by Jason Ekern, seconded by Craig Konter, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously by vote of acclamation to approve.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Abby Bautch, Deputy City Clerk