

In This Update:

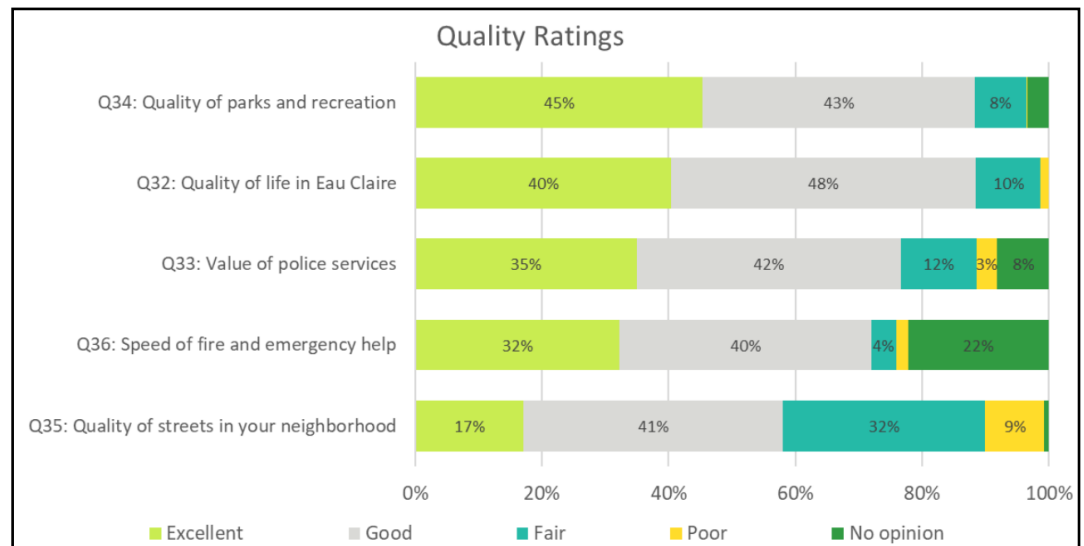
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From the City Manager: Here are some updates from around Eau Claire this week...

Referendum Survey Results: As you know, the consultant (Baker Tilly) shared with the City and School District the results from their survey of households in which they asked residents about their willingness to increase their property taxes to support additional revenue for the City. We will discuss these results on Tuesday evening’s work session after the legislative session.

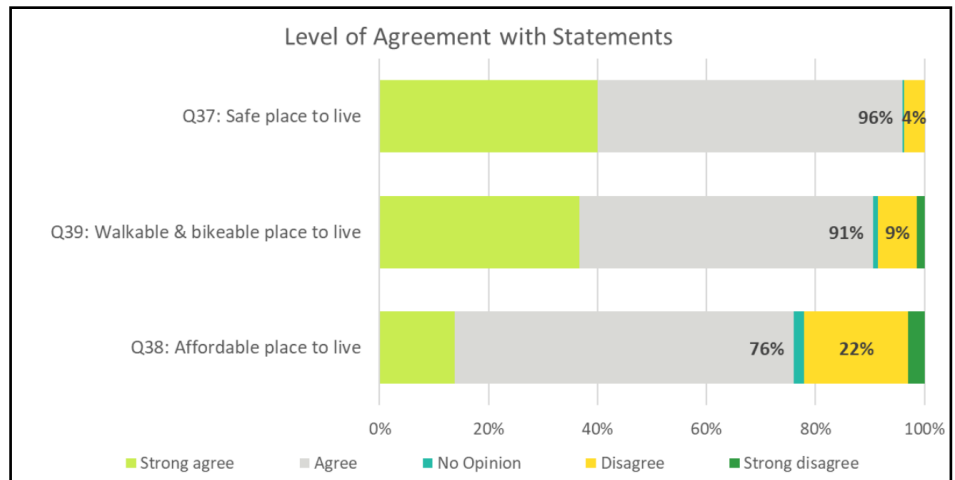
One aspect of the survey, not as directly related to the referendum, is also worth studying closely. The survey asked about residents’ level of satisfaction with City services. The following are the shares of residents who rate aspects of different areas of the City as excellent or good:

- 88% for quality of parks and recreation;
- 88% for overall quality of life;
- 77% for value of police services;
- 72% for speed of fire and emergency help; and
- 58% for quality of streets.

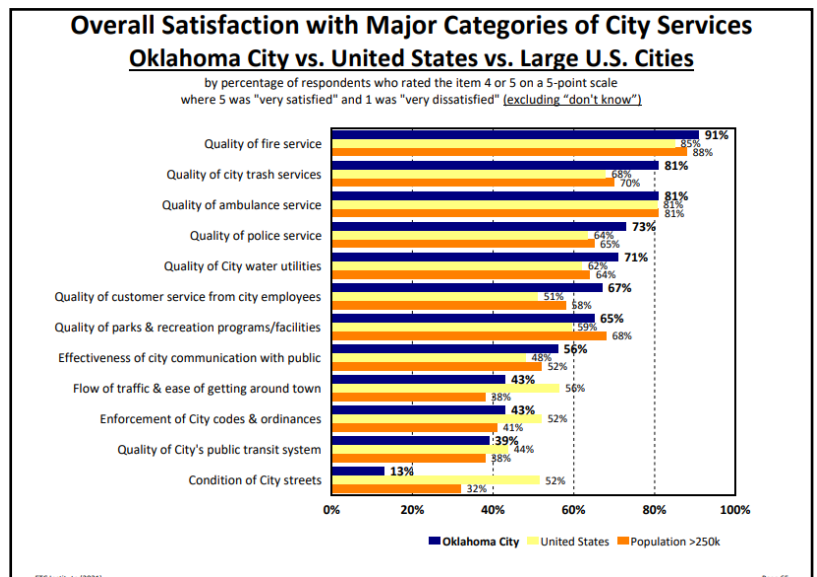


In addition, 96% of residents feel Eau Claire is a safe place to live, 91% believe it is walkable and bikeable, and 76% believe it is affordable.

While the percent of people assessing streets as good or excellent is lower than other areas of City service delivery, it is higher as compared to people’s opinion of streets in other cities. Street condition is an area that residents in many communities rank lower than services such as Police or Fire. Take, for example, the survey administered by Oklahoma City on an annual basis (see right and page 75 in this report: [Resident Satisfaction | City of OKC](#)) The chart shows how Oklahoma City’s results compare to benchmarks in the United States. Compared to the US benchmark of residents indicating that they are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with street conditions in their communities (52% overall and 32% for large cities), Eau Claire’s satisfaction of 58% outperforms benchmarks.



These kinds of surveys are very useful as ways to compare our performance to prior-year performance and to the performance of other communities. I hope that we will be able to carry out an annual survey of residents, however, I believe it should be done in house and thus requires developing that analytical capacity.



CIP Preparation: Jason Rohloff and Department Heads have been working to finalize the CIP budget, and we will send out your copy on Monday on June 27th. Stay tuned!

Farewell to Dr. Jeneise Briggs: Dr. Briggs will be relocating with her family and thus stepping down from her role as EDI Coordinator for the City/County of Eau Claire. We are so grateful for the work that Jeneise has done to define the scope and to begin to tackle this incredibly broad challenge of increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion in both the City and the County, both internally and within the community. Her thoughtful, inclusive, and creative leadership and service has helped us learn what approaches we can take going forward. We will miss you, Jeneise! Dr.



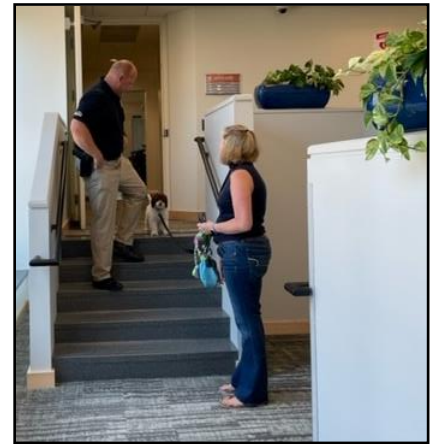
Briggs writes: “My family and I are relocating to San Antonio, Texas. I want to thank you for your leadership, insights, support and love for community over this past year. Your leadership has given this role a platform to strengthen community and be a connector of human experiences, diversity, equity, and inclusion. I’m proud and thankful to my coworkers, leadership, and the broader community who have journeyed with me in helping to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive Eau Claire. As the work continues, I leave you with one of my favorite Bible verses: Amos 5:24 ‘But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!’” If you’d like to get in touch with Jeneise, please let me know as I can pass along her personal email address. (Photo credit to Sheng Lor).

Welcome to Kitzie Winters: We are excited for the arrival of our new Finance Director, Kitzie Winters, who will start on Wednesday, July 6th. Kitzie is currently the Finance Director for Rusk County, and she has worked for 22 years in County government. Kitzie’s references said she has an amazing work ethic, intelligence, great people skills, and an unmatched resilience. According to people who know her well, Kitzie enthusiastically tackles new challenges and loves to learn. In Dave Solberg’s language, she has a “can do” attitude. We’re so happy to have Kitzie come aboard.



City Hall Honored Guest: The Police Department reports that there’s a new addition within their

department. They write: “Please welcome K9 Murphy. Murphy is a nine-week-old Labradoodle and aspires to be a certified therapy dog. Murphy will bring comfort and support to children, crime victims, and his fellow co-workers. Murphy will also be attending many local community events, so please be sure to stop by and say hello. Funding for Murphy was provided by Blueberry Cottage Labradoodles, Oakwood Hills Animal Hospital and The Mary Doolittle Estate. You can follow along with K9 Murphy and his journey on Facebook and Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ecpdk9murphy/>”



On Thursday, HR Director Vicki Seltun shared this update regarding Murphy: “Those of us lucky enough to be in City Hall over the lunch hour today were able to meet our cutest City ambassador in person – K9 Therapy Dog Murphy! Let me assure everyone that he is even more adorable in person than he is in photographs (see photos). He is training and working really hard to learn all the socialization skills necessary to provide comfort and support to our employees and community members in need.” I was among the lucky ones to meet Murphy, and I can attest that, even without extensive training, he was working very hard to make City Hall employees happy! (He is pictured here greeting Cathy Marohl and trying to be persuaded to go down steps).

Demystifying Disability Event: Community and County Board Member Katherine Schneider shared a notice about an upcoming event that the Library will host. “We are hoping you can join us for a virtual discussion of Emily Ladau’s *Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to be An Ally* on Wednesday, July 20 at 7 p.m. Author Dr. Katherine Schneider, retired UWEC clinical psychologist who has been blind from birth and serves on the Eau Claire County Board will be our special guest and discussion facilitator. [Registration](#) is now open.”

Employee Spotlight:

Here’s our next Employee Spotlight (feel free to highlight someone using this form: [Spotlight Form](#)):

This week’s spotlight is for **Brandon Dohms**! One of Brandon’s co-workers said this about Brandon: *“Brandon was recently selected as the new Special Operations Sergeant. This new position entails working with many different departments within the city and the greater community. During Brandon’s 12+ years of service to his community, he has displayed both tremendous leadership skills and outstanding care and compassion for the people he encounters. We are excited that in Brandon’s new position, even more of the community will get to know him like we have.”*



Here’s a bit more about Brandon:

- **Position:** “I am a Sergeant with the Police Department and currently assigned as the Special Operations Supervisor. In this role I work closely with our Mental Health Co-Response Program. Additionally, I help plan the police response to the numerous special events within our community. I have worked for the City of Eau Claire for 13 years and have had the opportunity to experience a number of roles at the Police Department.”
- **Favorite Activity:** “I enjoy spending time in the outdoors. We routinely plan family vacations with this in mind and spend time hiking, fishing, hunting, or camping.”
- **Best part about working for the City:** “I thoroughly enjoy the variety of tasks and responsibilities I have and the working relationships formed with other city groups over the years. It is great to see, and be a small part of, the collaboration by departments all across the city to solve problems.”

Council Calendar

- Monday, June 27th: City Council electronically receives 2023-2027 Proposed CIP
- Tuesday, June 28th Council Meeting
 - Work session: Continued ARPA planning

- Work session: Referendum planning, with Don Lifto from Baker Tilly participating in a Q&A
- Tuesday, July 12th: City Council operating priorities and parameters work session
- Tuesday, July 19th: City Council CIP Budget work session #2
- Tuesday, July 26th: City Council CIP Budget work session #3
- Monday, August 8th: Public discussion for 2023-2027 Proposed CIP
- Tuesday, August 9th: City Council adopts 2023-2027 Proposed CIP
- Tuesday, August 23rd: Need approval for referendum ballot question language, if referendum moves forward
- Saturday, October 1st: City Council receives 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 4th: Operating Budget work session #1
- Monday, October 10th: Public Hearing on the Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 11th: Operating Budget work session #2
- Tuesday, October 18th: Operating Budget work session #3
- Tuesday, October 25th: Operating Budget work session – amendment discussion
- Tuesday, November 1st: Budget amendments due Monday, November 7th: Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, November 8th: City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, November 22rd: City Council action on levy

Police Updates:

Junior Police Academy: Please join us in recognizing the newest graduates of the Eau Claire Police Department Junior Police Academy! This week-long program provides the opportunity for officers and students to interact in a fun and relaxed setting while strengthening the connections with the community. In the process, students learned about the value of service and the role police officers play in our community. The Junior Police Academy (JPA) is a week-long course designed for area youth ages 12-17. This program allows officers and students to interact in a comfortable setting, strengthening our connections with the children of Eau Claire. In the process, students learn about the role police officers



play in our community, as well as develop an understanding of law enforcement. Our goal is to foster lasting partnerships and motivate youth to become engaged community members. During the course, students receive basic technical instruction about police work, develop an understanding of criminal law and the judicial system, and learn about various specialty units and roles within the ECPD. As they learn, they develop problem solving and decision-making skills that will serve them well for the rest of

their lives. The relationships formed between students, their families, and officers foster awareness and understanding that strengthens the fabric of our community. Each summer, two sessions are held with over 50 youth in attendance. The ECPD Junior Police Academy was made possible by the efforts of our agency members as well as support from our generous community.



Crisis Intervention Team Recognition: This week the National Alliance on Mental Illness – Wisconsin (NAMI) held its Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) symposium in Grafton, WI. At this event, the Eau Claire Police Department was recognized as one of five certified CIT programs in the state of Wisconsin. Sergeant Bridget Coit and Co-Response Coordinator Lita Prorok participated in the symposium and accepted the award.

Additionally, in recognition of the long track record of trained CIT Officers, NAMI selected Eau Claire for an upcoming promotional campaign. The goal of the NAMI campaign is to encourage people in crisis to ask for a mental health trained officer. NAMI has purchased local billboard space, radio advertising time and social media advertising in our community. The campaign will highlight the resources available in Eau Claire and the advanced level of training our Police Officers possess who respond to people experiencing crisis.

Police Co-Response Update: The Co-Response program is coming up on its one-year anniversary of existence. The purpose of the program is to provide a clinical response to our community members' mental health and crisis needs when the Police Department gets called. This allows the opportunity for our community members to have someone trained specifically in the mental health field meet with them face to face when they are having a mental health crisis. Co-response offers support in the moment where people are, connects people with longer term resources, and assists after their crisis subsides. Eau Claire is one of just a few Wisconsin communities with a co-response program and is leading the way in being an example to other communities considering doing the same. So far in 2022, there have been 101 instances where co-response has been formally utilized. In addition to that, there are numerous people who reach out to our co-response on a regular basis for supportive listening and guidance when having a difficult day. We continue to learn as we go and are constantly looking for ways that co-response can be more integrated into calls for service and follow up services.

Engineering Update:

JEDI Cultural Organization Group: Several Engineering staff members participate in the JEDI Cultural Organizational group. This week the group gave a brief presentation to staff about an employee survey that has begun being rolled out to departments this week and will continue into next week. Staff should be on the look-out for a group QR code to participate in the survey; the survey is not mandatory but staff is strongly encouraged to participate so work can continue to move forward in a positive direction related to culture. Survey responses will be collected and viewed by JEDI group to help understand the existing work culture, determine positives, and also determine areas that could use improvements. Ultimately, the group's goal is to work on establishing a plan moving forward to create an overall organizational work culture that everyone is proud to be a part of.

Performance Management – Parking: The City Management Analyst Intern is working with the City Manager on implementation of a performance management program, which involves tracking projects within and between City departments and problem-solving for barriers to success through data analysis and cross-departmental collaboration. One of the first topics being looked at is Parking and a meeting with Engineering was requested. It is a complex issue, as the City doesn't have a Parking Utility and instead several departments, including Engineering, work together to accomplish tasks involved with revenue and expenses related to Parking, such as Financial Operations, the Police Department, and even DECI. The City Management Analyst Intern plans to continue work on this project researching items discussed from the recent meeting held with Engineering and will most likely continue meeting with Engineering and other departments as applicable to this topic as the project moves forward. (Pictured here is a planning meeting...)

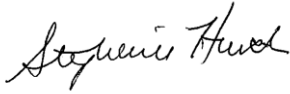


Cannery Park: City staff will begin removal of low-quality, invasive trees and vegetation within the next few weeks to make room for the new Cannery Park (across First Street from Kessler Park). Construction of the new park is planned to start in Fall 2022. Anticipated completion of the park is scheduled for 2023, and any tree removal questions related to this park can be referred to Engineering by calling 715-839-4934 or emailing engineering@eauclairewi.gov.

CIP Construction: Engineering has taken many calls recently regarding the Eddy Lane project as well as other north-side projects and traffic concerns related to each. The Eddy Lane project is scheduled to finish up around August 31st, and temporary flagged stop signs at Edgewood and Mercury have been added to help stop potential crashes. (The Eddy Lane and Melby Street projects were scheduled for 2019, but delayed due to finalization of railroad permits.) The Mercury Avenue construction project is tentatively scheduled to begin in early July and will start once the Riverview Drive construction project is complete.

Upcoming Events:

- Independence Day activities, City offices closed July 4



Stephanie A. Hirsch
City Manager