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From the City Manager: Here are a few updates from this week...

National Night Out: City Staff and others are preparing for the annual National Night Out, which will be held on Tuesday, August 2nd, from 5:30 to 8:30PM at Carson Park.

Budget news: We continue to get into the heart of budget preparation.

Operating Budget: For the operating budget, there are some pieces of the puzzle we are gathering, including requests from departments, which are due 7/27, and our debt capacity. There are other pieces of the puzzle that will come from the DOR quite a bit later in the process, such as our Net New Construction percent and our Expenditure Restraint Program allowable percent budget increase.

CIP: For CIP, the Council will have one more work session on Tuesday, July 26th, a Public Discussion on Monday, August 8th, and potential adoption the next day. Please take a minute to review the [CIP document](#) and send along any questions, if possible prior to Tuesday, so we can pull together information. At the Council's CIP discussion on July 19th, we went through the whole document at a high level. At the next meeting, will have information on any of our proposed adjustments to the CIP and more information about the TID investments.

Budgeting Workshop: The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is hosting a "Basics of Budgeting Workshop" this Tuesday, 7/27: <https://www.lwm-info.org/1672/Basics-of-Budgeting-Webinar>. The more we all know about the mechanics of municipal finance law in Wisconsin, the better we will be



2022 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**Tuesday,
August 2, 2022
5:30PM - 8:00PM**

MUSIC, FOOD, MASCOT DANCE-OFF,
CARNIVAL GAMES (CHILDREN ONLY),
FACE PAINTING, BIKE RAFFLE,
EMERGENCY VEHICLES & MORE!

TUE, AUG 2 AT 5:30 PM
National Night Out
Carson Park Dr, Eau Claire, WI 54703, Unit...

able to navigate the very challenging constraints together, and we invite you to register if you have the time/interest.

Referendum Planning: We have been working hard to develop a plan for the referendum, based on information we continue to gather. We won't have all the data points we would like to review until later in the fall, and there's urgency to setting a course, so we have to make a decision with imperfect information. We are likely constrained on asking for too much from the referendum because of: The likelihood of the ECASD also having a referendum; the impact of inflation on household finances; and the possibility that the additional referendum revenue will push us over the State's expenditure restraint limit.

Because of these limits, we are now suggesting the City asks for somewhere between \$1 and \$1.4 million and, because of that reduced amount, we are looking at focusing on public safety. Then separately, we will work to fund the very much-needed Community Service positions using other tools that are more readily available for Community Services. We know that Community Services workload is huge, and we will find a way to help those divisions survive and succeed. It is a triage situation, and we will need to use all the different tools we have to address all the different needs that exist. Linked here is the presentation that I will use at Monday's Public Discussion on the referendum, in combination with us having a Q&A with Don Lifty from Baker Tilly: [City Council Public Hearing - City Manager Referendum Discussion Presentation | News | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#) Please note that, if the Council agrees with this approach, the main focus of the referendum will be on preserving the well-being of our sworn and civilian public safety staff, along with the people they serve.

The Council agenda for Tuesday includes language for the ballot, which the Council can amend so that it can be finalized on Tuesday. To get to the final language on Tuesday, we encourage you to send ideas for any proposed amendments before around noon on Tuesday. We will put together a list of possible amendments that you can pick from, as desired, to finalize the ballot language on Tuesday. Note that changes to the "amount" need to be reflected in changes to the "purposes", and vice versa, so it will take us a little legwork to cost out scenarios.

Employee Spotlight: Here's our next spotlight! (Highlight someone using this form: [Spotlight Form](#)). Today we are spotlighting Firefighter Paramedic Alison Windhorst. Here's a bit more information about Alison:

- **Hire date:** December 29, 2019
- **Background:** "I was born and raised in Chippewa Falls and the Eau Claire area. After high school, I left for six years and came back to reconnect with family."



- Training: “I received my initial firefighting and EMS training in the Navy. I continued my education with Chippewa Valley Technical College.”
- What do you like about the job: “I’ve always enjoyed challenging myself both mentally and physically. This line of work is constantly affording me the opportunity to test my skills, knowledge, and physical limits. I also enjoy the relationships that I have built with my coworkers, fellow healthcare providers, and the community we serve.”
- What do you like to do off duty: “I enjoy hanging out with my dogs, writing novels, brewing mead, and playing video games and table top rpgs. (lykyk)”

Council Calendar

Council Dates

- Monday, July 25: Q&A on Referendum, Public discussion of Referendum
- Tuesday, July 26: Resolution finalizing referendum ballot language, 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
 - Monday, August 15th: DOR releases 2021 certified equalized, TID, and net new construction values
 - Wednesday, August 31st: Final deadline for ballot question
 - Tuesday, September 20th, DOR certifies percent change in Consumer Price Index
 - 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 8th: General Election, with referendum ballot question
- TBD in November: Budget amendments due, Public Hearing on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget, City Council action on 2023 Proposed Operating Budget, City Council action on levy

Additional Dates

- LWM Basics of Budgeting Workshop, 7/27: <https://www.lwm-info.org/1672/Basics-of-Budgeting-Webinar>
- Point-in-Time Count, 7/27: The Dairyland Housing Coalition seeks volunteers to help “count individuals staying outside during the night of July 27”. Please sign up here if interested and able: <https://forms.office.com/r/qUjHUfaLmC>
- National Night Out, 8/2

Elections Updates:

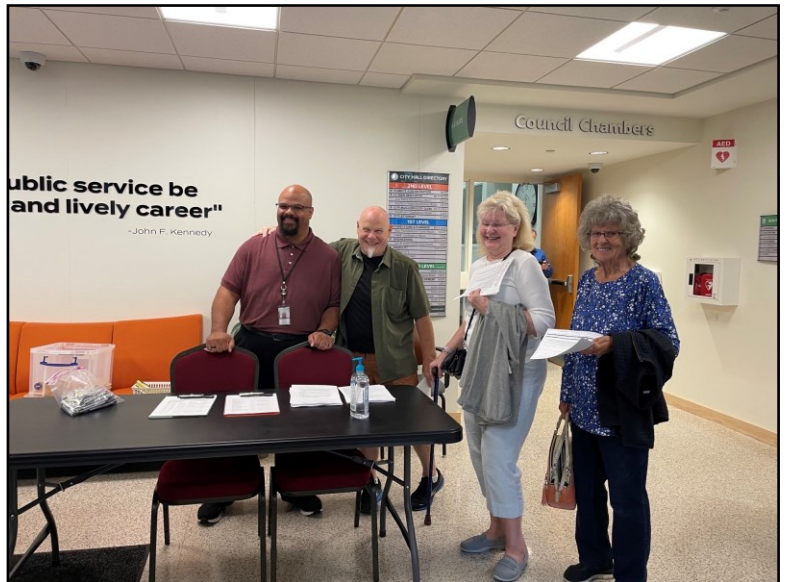
August Primary: The August Partisan Primary will be held on August 9th. In-person absentee voting (Full Drive-Thru Process) for the primary will be as follows:

- **Dates:** Tuesday, July 26th, 2022 through Friday, August 5th, 2022
- **Hours:** Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM
- **Location:** City Hall Parking Lot, 203 S. Farwell Street

Absentee ballots that were mailed to voters may be returned personally by the voter in any one of the following ways:

- By mail in the postage paid envelope provided
- Directly by the voter to City Hall:
 - Elections Office at 203 S. Farwell St., Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Dropped off by the voter at In-Person Absentee Voting site during its operational hours
- Directly by the voter to their poll site on Election Day, polls are open 7AM to 8PM
- Completed absentee ballot must be received by Elections staff no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day

Poll Worker Training: Training for poll workers was completed last week for the upcoming election. All poll workers must attend training at least once every two years, with Chief Inspectors attending training prior to each election. New poll workers are welcome – contact the Elections Office at 715-839-4913 if interested. Our training is available virtually for those who missed the recent training.



Law Department Updates:

Legal and Development Update: The RDA approved two new development projects that together complete redevelopment of the North Barstow Redevelopment District. The redevelopment effort in the District has been an incredible success. It demonstrates the civic and financial value of focused attention on public-private action to address longstanding blight and community need for a safe, welcoming, and vibrant downtown. The land for the present Phoenix Park was acquired in 2002 from Xcel Energy. Acquisition and remediation involved the coordinated efforts of Xcel, DNR, and the City of Eau Claire. From the first project of the RCU headquarters through these projects recently approved by RDA, all took public and private parties working toward mutually beneficial goals. This collaboration

has resulted in a new safe, welcoming, and vibrant urban neighborhood with housing, jobs, parks, arts, and entertainment projects, all designed and developed to a high level of functionality and aesthetics. The tax increment district (TID #8) that made possible the necessary local investments has resulted in taxable growth of approximately \$80 million to date. The final four projects underway or approved that will complete the District are valued at a guaranteed minimum of another \$50 million, which means the total private taxable investment is expected to be over \$130 million within coming years. In addition, the District benefits substantially from public and non-profit amenities and projects in or near it, such as Phoenix Park, Haymarket Plaza, Pablo Center for the Arts, the Farmer’s Market, bridges and trails, and the future Children’s Museum of Eau Claire, among others. It’s an Eau Claire success story worth knowing and celebrating.

Orchard Hills Annexation: Orchard Hills annexation is now subject to a filed lawsuit by the Town of Washington. The City’s Legal Department is reviewing the lawsuit and will file an answer and defend the City against the claim. It is hoped that the claim will be resolved in a manner that preserves the landowners’ right to select the local government in which they prefer to reside and develop their lands. The City Council’s legislative determination to annex the territory is grounded both in Wisconsin law and sound public policy. We will look for any opportunities to reach a mutual resolution with the Town, while vigorously defending the City Council’s lawful action. Periodic updates on the progress of the lawsuit will be provided, and should you have any specific questions, you can call the City Attorney. As the matter is in litigation, it is asked that you refer any media or other questions to the City Attorney’s Office.

Fire Department Updates:

The remodel of Fire Station #6 is well underway and moving along as projected. We initially projected delays in receiving material, and that appears to be holding true. A project this size would normally be completed in four to six months, but due to delays in material and a few subcontractors, we anticipate this project stretching out six to eight months, with potential for a longer delay on a few items. It remains our goal to have the station up and running throughout the entire construction project with the same goal of having the station ready for increased staffing by January 1st, 2023.



Health Department Updates:

The Health Department passed along these two notices.

Covid: Eau Claire County has now moved to high community level for COVID in Eau Claire County. See data and CDC recommendations right.

What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautionsStay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Wear a mask indoors in publicStay up to date with COVID-19 vaccinesGet tested if you have symptomsAdditional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

Expanded Monkeypox Testing Capacity:

Wisconsin now has six cases of monkeypox, and the national count continues to increase. For the latest U.S. situation summary and case count, see [U.S. Monkeypox 2022: Situation Summary | Monkeypox | Poxvirus | CDC](#) Wisconsin information is available at: [Monkeypox | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Stephanie A. Hirsch
City Manager