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**From the Manager**

**Statement from Police Chief:** As you likely read, the Chief shared the attached message this past Friday in response to the three line-of-duty deaths that north central Wisconsin has seen in the past two months. He asks that we all work to understand the unique and very challenging role that police officers play, especially now, in an era of growing tensions. I want to echo the Chief's request that we all try to gain an understanding of how deeply these recent deaths impact our colleagues and the people who love and worry about them.

**Presence at Funeral:** Deputy Chief Derek Thomas provided a synopsis of the most recent law enforcement funeral in which our agency had a large presence. He wrote:

“On May 6th, St. Croix County Deputy Kaitie Leising was investigating a possible intoxicated driver in the ditch. During Deputy Leising's contact, the driver pulled out a handgun and shot her. Deputy Leising succumbed to her injuries that evening. Deputy Leising was a one-year veteran of the St. Croix County Sheriff's Office. Prior to that, she was a two-year veteran of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office, SD. Deputy Leising leaves behind a wife and a three-month-old child.



Deputy Leising’s law enforcement funeral was held on May 12th at the Hudson High School. Thousands of law enforcement agencies from around the nation were in attendance, including over 25 members of the Eau Claire Police Department. The Eau Claire Police Department Honor Guard played a critical role in preparing and organizing the service in the week leading up to the funeral and on the date of the funeral. The procession was over 20 miles long, with hundreds of community members showing their support.

Wisconsin has the second highest law enforcement deaths in the nation so far in 2023. Deputy Leising was our fourth line-of-duty death. Attached are photos of the procession and outside from the rooftop. Officers were lined up, while the casket was being placed in the hearse.”

**Shared Revenue:** The efforts of different legislative bodies, elected officials, and municipal advocates to channel more shared revenue to municipalities has gone through a very long process, evolving through different negotiated versions. Municipal leaders from across the state traveled to Madison this week to speak at the Senate budget hearing. I spoke with Kevin Lahner, the new Manager of Janesville and most recent Administrator of Waukesha. Waukesha, Janesville, and Eau Claire are the three larger communities that have the lowest current per capita revenue. Because it’s based on a percent increase over the current, the proposed Shared Revenue adjustment largely leaves our three communities behind.

My general comments were:

“Thank you to the House, Senate, LWM, and other stakeholders who have spent a lot of time trying to work out a solution that works for most partners.

We have studied the per-capita shared revenue numbers – the current distribution, the first proposed adjustment, and the second proposed adjustment. There’s a huge variation across communities, from \$10 per capita to \$434 per capita. We don’t see a pattern that accounts for the variation. I expect that’s because the allocations were fixed in time decades ago. Since then, communities have changed. The rationale for the allocations has no doubt become increasingly unclear over time.



Using a percent increase based on *current* per capita widens the disparity. For example, under the proposed formula, one community with a high per capita current shared revenue will see a \$74 increase, while another community with a low current per capita shared revenue allocation will see only a \$13 increase. Those with the highest at the start will grow more than those with the lowest, increasing the disparity.

This will continue over time, as the shared revenue apportionments grow with the sales tax revenue. So, for example, if sales tax revenue grew three percent in one year, the highest per capita community would see a growth of \$15 per capita that year, whereas the lowest per capita community would see a growth of \$1 per capita.

These trends impact Eau Claire. All communities are struggling, and the low shared revenue makes our challenges even harder. Prior City Managers have made cuts for 30 years, finding efficiencies and turning over every stone. After those years of cuts, we're now seeing very high inflation, the pandemic, and the labor shortage. We have now hit a wall and are near crisis.

We encourage you to think about a path that increases parity on a per capita basis over time, rather than widening it. In particular, we hope there will be a remedy for Eau Claire, Janesville, and Waukesha. It's exciting to think about finding a solution that works for all our State's communities. We are all connected, from Eau Claire, to Superior, Town of Washington, and Milwaukee. With this once-in-a-generation revision of shared revenue, we hope we will not be left behind. Once again, thank you for the efforts to find a path forward that works for our whole state."

It looks like it's possible to watch the entire hearing here by registering.

[Senate Committee on Shared Revenue, Elections and Consumer Protection - WisconsinEye \(wiseeye.org\)](https://www.wisconsineye.org/committees/senate-committee-on-shared-revenue-elections-and-consumer-protection)

**Congratulations to Matt Jaggard:** The Police and Fire Commission is pleased to announce that a selection has been made for the next Fire Chief of Eau Claire Fire Department. The Commission interviewed four strong candidates for the position and have selected Deputy Chief Matthew Jaggard of the Eau Claire Fire Department to become the City's next Fire Chief.

Matt Jaggard has been with the City of Eau Claire for 24 years, serving in the roles of firefighter, lieutenant, captain, battalion chief and, most recently, Deputy Chief of Operations-Suppression. Chief Jaggard began his career in the firefighting profession in 1994 and for the past 29 years has been an active member, serving multiple fire departments and communities. The interview committees were particularly impressed with Matt's efforts-to-date and goals going forward. He spoke about promoting employee engagement, an excitement about using data and best practices to problem solve, ideas for attracting a diverse and inclusive workforce, and thoughts on and passion for finding approaches to help keep our firefighters and community safe and healthy, and to promote their wellbeing and happiness.

Chief Jaggar began his duties on May 19th, and a formal Swearing-In Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, June 5th, at 4PM at Fire Station #10, located at 820 Malden Avenue. Join in if you are able! We wish you the best of luck, Matt, and great success as you take on this new role.

**Century Code Update:** In 1923 Eau Claire passed its first zoning code. One hundred years later we seek to update and improve it since the last major overhaul was done in 1990. Thus, the project has been branded the “Century Code Update”. City Council approved the contract with planning and zoning consultant Houseal Lavigne in late March. Since then, their project team and Planning Division staff have been busy getting things ready for the kick-off in mid-June.

The Zoning Policy Advisory Committee (ZPAC) with City Councilors and Plan Commissioners will begin its work on June 19th before the Juneteenth event begins. ZPAC will not vote on code changes, but provide higher level policy direction. The Council and Plan Commission will vote separately later during the adoption phase. The four joint meetings in 2023 are listed below (these have not changed since last we shared this information). Key staff, the consultants, and professional industry code users will operate under a Zoning Technical Analysis Committee (ZTAC) to analyze the code problems, issues, and solution options, and provide recommendations to consider. Other community stakeholders will be engaged with and interviewed, or special meetings will be held with important groups. Various boards and committees of the City will also be engaged with along the process (Historic Preservation, Housing Opportunities Commission, Parks and Waterways, etc.). The end goal is to adopt the new code by the end of 2024.



There will be a project website, videos, an online survey, and open houses to capture more feedback. **The first community open house will be Tuesday, June 20th from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the Library’s Riverview Room 306.** Participants can share input then on story boards to staff and the expert consultants, and are free to go when they are done. A press release will go out later with more information.

Here again are the dates and times for the four joint ZPAC meetings in 2023:

- June 19th, Monday 4 pm to 5:20 pm, Library Riverview Rm (306)
- September 5th, Tuesday 4 pm to 6 pm, Library Riverview Room (306)
- November 6th, Monday, 4 pm to 6 pm, Library Riverview Room (306)
- December 18th, Monday, 4 pm to 6 pm, Banbury Place, Eau Claire Room (3<sup>rd</sup> flr.)

**Update from API:** American Phoenix management shared an update on what they have been doing to address noise and odor concerns from neighbors.

## ***Message from Plant Manager***

*Prior to 4.3.23, our focus has been odor improvements, primarily exhaust stack height and velocity. Based on feedback received after 4.3, odor issues are still being addressed, but noise reduction is now a higher priority. While we think noise levels can be reduced, we are unsure how much and how soon, and that will be determined over the next few months. Listed below is a summary of what we have done since the beginning of April.*

- *Noise*
  - *South facing doors and windows on ground floor*
    - *Ambient sound from motors and fans within the building causing noise outside the building*
    - *We are working on getting all shifts to keep doors and windows closed*
  - *Sound barrier fencing*
    - *Intent is to create a barrier between rooftop fans and motors and surrounding neighborhoods*
    - *Received first product to test, but unfortunately, the results were not overly conclusive*
    - *Further product procurement and testing will be needed*
    - *Results will determine how and where we install*
  - *Fan silencers*
    - *Intent is to install a box baffle system to reduce decibel levels*
      - *One on site and ordered two more of them week of 5.8*
        - *12 week lead time with delivery date expected middle of August*
        - *Ordered them to fit two existing fans*
    - *The one on site was ordered last October as part of preventative maintenance*
      - *Arrived last week and installation taking place by the end of June*
- *Odor*
  - *Working with outside consultant to construct odor model*
    - *Important to determine direction and distance from plant*
    - *First model draft is complete and we are working with another outside consultant for more odor samples*
  - *Any changes to stack heights and stack CFM can be reflected in the model*
    - *Important as we makes changes to stack heights and air flow pending local and state approval*
- *Environmental*
  - *In Wisconsin, there are four registration air permit types*
  - *API operates under a Registration Operating Permit – A (ROPA)*
    - *Has the lowest eligibility thresholds meaning API has low emissions*

- *There have been no compliance issues and all measured emissions are well below regulations and permitted levels*

*Feedback on noise and odor issues is valuable and critical to our efforts. To accumulate data and categorize information, we'd encourage people to visit our survey website: [www.apilistens.com](http://www.apilistens.com). There is a separate noise and odor survey. Detail is helpful: location, wind speed, temperature, etc. Your input will be part of future updates.*

*The plan is to distribute a progress report on a monthly schedule to communicate what we are doing. I would stress this is not a short-term project and improvements will take some time but I'm confident that we can make improvements in noise and odor.*

*Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make our changes,*

**Mike Richards, Plant Manager**

**Council Calendar** (With Tentative Work Session Dates)

- Monday, May 22nd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Presentation by Candidates
  - Study Session on Coordinated Entry List
- Tuesday, May 23rd: Council Meeting
  - Work Session on Parking
- ❖ *May 25th - Waterways & Parks Commission reviews and recommends Parks CIP*
- ❖ *June 6th: Plan Commission reviews and recommends CIP*
- Monday, June 12th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion night
  - Public Discussion of 2024-2028 CIP Budget
- Tuesday, June 13th: Council Meeting
  - Presentation of Housing Needs Assessment report
- ❖ *Friday, June 23th: 2024-2028 CIP Budget Amendments Due*
- Monday, June 19th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Kickoff
- Monday, June 26th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, June 27th: Council Meeting
- Monday, July 10th: Regular Council public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Public Discussion of 2024-2028 CIP Budget
- Tuesday, July 11th: Council Meeting
  - Council action on 2024-2028 CIP Budget
  - 2024 Operating Budget Work Session 1
- Monday, July 24th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, July 25th: Council Meeting
- Monday, August 14th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, August 15th: Council Meeting

- Monday, August 28th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, August 29th: Council Meeting
- Tuesday, September 5th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion
- Monday, September 11th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, September 12th: Council Meeting
- Monday, September 25th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, September 26th: Council Meeting
- ❖ *September 29th – City Council receives 2024 Proposed Operating Budget*
- Monday, October 9th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Public Hearing #1 on 2024 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, October 10th: Council Meeting
  - City Council Operating Budget Work Session #2 (Department Directors)
- Monday, October 23rd: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
- Tuesday, October 24th: Council Meeting
  - City Council Operating Budget Work Session #3 – Amendment Discussion
- ❖ *November 3rd – City Council Budget Amendments Due*
- Monday, November 6th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion
- Monday, November 13th: Regular Council Public Hearing/Discussion Night
  - Public Hearing #2 on 2024 Proposed Operating Budget
- Tuesday, November 14th: Council Meeting
  - City Council action on 2024 Proposed Operating Budget and levy
- Monday, December 18th: Joint Plan Commission and City Council Meeting for Zoning Overhaul Discussion

**Additional Dates:**

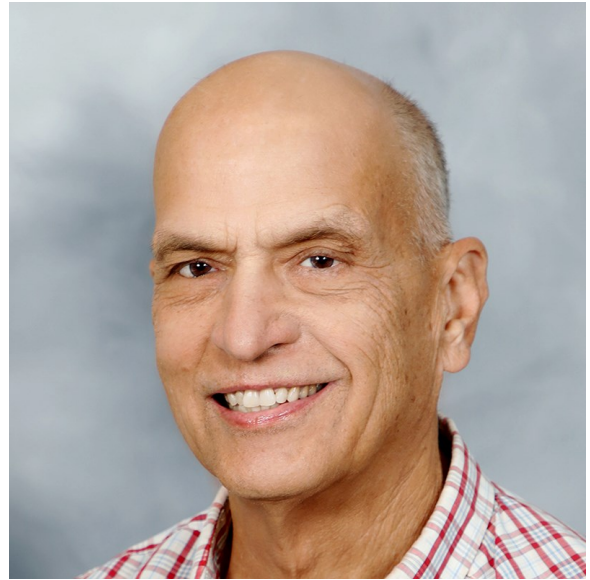
- Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>: PERM Webinar
- Wednesday, May 24th: Hmong Chamber of Commerce Open House
- Monday, June 5th: Swearing In Ceremony for Chief Matt Jaggar
- Friday, June 16th: Eggs and Issues Legislative Update
- Monday, June 19th: Juneteenth Celebration (5:30PM)
- Friday, July 28th: LWM Local Government 101

**Special Employee Spotlight:**

We have a special highlight this week from the Library this week. Our Library recently lost a staff member. We are sharing this highlight in memory of **Greg Goetz**. The staff put together this reflection on Greg's contributions.

What coworkers say about Greg: “Greg was the embodiment of congeniality, staple of the community and a recognizable face for multiple generations of library users. His library family misses him.”

- Greg’s position: “Greg worked as a Page and then as a Desk Clerk for 41 years.”
- Favorite activities: “Greg loved learning about local history, travelling widely throughout Wisconsin as a bus driver for the schools, visiting his cabin in Winter and rocking out to the Rolling Stones.”
- What people may not know: “Greg had an extensive collection of library cards from around the state of Wisconsin – just because he could.”
- Best part about working for the City: “When Greg’s supervisor asked if he was thinking about retirement, Greg said he loves coming to work every day and the people he works with so why would he retire.”







*Eau Claire*  
**POLICE**  
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**Matt Rokus**, Chief of Police  
721 Oxford Avenue, Suite 1400  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

May 19, 2023

Eau Claire Community Members:

It has been a difficult time for law enforcement in our region. Tragically, three northwest Wisconsin police officers were killed in the line of duty in less than one month's time. On April 8, 2023, Chetek Police Officer Emily Breidenbach and Cameron Police Officer Hunter Scheel were shot to death while conducting a traffic stop involving a suspect with an arrest warrant. On May 6, 2023 St. Croix County Sheriff Deputy Kaitie Leising was shot to death while dealing with a suspected impaired driver. These officer's families and their home communities are mourning these senseless deaths. Our regional law enforcement community is also hurting.

One aspect that connects these terrible events is the routine nature of what these three officers were doing when killed. Every single day Eau Claire Police Officers and all law enforcement officers in our region perform these typical functions and many more. Whether assisting a stranded motorist, responding to domestic violence or dealing with an active threat involving a firearm, police officer's lives are endangered. Every call for service, traffic-stop and public interaction possesses risk of a tragic outcome.

It is especially poignant that Kaitie Leising's funeral occurred only days before National Peace Officers Memorial Day. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as National Police Week. National Police Week pays tribute to law enforcement officers killed or critically injured in the line of duty, as well as the continued service of all police officers.

Each year, Police Week provides an opportunity to reflect on both the service and sacrifice of Peace Officers. According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, since 1786, almost 24,000 police officers have been killed in the line of duty in the United States. After successive annual declines in the number of officers killed in the 1990's, these numbers are again on the rise. Data collected by the FBI show that both assaults and assaults with injuries committed against law enforcement officers are also increasing. The peril of being a police officer is reflected both in these statistics as well as recent local events.

There have been numerous explanations offered for the cause of these troubling trends. One is an increased rate of violent crime being experienced in many communities. Another is the fewer number of active police officers working now in comparison to just a few years ago due to increases in early retirements, resignations to pursue other employment and fewer candidates interested in law enforcement. Other arguments include a rise in social isolation, unmet mental health needs and addiction. It is unlikely the cause of violence committed against police officers is limited to any one of these, or other unstated factors.

Police officers bear great responsibility and great personal risk. In order to protect the public, police officers have the legal authority to arrest, detain, and when necessary use physical force. In other words, police officers have the legal authority to take away someone's constitutionally protected rights and

Chad Hoyord  
Deputy Chief

Derek Thomas  
Deputy Chief

Kelly Thompson  
Administration

Greg Rosno  
Communications Center

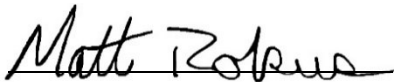
perhaps even a person's life. As a profession we understand and accept the scrutiny that accompanies this authority.

Police officers also need support. Law enforcement is a noble and honorable profession. As a society, we ask a lot of our law enforcement officers. Police officers must respond to the symptoms of complex social issues with courage, compassion and professionalism. Our officers must possess the wisdom and valor to take decisive steps in the protection of themselves and more importantly other people.

The required scrutiny of policing and the support for this difficult work does not need to be mutually exclusive. As we all try to process the recent loss of these three public servants, we should all consider ways to offer support to law enforcement. This support does not need to be a complex or difficult effort.

Offering your gratitude, appreciation or reassurance to the officers who serve our community goes a long way. Taking the time to learn more about what officers are experiencing and the challenges they face reassures that being a police officer is meaningful. As more people understand the challenges law enforcement encounters, the more people will recognize the importance of recruiting and retaining talented people who possess high ethical standards, and ensuring officers receive necessary training and equipment. Attracting the best people and preparing them to do their important work does not happen without a community's backing.

Your support is needed regardless of how you choose to express it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Rokus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Matt Rokus  
Eau Claire Chief of Police