

All Separated Items

Common Council

Wed, Aug 06, 2025 7:00PM

Mayor Jake Woodford 02:49

I have no further business to present, so move on to public participation, and we have one member of the public signed up to speak. This is Oliver Zornow. Welcome, Oliver.

Oliver Zornow (AASD Board Of Education Member) 03:00

Thank you so much. My name is Oliver Zornow. I live at [XXXXXX]. Super grateful for the opportunity to address you. Wanted to share that my comments tonight are my own and don't necessarily reflect the views of any organizations with which I may be associated. I'm a father of an Edison—couple of Edison students and former neighbor in the historic central neighborhood and part of the Safe Routes to School task force of the transition committee related to the Columbus school closure. And so just want to thank the council and the municipal services committee for their support of the change in the street occupancy permit related to our safe route to school to Edison.

Oliver Zornow (AASD Board Of Education Member) 03:41

I wanted to share that this has been a robust process. The Safe Routes team not only worked with their internal capacities and those of the city and the school district, but dozens of neighbors in the historic central neighborhood got together and did walk audits identifying various routes that kids could safely get from the historic central neighborhood to Edison, and want to validate and acknowledge the contributions of all of those neighbors. It led to four key recommendations for this first phase of improving walkability in that area. Those include the extension of the lightbulb routes, but those include also a crosswalk at Atlantic street with additional pedestrian signage, and signage and crosswalks at the railroad tracks. It includes adding a crossing guard at Drew and North Street as well as the recommendation that the city consider additional stops at that intersection. And those are the, I'll say, first round of recommendations that came from Safe Routes thinking those would be the things that the city and the district could partner together on to move quickly on. But I don't want at all to give the impression that that solves all of the walkability challenges that these students might face in traversing the neighborhood. And I am aware that the city is currently exploring a grant application to do a more comprehensive study, and applaud the city for doing that to make sure that all of our kids throughout the entire city can walk safely to school. So, thank you so much for your support.

Mayor Jake Woodford 05:14

Are there any other members of the public who'd like to speak on an item that appears on the agenda but did not have the chance to sign up? Seeing none, we'll close public participation.

[Cut]

Mayor Jake Woodford 09:33

All right. First up, we're going to go to the items from plan commission. This is—and if there are no objections from the council, these items are related. So, if there's no objection to taking them up with a single vote, we'll handle it this way. So, this is 25-0699, 25-0701, and 25-0702, and if there are no objections to taking those up under a single vote, we'll head that way.

Mayor Jake Woodford 10:09

All right, we have a motion and a second to approve and we'll open the floor for discussion. Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 14 to zero. That—those items have been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 10:44

All right, next we are going to go to the item from the Fox Cities Transit Commission. This is item 25-0873, authorization to execute cooperative agreement between Valley Transit, WisDOT, and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Is there a motion? We have a motion and a second to approve.

Mayor Jake Woodford 11:12

All right. Any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. That motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 11:34

Next from safety and licensing. This is item 25-0830 Class B, beer and reserve Class B, liquor license application for Trout Museum of Art Christina Turner, agent, located at 325 East College Avenue, contingent upon approval from the inspections division. We have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. That motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 12:22

All right. On to Finance Committee.

Mayor Jake Woodford 12:41

Right. Seven zero. All right. This is item 25-0870, request to approve a resolution authorizing and providing for the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$10,865,000 in general obligation Promissory Note, series 2025, and all related details. Motion to get this before us. We have a motion and a second to approve. And before we get into—go ahead and we can record that. Before we get into discussion, we've invited Brad Viegut from Baird to join us. Brad should be a familiar face to many of us. Our intrepid advisor is back, and he's going to tell us about the action that's before Council tonight.

Brad Viegut (Baird) 13:30

Okay, thank you, Mayor. The reason I'm in front of you tonight is just to explain the little bit of a different process that's recommended be used for the awarding of the of these debt issues. It's really this resolution as well as the next three on your agenda are funding the capital programs of the city—water, sewer, storm, general projects, and refinancing debt for the storm in the water system. The change that's recommended is the adoption of what's called "parameters resolutions" are a resolution establishing parameters for the award of the issuance. All that means is, with your authorization tonight, we will finalize the steps that are required to bring these issues to market, and then the terms, the rates, everything can be finalized outside of a regular council meeting. And the benefit to the city is there's more flexibility in case of changes in the market that we can pull the issues back, or go back into the market, and not try to peg that to a specific meeting date of the council. So, it's really to provide greater flexibility. And I can go into more detail, answer additional questions.

Mayor Jake Woodford 14:37

Any questions for Brad while we have him? All right. All right. Well, thank you, and if any questions come up over the course of discussion, we'll certainly call on you. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 14:51

All right. Any discussion on this item? Hearing none, we have motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 15:08

Next is item 25-0872, request to approve resolution authorizing and providing for the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$8,975,000 of water system revenue refunding Bond, series 2025, and all related details. We have a motion and a second to approve. I'll just note that this these actions are the same process as was just described.

Mayor Jake Woodford 15:40

All right, hearing no discussion, please cast your votes. Motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 15:53

Next is 25-0878, request to approve a resolution authorizing and providing for the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$4,725,000 in sewerage system revenue bonds, series 2025, and all related details. We have a motion and a second to approve.

Mayor Jake Woodford 16:14

Is there any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. That motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 16:31

Next is 25-0879, request to approve a resolution authorizing and providing for the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$8,800,000 in storm water system revenue refunding Bond, series 2025, and all related details. Really flows off the tongue. We have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. That motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 17:10

Next from municipal services committee. Six three. 25-0863, request to revise permanent street occupancy permit number 17-018-p. This is Safe Routes to School. We have a motion and a second to approve. Any discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. Oh! Alder Meltzer. Oh, you just snuck in. All right.

Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 17:49

Thank you. Really appreciate the wonderfully kind words of gratitude that Oliver Zornow shared, and I just in return want to share some words of gratitude for the neighbors who get together and are so engaged about this, and it's just a great thing to see that kind of engagement happening as we work on these sorts of improvements. So just want to have it on record on the meeting video that really grateful for the hard work that those neighbors are doing.

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:22

Any further discussion? Hearing none, we have a motion and a second to approve. Please cast your votes. Motion passes 14 to zero. That item has been approved.

Mayor Jake Woodford 18:40

On next to community development. All right. This is 25-0772, request to approve proposed text amendments to the Municipal Code chapter 4, building, section 4-392, exemptions as identified in the included documents.

We have a motion and a second to approve. Open the floor for discussion where Alder Hartzheim will start us off.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 19:13

Thank you, Chair. I brought this out for a separate vote because I would like to propose an amendment, and the amendment is not to change the spirit of what was presented to us by the Community Development Department or the legal department, but to correct some grammatical errors that I felt uncomfortable with. So, if it please the chair, I do have a paper copy so everyone can read, rather than have to try to guess.

Mayor Jake Woodford 20:05

All right.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 20:14

Again, as you'll see on what I presented to you, it's just verbiage that I wanted to craft a little bit more cleanly so that as we are codifying things there—they have appropriate grammar. I did—

Mayor Jake Woodford 20:30

Alder Hartzheim, just before we get into discussion if you wouldn't mind just making this as a motion, then we can get it—then we can—you—

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 20:37

I would like to amend this text, please.

Mayor Jake Woodford 20:39

Okay, We have a motion to amend. Is there a second? Okay, we have a motion and a second to amend. All right, please continue.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 20:46

I apologize. I forgot that step.

Mayor Jake Woodford 20:47

Not at all. Go ahead.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 20:49

I did present this, albeit at the 11th Hour, to the Community Development Department, and kudos to them and to the legal department for reviewing it relatively quickly, because I should have had this into them weeks ago, but everything was to their satisfaction as well. So, I would appreciate if my colleagues would vote to approve this. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 21:14

All right. Any discussion on the amendment? Alder Fenton.

Aldersperson Denise Fenton (District 6) 21:24

Thank you, Chair. I don't see that this amendment is necessary. I think that it is a move to remove what is being called gender inclusive language, the use of "they" and "their", and I don't find it necessary, and I won't be voting for it. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 21:52

Further discussion on the amendment. All right. We have a motion and a second to approve the amendment. Please cast your votes. Motion passes eight to six. Item has been approved. Or the amendment has been approved. We're back to the item. Thank you.

Mayor Jake Woodford 22:22

We're back to the item as amended. Any further discussion? Hearing none, please cast your votes. This is on the item as amended. The motion passes 11 to 3, and the item has been approved.