

April 14, 2026

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Eagle River was called to order at 6:00PM by Mayor Deb Brown.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jerry Burkett and was recited by all present.

Roll Call: Jerry Burkett, Vic Washelesky, Kim Schaffer, and Dan Dumas. Also in attendance: Robin Ginner, Becky Bolte, Brad Adamovich, Tyler Salvinski and Mike Sanborn.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Washelesky to approve the agenda in any order. Carried, all.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve the minutes of 3-10-2026 Finance Committee and Common Council meetings. Carried, all.

a) Clerk's Report - Listing of Public Records Requests to the City of Eagle River, 2025-2026 YTD: Kathryn Craffey spoke on the importance of open record requests, listed things that have been learned, and cited transparency concerns all derived from open record requests. Burkett requested a copy of the recording from the meeting.

b) MSA Monthly Updates: Phil Kriesel and John Promer presented a written update including the 2026 Street Projects. Kriesel gave an update that 1st Street by the Courthouse is on the 2026 list and that the alleyways on the list have problems, some of which MSA cannot fix. There are drainage issues with four alleys we're doing this summer. The alleys parallel to Wall Street (between RR and Main, and Main & 1st) are too flat, so they'll be trying to "tip" the ends of the alleys so they will drain out to the streets. The one behind BMO would be rectified with a resurfacing of the parking lot between the alley and 2nd. The one behind Nicolet, MSA is working on a proposal to the bank to use some of their property to create an infiltration mechanism with gravel. Kriesel then gave an update on Silver Lake Road project with only remaining items being one section of curb and ground/grass restoration. Kriesel announced his retirement and was thanked for his many years of service to the city. John Promer will be his replacement.

c) Eagle River Light & Water:

Sludge disposal update: Sanborn provided an update on sludge disposal, stating ERLW is making some headway with securing access to a privately owned 20 acre parcel on Hwy 17 North for possible sludge spreading. The DNR is in the permitting process now with Sanborn reporting securing this acreage will help immensely. Sanborn also reported a local hauler price of \$.06/gallon for sludge spreading as an option but would cost approximately \$30,000 for 500,000 gallons.

2026 Cleaning/Televising by Aqualis, approx. \$15,000; Sanborn presented that although Council authorized the skipping of the 2026 service due to budgetary purposes, Aqualis has extended the 2025 pricing for 2026, which is almost half price, so Sanborn wanted to bring it back to Council for discussion, adding If an issue arises from the cleaning/televising, it must be fixed, costing money. *Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Burkett to reverse the March 10, 2026 motion to skip the 2026 cleaning/televising and authorize Aqualis to complete the 2026 cleaning/televising of the sanitary sewer system at a cost of approximately \$15,000. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Dumas to approve the Wisconsin Surplus Auction sale of 2003 Digger Truck and 2002 Digger Truck with proceeds being allocated to the Light and Water equipment fund. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

d) Eagle River Department of Public Works:

DPW Foreman Adamovich presented Farmers Market Traffic Control and Flow Recommendations including one-way traffic on Michigan between Illinois and Mill Streets (during market days/hours only) and the addition of millings to right-of-way along north side of Mill Street to accommodate overflow parking. Jessica Bortolotti, Illinois St. resident, spoke on congestion concerns on Illinois, the intersection at Illinois and the

Hwy, and ATV/UTV route using Illinois between Adams Rd and the bridge crossing. Discussion on one side/both sides parking. Chief Salvinski spoke to the safety and need for changes during peak Farmers Market times. ATV/UTV rerouting would be an option, suggesting working with local clubs on creating a route detour during Farmers Market. Burkett suggested manpower for traffic control during the busiest months, end of June to mid-August. ERRP, DPW, ERPD to work together to make it happen under the traffic safety guidance of the Police Chief.

e) Eagle River Fire Department: Fire Chief Jim Randall provided a written update including data showing a 65% increase in calls through March 2026 from the 2025 total calls, with pie charts showing year to date jurisdiction of calls and call type breakdowns. Resident Chris Stark asked if there was an explanation for the increase with Randall stating he attributes much of the increase on the influx of people and the open snowmobile trails this year. The increase is causing budget ERFD concerns. The fire department has sold some equipment they no longer deem useful and are actively working on solutions to create more revenue for the department. Chief Randall intends on addressing this issue with the Joint Fire Commission at its May 6 meeting.

f) Eagle River Police Department: Salvinski provided a written report of PD activity for March. Salvinski reported the retirement of Sergeant Adam Ross effective May 31, 2026, and that he is actively interviewing patrol officer candidates. The COPS hiring grant has not been released yet for 2026 with Salvinski anticipating a May 2026 grant application release date.

Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Dumas to accept the retirement of Sergeant Adam Ross effective May 31, 2026, with all remaining sick leave paid out in accordance with the union contract. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

g) City Administrator's monthly update on activities of all departments: Ginner provided a written report. Discussion on the disposal of the old YeaLink phone system. Ginner presented that the VOIP phones would need to be wiped of all data before sale or disposal for security purposes. No action until more information can be gathered on the best method of disposal.

h) Street Closing/display of goods/event food trucks/temporary sign/amplification permits:
Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Food Trucks/Amplifying Device/Temp Signs/Street Banners/Animals to be Kept for Exhibition to Vilas County Ag Society, Vilas County Fair at Vilas County Fairgrounds, Aug 13 – Aug 16, 2026, Thursday: 5PM-11PM – Friday, Saturday, Sunday: Noon – 11PM, Dale Ayers. Carried, all.

Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Dumas to approve Food Trucks/Temporary Signs to Vilas County Ag Society, Small Animal Swap Meet at Vilas County Fairgrounds, (Rabbits, Ducks, Chickens, Turkeys etc.) May 30, June 20, July 18, August 29, and September 12, 2026, 9AM – 1PM, Signs on property along Hwy 70, Jeff Kordus/Tabb Avery. Carried, all.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve Road Closure/Amplifying Device to Vilas County Veterans Service Office: Memorial Day Service, May 25, 2026, 11:00AM- Noon, road closure on back street west of Courthouse/ River St parallel to Birch Street, Civil War cannon and rifle salute firing blanks. Brian Thomas/Ken Eades. Carried, all.

Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Vilas County Land & Water Conservation, Citizen Lake Monitoring Network Training, Silver Lake Beach, May 15, 2026, 10AM – Noon, and Aquatic Plants of Silver Lake, August 16, 2026, 1PM – 2PM, Cathy Higley. Carried, all.

i) Picnic licenses:

Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Vilas County Ag Society - Temporary Class "B" Beer and "Class B" Wine License for Vilas County Fair for a term of August 10 - 17, 2026, Noon – 11PM, Beer and Wine Pavillion at the Vilas County Fairgrounds and fairground event property. Dale Ayers Agent. Carried, all.

Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Schaffer to approve change of agent from Kim Emerson to Andy Lichtfuss for 2026 Chamber of Commerce and Great Headwaters Trails Foundation Sip-n-Suds previously approved picnic licenses. Carried, all.

j) Operators Licenses: Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Washelesky to approve Regular Operators licenses to: Angela Anderson, Peter Anderson IV, Sherry Ankebrant, Jacob Arreguin, Dale Ayers, Linda Boyer, Cass Braaten, Amanda Cisewski, Jamie Cull, Morgan Dreger, Daniel Englund, Tammy Hernandez, Madesen Jovanovic, Jeff Kordus, Michael Kowalski, Earl Scott Moline, Anna Polack, Carlie Pudlowski, Kendra Schaffer, Taylor Underwood, Daniel Welzien and Temporary June 20, 2026 licenses to: Michelle Arrowood, David Stauffacher Carried, all.

k) Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve Class "B" Beer and "Class B" Liquor Combination Liquor License: Sandbaggers Clubhouse LLC, 457 McKinley, Term 4/15/2026 – 6/30/2026, Michael Anderson Agent. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

l) Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Garbage Haulers Licenses to Gas Distribution Systems Inc – DBA Eagle Dumpster, GFL Environmental Holdings Inc, Republic Services III LLC, Lakeland Disposal & Recycling LLC, Howard Disposal LLC, WM- Advanced Disposal LLC, AKAR Enterprises LLC, Term of May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027. Carried, all.

m) Direct Sellers Permit: Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Direct Sellers Permits to Yort's Sip & Scoops - Food Truck, Troy Ernst Seller, Term of May 1–October 31,2026. Carried 3-0 with Burkett abstaining.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve Direct Sellers Permits to Sloppy D's – Food Truck, Dana Valeria Seller, Term of April 15 – October 14, 2026. Carried, all.

n) Taxi Licenses: Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Dumas to approve Taxi Business License to John Barnes & Company Corp. with \$300,000 liability limit, contingent on insurance policy approval from Attorney Garbowicz. Carried, all.

Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Taxi Drivers License to Curt Wehrmeyer, VIP Group Inc, DBA Eagle River Taxi and John T Barnes, John Barnes & Company Corp. Carried, all.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Washelesky to appoint City of Eagle River residents Scott Vanidestine, Dar Kadulski, and Todd Starling as Board of Review alternates in accordance with Ordinance 602. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

p) Ordinance 603 – Staggering of Council Terms: Draft copies of ordinance were provided to Council to stagger Alderperson terms with 1 year terms for even Districts or 3 years terms for even Districts at the April 2027 election. Discussion. Deborah Magee email was read aloud by Mayor Brown requesting 1 year term for even District numbers and then 2 year staggering. Resident Kathryn Craffey spoke against 3 year term option and both Craffey and Chelsea Sims spoke requesting term limits be added into the presented ordinance. Burkett encouraged citizens to run for office stating the Alderperson positions are continually unopposed. Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to adopt Ordinance 603 with the even district number class running for a one-year term at the April 2027 election, and the odd district number class running for a two-year term at the April 2027 election, resulting in the staggering of terms going forward. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

q) Project Resources Group, representing Charter Spectrum - DPW contested invoice for damage to cable ped at 150 E Hospital Rd on 2-21-2026: DPW Foreman Brad Adamovich presented that he does not believe this damage was caused by the City of Eagle River Public Works crew. The DPW crew was in that area on the morning of February 21, 2026, but Adamovich denies that anyone from the city crew hit the ped, and that other snow removal companies also work in that area. Council was given the full Damage Specialist Findings with photos and video link provided by PRG for review. Discussion. *Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Dumas to vehemently deny payment of PRG invoice #CHS-206435, dated 3-5-26, citing lack of proof that city employees caused the damage. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

r) Ginner presented the need to update the City Employee Policy Manual to set criteria for employees' retirement vs. resignation as it affects retirement benefits. The proposed edit would define retirement as: The voluntary termination of employment with the City by an eligible employee who meets one of the following criteria - Has attained the age of 50 years or older or has completed 25 or more years of continuous service with the City. Discussion on special circumstances. With legal approval from the City Attorney, Ginner is to add verbiage to allow for special circumstances that do not discriminate and bring back to Council.

Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Schaffer to approve presented Changes to the City Employee Policy Manual update to Fitness Benefit wording to clarify that the benefit is for the employee, not family memberships. Carried, all.

s) Ginner presented that homeowners are able to purchase flood insurance privately and participation in National Flood Insurance Program is not required. *Motion by Burkett, 2nd by Washelesky to deny participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Carried, all.*

t) *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve payment of the bills for the city and the golf course as recommended by the Finance Committee. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Washelesky to adjourn at 7:27PM. Carried, all.

Becky J Bolte - Clerk