

May 12, 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 Clerk Bolte 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, Mike Sanborn, Tony Sable, and Kyle Anderson.

*Motion by Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Washelesky to approve the agenda in any order. Carried, all.*

*Motion by Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schaffer to approve the minutes of 4-14-2026 Finance Committee and Common Council meetings. Carried, all.*

Mayor Brown welcomed Sage Rychlock of Daisy Troop 7168 who was in attendance to earn her democracy badge.

a) Clerk and Administrator provided Council a listing of public records requests to the City of Eagle River for April 2026.

b) MSA Monthly Updates: John Promer presented a written update including the 2026 Street Projects.

Promer presented options and estimates for paving the parking lot located behind BMO Bank as an addition to the 2026 Street/Alley projects. Estimate for paving half of the lot was presented at \$28,628 and the full lot estimate was presented at \$56,183. Mayor Brown asked what the plan was for paying for this project and Ginner stated it would come from surplus funds and the money saved in the 2026 Capital Improvement plan for 2026 by removing a block of First Street. The State Municipal Agreement (SMA) is holding up the projects and if not received soon, First Street may have to wait. Washelesky asked about just repairing the main hole. Burkett stated this is a parking lot and a cost effective solution may be to remove the blacktop, gravel, and add millings. Promer estimated that solution to run \$5,000 - \$10,000. *Motion by Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schaffer to remove blacktop, grade and add millings to the whole parking lot. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

Promer presented that during the alley projects construction at both Nicolet & BMO alleys, alley traffic would need to be re-routed to exit north towards Wall St and that signage is available for proposed re-route. *Motion by Washelesky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumas to approve Nicolet & BMO 2026 alley traffic re-route during alley construction, having alley traffic exit to the north towards Wall St with MSA providing signage. Carried, all.*

Pitlik & Wick representative Justin Hoffman spoke on the pitted sidewalk condition in front of City Hall, citing concrete producers have integrated limestone into the concrete formula which makes the surface susceptible to chlorides, ie salt. The concrete had been replaced in 2024 and Hoffman reported it remains structurally sound. Recommendations for repair by Pitlik & Wick included applying a polymer base coating on the sidewalk for surface protection and assessing how the concrete fared over the winter season of salt usage. If that solution didn't work, Pitlik would tear it up and replace, citing the surface pitting would probably happen again. Washelesky felt it was a fair solution but added the concrete finishers may be christening the surface with water causing the problem. Washelesky also stated applying two coats of clear linseed oil was a cheap solution for a protective coat. Both Washelesky and Burkett relayed appreciation to Pitlik for offering solutions and standing by their product. *Motion by Washelesky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumas to allow Pitlik to repair the sidewalk in front of City Hall as presented with surface coating, allowing for full replacement if surface coating does not work. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

Ginner presented the City has received a MSID funding award of \$385,610 for the resurfacing of McKinley Blvd from Railroad to city termini. The estimate to resurface was received in October 2025 at \$771,220. Although the funding award would give the city until 2031 to complete, Ginner expects the project would be done within the next couple of years.

Agenda item m was addressed out of order.

m) Kathy Linville of Republic Services introduced Operations Supervisor - Hauling Eagle River, Dirk Devries. Devries stated he has been employed by Republic for 33 years but only recently made the move to locate in Eagle River and is excited to a part of this community.

c) Eagle River Light & Water:

Sludge disposal update: Sanborn provided an update on sludge disposal, stating they were able to reduce the tank levels by 200,000 gallons with their spring spread. They remain in negotiations with a private owner of 20 acres that would allow up to 240,000 additional gallons of sludge spread subject to DNR inspection and approval. The option would be a great cost savings from the hauling to another facility option, but Sanborn encouraged the continued attempt to locate and purchase 40 acres suitable for spreading. Sanborn reported sludge test for PFAS showed the number increased and they will continue to monitor.

Mike Sanborn, representing the Lions Club, gave an update on the construction of the Gremban Park bathrooms stating it is moving along smoothly, and is hopeful construction will be done by the end of June. Many contractors have provided free or reduced rates for services and materials. Burkett extended an offer to have his business, CENTURY 21 Burkett & Associates, sponsor a donor recognition plaque be made listing all of the donors for this project. Funding for restroom cleaning will be swapped with savings of porta potty removal.

d) Eagle River Department of Public Works:

Adamovich presented that the urinal at the Depot has a ten year history of problems, causing water to continually run and flood. Adamovich compared replacement prices to others that have been done at \$1,000-\$3,000. Adamovich solution would be to remove the urinal completely and cap the plumbing and make the restroom a unisex designation. *Motion by Schaffer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burkett to approve removal of urinal in Depot bathroom and conversion to Unisex designation. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

e) Golf Course

Greens Update: Kyle Anderson gave a verbal report stating the course came out of winter the best it's been since he's been Superintendent. Cold weather has sent them backwards. The grounds crew has been working on cleanup. Upcoming projects include adding sand to the bunkers and sod at the number 8 tee box.

Golf Pro Update: Tony Sable provided a written report stating cold weather has led to 2026 revenues being down but believes it will rebound with warmer temperatures coming. Sable also represented the need for cart fleet maintenance, including cart batteries, and supplied a quote for potential upgrade by 2028.

Agenda item K was addressed out of order.

k) Requests to Keep Chickens:

Wyatt presented request stating he had not spoken with neighbors about keeping chickens at this location. *Motion by Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumas to allow up to Six (6) chickens, no roosters, to be kept at 612 Wisconsin Street, Andrew Wyatt. Carried all.*

Young presented request with map and neighbor signatures from all sides but had not been able to connect with Vilas Title owner. Burkett stated this was a double lot that could potentially allow for a grant of up to 12 chickens. *Motion by Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Washelesky to allow up to Six (6) chickens, no roosters, to be kept at 114 N Main Street, Chelsea Young. Carried all.*

f) Eagle River Fire Department: Fire Chief Jim Randall provided a written update. Randall supplied statistics of activity. YTD from January – April 2025 the fire department responded to 57 calls, YTD from January to April 2026 the fire department responded to 104 calls. Three additional members completed Emergency Medical Responder class. Burkett asked if the fire department went on every medical call with Chief Randall replying no, they wait to be called in by Aspirus ER91.

g) Eagle River Police Department: Salvinski provided a written report of PD activity for April including the conclusion of the Ripco Credit Union fraud case. Salvinski added the department is transitioning from Field

Training Officer program to the more detailed Police Training Officer program. Chief Salvinski reported the PD tasers are in need of updating and is pursuing a quote. Burkett asked if taser replacement was budgeted for with Chief Salvinski stating no.

h) City Administrator's monthly update on activities of all departments:

Clerk Bolte gave a verbal update on the city website and the ADA WCAG 2.1 Level AA Compliance Requirement by 4/2028. Bolte and Ginner have been in discussions with vendors about options to meet requirements. A loose estimate for the cost for an outside provider to rebuild and maintain city website and meet ADA compliance requirement would cost upwards of \$10,000 for implementation the first year with \$5,000 in annual fees. Additional vendors and options are being sought out, and staff will continue to monitor for any applicable grant availability.

Ginner presented the 2026 chip seal bids received from Fahrner Asphalt Sealers in the amount of \$112,741.83 and from Pitlik & Wick in the amount of \$120,352.07. The budgeted amount for the project is \$86,000. The proposed project includes chip sealing the full length of First Street from Sheridan Street to Tamarack Street; however, the northernmost block adjacent to the Courthouse, between Sheridan Street and Court Street, is currently planned for repaving as part of the 2026 road project. Ginner stated she remains hopeful that the City will receive the State Municipal Agreement (SMA) related to LRIP funding for that section of roadway. If awarded, that block would be removed from the chip seal project, reducing the overall project cost from the Fahrner bid amount of \$112,741.83. Ginner further noted that, if delays in receiving the SMA continue, the City may consider removing the block of First Street from the 2026 repaving project while retaining it within this year's chip seal project. To allow additional time for receipt of the SMA and to provide a clearer understanding of project scope and available funding, the Council discussed postponing award of the chip seal contract and scheduling a special meeting within the next several weeks. *Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Schaffer to postpone the 2026 chip sealing award and place on the agenda of Special City Council meeting to be scheduled before the June Regular Council meeting allowing time to receive SMA and acquire a full picture of project and funding. Carried, all.*

Ginner presented the 2026 chipseal bid from Fahrner at \$112,741.83. The budgeted amount was \$86,000. Ginner is hopeful to receive the SMA but if the SMA delay continues, there is a possibility of dropping a full block of First Street project for this year. To give additional time to receive the SMA, Council suggested holding a special meeting in a couple weeks to be able to get a more accurate state of the project and the available funding. *Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Schaffer to postpone the 2026 chip sealing award and place on the agenda of Special City Council meeting to be scheduled before the June Regular Council meeting allowing time to receive SMA and acquire a full picture of project and funding. Carried, all.*

Ginner presented the Yealink phones need to be wiped clean before they could be sold and that she has been unable to secure a company who would be able to do so, recommending secure disposal of old Yealink phone system through IT Strategies. Ginner to have IT Strategies provide a quote to bring back to next Council meeting.

Ginner presented a potential Dog Park location on city owned lot on Commerce Loop. The lot is wet and would need fill. Discussion on why the Commerce Loop is not an ideal location and on other possible locations. Burkett stated he is working on securing a location and asked that Dog Park location be added to the upcoming Special City Council meeting to be scheduled before the Regular June Council meeting.

i) Planning Commission:

*Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Washelesky to accept the planning commission recommendation to approve conditional use permit to Eagle River Historical Society to place interpretive signs at the Square, Silver Lake Beach Park and Riverview Park with the condition that placement be done in coordination with Public Works at City representatives' discretion. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

*Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to accept the planning commission recommendation to adopt Ordinance*

604 to Amend Chapter 106 (Zoning) of the Municipal Code of the City of Eagle River, Wisconsin, by adding a Definition of "Excavation" to Section 106-1: Excavation. Any man-made cut, cavity, trench, depression, hole, or open pit in the earth's surface formed by the removal of soil, rock, earth, sand, gravel, or other materials, whether by mechanical equipment, hand tools, blasting, or other means. Excavation includes, but is not limited to, activities for foundations, basements, footings, trenches for utilities, grading for site preparation, or removal of unsuitable materials. This term does not include minor landscaping grading that does not exceed 12 inches in depth or 500 cubic feet in volume, or routine maintenance activities exempted under other provisions of this Code. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

Ginner presented Comprehensive Plan update being done in conjunction with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Ginner reported the Planning Commission has reviewed Chapters 1-3 after NCWRPC made updates and review of Chapter 4 - Utilities & Community Facilities. Mayor Brown requested scheduling Special Planning Commission meetings for Comprehensive Plan update. Ginner to work with Commissioners to schedule.

j) Eagle River Revitalization: Laura VanValkenberg of Great Headwaters Trails Foundation gave an update on the progression of the project to install a crossing of Highway 45 -Railroad Street at Spruce, to Riverview Park. GHT is collaborating with ERRP on the project. VanValkenberg stated the project has received a \$50,000 Vibrant Spaces grant and a \$50,000 Room Tax grant and GHT is closing the funding gap. To maintain funding awards, the project must be completed in 2026. VanValkenberg has an estimated final completion date of October 31, 2026. Construction will avoid weekends, holidays, and scheduled events to minimize traffic impact. The final plans are to be submitted to the Planning Commission for review.

l) Discussion on proposal from the Town of Lincoln to re-open the Elm Drive Yard Waste site one day per week, with staffing to be provided and funded by Lincoln. Adamovich spoke to the volume increase Town of Lincoln users put on the 7 acre site. Burkett stated the city tried in the spirit of cooperation to combine with Town of Lincoln and abuse by a few ruined it. Mayor Brown added the Hwy G Landfill will be building a demo pit this year. *Motion by Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schaffer, to politely decline the Town of Lincoln proposal to re-open the Elm Drive Yard Waste site one day per week with staffing provided and funded by Lincoln. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

n) *Motion by Schaffer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Washelesky to adopt Resolution 1075, a resolution urging the Governor of Wisconsin and State Legislature to enact a comprehensive, transportation funding solution. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

o) Street Closing/display of goods/event food trucks/temporary sign/amplification permits: *Motion by Schaffer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumas to approve Street Closing/Amplifying Device/Temp Signs permit to Veterans Resource Center for Come to the Coop to Support our Troops, August 19, 2026, 6AM – 7PM, First St closed from Wall to N alley - Tuesday PM no parking signs but leaving a lane open on First, Food and Beer at the Square, Signs at Square, Denny Geiseman. Carried, all.*

*Motion by Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Washelesky to approve Amplifying Device permit to Bortolottis Cin Cin, Live music at Bortolotti's Cin Cin, 1114 N Bluebird Rd, Evenings May 15 – Sept 15, 2026, and at Grape Stomp event, all day Sunday July 19, 2026. Jessica Bortolotti. Carried, all.*

p) Picnic licenses: *Motion by Burkett, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumas to approve Veterans Resource Center a Temporary Class "B" Beer license, Denny Geiseman Agent for the following event and location: Come to the Coop to Support our Troops, August 19, 2026, Corner of Wall St and First from Beer Trailer. Carried, all.*

q) Operators Licenses: *Motion by Schaffer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Washelesky to approve Regular Operators licenses to: Emily Anderson, David Blackberg, LeeAnn Block, Ramzey Britt, Leah Brown, Deborah Clemens, Kaylee Cornelius, Nicolas DiPersio, Ava Eswein, Lisa Foss, Melissa Gauthier, Amanda Gingerich, Tasha Grabowski, Marin Gross, Barry Grosswitz, Diedre Guigli, Joyce Hauser, John Hayes II, Haley Hering, Nicole McCall Hocking, Robert*

*Kaczkowski, Julie Kitzke, Anne Klessig, Susan LaChapelle, Robert Leach, Joseph LaFata, Gail LaMantia, Bonnie Lamb, Donald Lynn, Tomas Marrugo, Hillary Marsh, Madi Meisenburg, Kylee Mullenbach, Nancy Olson, Kelvin Pitlik, Eric Radi, Russell Radowicz, Kaylin Reeb, Cindy Schultz, Skye Seymer, Tyler Sims, Kurtis Stapleton, Sharon Stapleton, Tracie Tappy, Anna VanPay, Rachel Viesselmann, Timothy Welch, Dana Wiedenbauer, Jayne Winblad. Carried, all.*

*r) Motion by Schaffer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dumas to approve Class A Beer/Liquor Successor Agent for liquor license period 7/1/25 to 6/30/2026: Indianhead Oil Co, LLC, DBA Circle K, 226 S Railroad, Tyer C Sims. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

*s) Direct Sellers Permit: Motion by Washelesky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schaffer to approve Direct Sellers Permit to Adrien K Kranz, Scott Brandenburg Seller, Nelsons Ace Parking Lot, Cheese, Honey and Maple Syrup, 6 month permit, approval and dates contingent on applicant submission of all required documents. Carried, all.*

*t) Motion by Schaffer, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Washelesky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Burkett to adjourn at 7:30PM. Carried, all.*

Becky J Bolte - Clerk