

February 10, 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 Dumas and was recited by all present.

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

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

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve the minutes of 1-13-26 Finance Committee and Common Council meetings. Carried, all.

a) MSA Monthly Updates: Phil Kriesel presented a written update including 2026 Streets Projects, stating MSA will be ready for the April bid dates. Mayor Brown requested attention be given to the spring restoration around Silver Lake Road 2025 road project, citing damaged areas from truck and equipment parking during the project.

b) Eagle River Light & Water: Sanborn provided a written update on two water main breaks, one on Illinois and Railroad, and one on Willow St. Nothing out of the ordinary to report on the electric side. Sanborn provided a written wastewater sludge update summarizing challenges with the sludge tank filling and inability to spread on private lands. Pat Morrow from MSA Engineering is working on a solution. Burkett offered to speak with Bob Richardson for a possible private location to spread sludge. Sanborn reported permission is only the first part of identifying spread sites as the DNR has limitations that must be adhered to.

c) Eagle River Department of Public Works:

Elm Drive Stump Dump – Future site recommendations: Ginner presented the misuse of the stump dump and the drain on DPW staff since opening the site for use by Town of Lincoln residents. Ginner recommended closing the Elm Drive Stump Dump to all private use. DPW Foreman Brad Adamovich presented an alternative to the stump dump; purchasing of a dumpster to be housed at the DPW Shop on Bluebird for City of Eagle River resident usage for yard waste. Discussion including dumpster placement is moving the same problem to a new location, concern of residents ability to physically dump bags into a dumpster, asking independent business to offer this service, and cost to physically staff the Elm Drive site for limited hours of operation. City staff is to continue to investigate options. No action.

Purchase of dump trailer to replace public access to Elm Drive Stump Dump: No action.

Request for reconsideration of three-way stop at Sheridan and Silver Lake Roads: Ginner presented that an accident occurred at the Trees for Tomorrow entrance and Sheridan on January 20, 2026. A vehicle coming from Silver Lake Road onto Sheridan struck a Trees for Tomorrow employees' car while they were trying to exit Tree Street with snowbank hindering her view. The exiting driver sustained numerous injuries. No citations were given, Chief Salvinski to speak with on site Patrol Sargent Adam Ross as to the details. Ginner requested Council consider the installation of a three way stop at the intersection of Sheridan and Silver Lake Road to slow traffic down. Ginner presented a list of safety concerns in that area including; limited visibility, traffic coming from Silver Lake Road from the East traveling at excessive speeds, extra pedestrian and bike presence along Silver Lake Road to and from the beach following the 2025 installation of a new sidewalk along Silver Lake, trailered boat traffic to and from T-docks, Trees for Tomorrow traveling with children to and from their facility, and large trucks traveling to and from quarry. Police Chief Salvinski stated stop signs don't stop speeding and that speed limit enforcement in that area is the best tool to be used. Washelesky not opposed to installation of stop signs. Burkett requested a formal request from Trees for Tomorrow to install stop signs at Sheridan and Silver Lake Road, adding a stop sign can't fix a snowbank causing visibility issues.

Burkett asked that residents in the proposed Silver Lake Road area be contacted on their opinions of adding a three way stop, as the accident did not happen at the intersection. Burkett asked Washelesky if he had any constituents in this District request a three way stop sign at the intersection. Schaffer reported Police Chief Dobbs reported at the 9-9-2025 Silver Lake Road 2025 road project discussion that no accidents had happened at this intersection. Schaffer added it will cause grief with the quarry trucks and agrees that an increase in police department speed enforcement is warranted. Schaffer added that the groundwork needs to be put in place before moving forward. Dumas is in favor of adding the stop signs but agrees that the proposal should come back to Council at the March meeting with additional information. No action.

d) Eagle River Golf Course Ginner presented the proposed 2026 seasonal restaurant and bar operator agreement including Michael and Peter Andersons proposal as submitted which included considerations requested by Andersons. Mayor Brown was in favor of accepting the proposal and was confident they would be a positive addition to the course. *Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Burkett to approve a 2026 one-season golf course restaurant lease as presented including applicant considerations to Michael E Anderson, Peter Anderson IV, and Angela Anderson for a term ending upon the official close of the 2026 regular golf season as determined by the City. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

e) Feral/Community Cat Population and implementation of Trap Neuter Return policy Bolte presented proposed Resolution 1074 approving Trap-Neuter-Return policy implementation and TNR program overview including partnership particulars with Northwoods Animal Hospital – Eagle River. In conjunction with implementation of the program, Bolte requested authorization to hire Lisa Bodamer as a trapper and feral cat transporter as a limited hour employee to minimize public works staff hours and secure workers compensation coverage. Program expenses have been appropriated in the 2026 Animal Control budget. Bolte requested a \$15/hour wage for limited hour hire with Burkett countering at \$20/hour.

Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Schaffer to adopt Resolution #1074 – Approving a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) policy for the humane management of the feral/community cat population within the city. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Burkett to authorize the limited hours hiring of Lisa Bodamer to assist in the TNR program at a rate of \$20/hr and authorizing use of city pickup truck as needed. Carried on a roll call vote, all.

Burkett committed to donating \$500 for 10 spays, and \$300 for 10 neuters from his annual salary.

f) Planning Commission: Schaffer updated Council on the Planning Commission recommendation to approve the Public Participation Plan Resolution in conjunction with the update to the Comprehensive Plan. Ginner presented Resolution #1073 – Adopting a Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the Comprehensive Plan Update reporting that North Central Regional Planning Commission will be providing professional guidance through this process. Kathryn Craffey from the audience presented concerns relating to the January 13, 2026, rezone of Riverside Park property from Recreational to Residential. Craffey believes the rezone was in violation of city ordinance and current Comprehensive Plan, requesting Council rezones the Riverside Park parcel back to recreational. Mayor reminded Council that Riverside rezone is not on the agenda so no action would be considered on that topic at this meeting. Mayor confirmed that North Central Regional Planning Commission is providing expertise to the update process, and they recommend the presented resolution verbiage creating a Public Participation Plan. *Motion by Washelesky, 2nd by Schaffer to adopt Resolution #1073 – adopting a Public Participation Plan in conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan update. Carried on a roll call vote, all.*

g) Street Closing/display of goods/event food trucks/temporary sign/amplification permits:

Motion by Dumas, 2nd by Schaffer to approve Temp Signs/Street banner for Cranberry Country Quilters Show, July 18, 2026, 10AM – 4PM at Northland Pines High School Auditorium, Temporary signs per map provided, Street Banner at Cemetery and Fairgrounds, Linda Ingebritson. Carried, all.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Washelesky to approve display of goods/amplifying device/temporary signs/no parking signs along W Riverview Drive, and Hwy 45 pedestrian crossing signs and cones to slow traffic: Eagle River Lions Club, Sausage Fest, Riverview Park reserved September 2 – 8 for setup/takedown of tents, Event - September 6, 2026, 11AM – 4PM, display of shirts, food, beer and music, Jerry Robish. Carried, all.

h) Operators Licenses: *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to approve Regular Operators Licenses to: Lisa Bodamer, Brett Jungwirth. Carried, all.*

i) Ordinance 602 - Staggering of Council terms: Mayor presented this again to address the possibility of having all Council members potentially flip at the same term. *Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to table Ordinance presentation until April Council meeting to allow for all Council members to be in physical attendance. Carried, all.*

j) *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. Ayes: Schaffer, Dumas, Mayor Brown Abstains: Burkett and Washelesky*

k) Police Department: Police Chief Tyler Salvinski prepared a monthly update on current departmental activities.

l) Administrator's monthly update on activities of all departments: Ginner provided a written update. Mayor Brown complimented Ginner on her January testimony to the State Legislative Committee expressing city opposition to Assembly Bill 885 and how it would weaken municipal extraterritorial authority.

Motion by Schaffer, 2nd by Dumas to adjourn at 7:05PM. Carried, all.

Becky J Bolte - Clerk