Committee of the Whole Minutes

The Committee of the Whole met at the City of Nekoosa Office

Location: Council Chambers, 951 Market St. Nekoosa, WI 54457

Time: Tuesday, October 27th, 2026, at 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mayor Daniel Carlson. The roll call was conducted by City Clerk Kallee Ferk.

Roll Call

Aldermen Present: Larry Krubsack, Alan Marcoux, Adam Buehring, Michael Kumm, Anthony Carlson, Dan Downing, and Brad Hamilton.

Also in attendance was Jon Trautman – CPA with CLA, Mike Hartje – Fire Chief, Rick Schmidt – Public Works Director, and Darla Allen – Library Director.

Attendance via Zoom: Garett Kuhn – Ward 4 Alderman, Shawn Woods – Police Chief, and Bobbi Hertzberg – Treasurer.

Discussion and possible action on the City of Nekoosa 2027 budget with Jon Trautman – CPA from Clifton Larson Allen.

Recommend taking the TIF 1 and 2 city returns and putting it aside as restricted fund balance from the general fund.
Jon Trautman reviewed the proposed 2027 budget and provided an update on the City's financial position since the August committee meeting. Following the decisions made at that meeting, the budget had been balanced. However, anticipated retirements and upcoming wage negotiations created additional financial obligations, resulting in a projected deficit that required further consideration by the Committee.

Regarding the anticipated wage increase, Trautman noted that the City could potentially increase the Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) revenue projection to help offset the additional expenditure. However, with three anticipated retirements in 2027, a remaining deficit of approximately $125,000 was identified. After discussion, the Committee agreed to cover this amount directly from the General Fund, as the expense had not been included in the original budget projections. Trautman explained that this would be possible using funds made available to the City through the closure of TIF Districts 1 and 2.

Trautman also presented the option of designating these funds as a restricted fund balance, to be used exclusively for future sick leave payouts. He noted that the City's current sick leave policy continues to create an estimated additional liability of approximately $50,000 annually. He recommended that the City review the existing policy and consider potential revisions to reduce the long-term financial liability to a more manageable level.

The Committee agreed to review the sick leave policy and utilize the restricted fund balance strategy to help address anticipated sick leave payout obligations associated with future retirements. With these decisions in place, Trautman stated that the 2027 budget would once again be balanced, with a proposed total property tax levy of $1,297,340.

The Committee agreed to have the proposed budget published in the newspaper on November 2, 2026, and scheduled the public hearing for final budget consideration on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm