

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY OF WISCONSIN DELLS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING ~ 300 LA CROSSE STREET
WISCONSIN DELLS, WI 53965
June 30, 2026

Chairperson Anchor called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Notice of the meeting was provided to the *Dells Events*, WNNO Radio, and posted in accordance with State Statutes.

1. Present: Ald. Dan Anchor, Ald. Troy Ryan, Ald. Ben Anderson and Mayor Wojnicz
 Absent: -

 Others: City Administrator Karen Terry, Police Chief Nick Brinker, Kilbourn Fire Assistant Chief Dustin Jensen, Kilbourn Fire Inspector Jerry Wolfram, Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector Kheli Mason, Code Enforcement Officer Daniel Delmore, Ald. Brian Holzem, City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa McClyman, City Attorney Joe Hasler, and Police Administrative Assistant Brianna Sanner
2. Motion by Mayor Wojnicz, seconded by Ald. Ryan, to approve the June 8, 2026 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Kilbourn Fire Assistant Chief Dustin Jensen and Fire Inspector Jerry Wolfram presented a brief update on fire department:
 - One new department member as of last month.
 - The new fire truck is still estimated to take two years to arrive.
 - Department has responded to 182 calls for service thus far this year.
 - Fire Inspector has completed 232 inspections thus far this year.
4. Police Chief Nick Brinker presented a brief update on the police department:
 - Fully staffed with one officer on military leave now expected to return in November.
 - Two newest officers, Leda Wagner and Mark Smit, started last week.
 - Plan to have interviews in August for a detective position with a start once the officer on military leave returns.
 - WDPD officers recently assisted other area police departments with their local festivals, such as Butterfest (Reedsburg), Canal Days (Portage) and Baraboo Circus Parade (Baraboo), in reciprocation of their mutual aid during Automotion and Wo-Zha-Wa.
 - Monthly reports are not currently available due to IT issues but it is being corrected and should be available again soon.
 - Interactions with Elm Street Plaza have been going smoothly this year.
 - Department's current phone systems are antiquated and much more complex than is necessary now that dispatch services have moved to the county. The new system Gordon Flesch is proposing will be less complicated, allow a smoother transition for calls going to Columbia Co Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center and will also have a direct line to dispatch phone in the department lobby.
5. Police Chief Nick Brinker gave a brief overview of Automotion 2026. Chief Brinker stated overall it was one of the better years. Columbia Co Sheriff's Office Dispatch were on site with their Command Trailer and are planning to utilize this again next year. Road closures and re-routing of traffic was utilized only on Saturday night from 10:00pm to Midnight. Chief Brinker stated this did help to empty out the downtown area. He stated he believes the rainy weather also assisted. Chief Brinker supplied some statistics from the event weekend:
 - 333 municipal citations issued

- 209 of those municipal citations were issued by mutual aid officers
- 545 total calls for service
- 235 of those calls mutual aid officers either assisted or handled

Chief Brinker advised the high fine amounts and mandatory court appearances appear to be having the desired effect as there was a decrease in repeat offenders this year.

6. Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector Kheli Mason presented her concerns in regard to the state of Top Hat Motel, 812 River Rd, Wisconsin Dells, WI. She advised this property, and the River Road Motel property, were both bought by the current owner in 2021. Mason stated she is bringing the property issues at Top Hat Motel to the Public Safety Committee due to police and fire calls being part of the issue. Mason stated DATCP (Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) has also been involved over the years regarding the issues at this property. She stated the owner of the property has repeatedly refused to cooperate and there is well documented non-compliance. Mason advised there have been repeated issues with failure to acquire work permits. Mason advised when work permit applications are submitted, they are often incomplete. Mason gave an example of her having to contact the owner to obtain the name of an electrician working on property he failed to put down on the work permit. She advised it was subsequently discovered that the electrician's license was expired. The Fire Inspector along with the Planning and Zoning Department have already had the business shut down due to non-compliance in regard to the fire alarm system and plumbing issues. Mason advised the plumbing issues are extensive and the whole system needs replacement. Additionally, there are also structural and electrical issues. Mason acknowledged there are additional complications due to the property owner having a large amount of fees due to the city. In accordance with city ordinance, no permits will be issued if there are outstanding fees owed to the city. City Attorney Hasler agreed with Mason that a comprehensive evaluation of the property needs to be completed to determine if it is more than 50% of the assessed value to move forward with a raze order. Atty. Hasler also suggested the city require the owner to supply proof of financial capability to make the necessary repairs if they desire to remediate. Mason confirmed the city is currently contracted with General Engineering.

Motion by Mayor Wojnicz, seconded Ald. Anderson to hire General Engineering to complete a top-to-bottom inspection to determine cost to bring the building up to functionality, require proof of financials by owner to handle the repair costs and rectify debts owed to the city. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector Kheli Mason presented her concerns in regard to the state of the private residence located at 825 Capital St, Wisconsin Dells, WI. Mason advised the property issues are being brought to the Public Safety Committee due to the issues heavily involving fire safety and the safety of emergency responders. Mason advised the current resident is the elderly mother of the property owner. Her previous residence, 1020 Capital St, was razed due to similar but more severe issues. Mason presented photos of the exterior and interior of the residence. The photos depicted deterioration of the building and an excessively large amount of personal property being hoarded from floor to ceiling throughout the house including the attic. Mason advised there are only very small and narrow trails between the piles for walking and maneuvering. Mason and Fire Inspector Wolfram expressed safety concerns for the resident and anyone else entering the residence due to the threat of the hoarding piles falling on them. They stated they had spoken with the resident previously about emergency responders not being able to get a stretcher and other equipment to her or her out of the building effectively and safely should the need arise. Mason and Wolfram both expressed major concerns in regard to fire safety and fire load. Mason stated she did not see any incendiary materials but cannot say there are none buried in the piles. However, the large amount of property alone would fuel an extremely large fire should there be one. The potential

size of a building fire at the residence would put at risk several neighboring houses and possibly the downtown area buildings as well. Mason and Wolfram also expressed major concerns for any responding emergency services as they would be hindered and endangered by the already stressed structural load on the building, the potential of falling hoard piles, restricted maneuverability, potential fire size, etc. Mason expressed concern for the building's structural load likely being surpassed at this time which could lead to issues up to and including building collapse. She requested to have General Engineering complete a structural analysis of the load. Mason advised she would like remediation rather than a raze. She advised the property owner had expressed a desire to handle remediation himself, but he does not live in the area and does not believe he is capable. Wolfram stated he worked with Human Services prior with little-to-no long term change. City Attorney Hasler noted it appears the house is primarily being used as a warehouse, against area zoning, rather than the original intended use as a residence. He suggested, based on the presented safety concerns, that an expert be hired for a complete top-to-bottom inspection of the property to determine if it is inhabitable and/or safe to access. Mason confirmed the city is currently contracted with General Engineering for these types of inspections.

Motion by Mayor Wojnicz, seconded Ald. Anderson to close the property until a top-to-bottom inspection is complete to prove inhabitable and safely accessible. Motion carried unanimously.

8. No items for referral.

9. Motion by Ald. Anderson seconded by Ald. Ryan to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'B. Sanner', written over a horizontal line.

Brianna Sanner, Police Administrative Assistant