Regular Meeting Minutes of the Fountain City Common Council
Wednesday August 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Ben Adank. Roll call: Stephen Qualy, Peter Schaffner, Barb Schmidtknecht, Mike Adank, Scott Feraro, Christine Williamson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Citizen Appearance/Public Comment

Citizens expressed concerns about having the library in the basement, noting that in 1938 the basement was underwater approximately six feet. Citizens are worried the library could flood again and would like the Council to consider moving the library to the media room on the third floor. The size of the space was discussed. It was suggested that the community room could be then moved to the basement.
Mayor Ben Adank suggested that the city seeks the Library Board's thoughts and support on this. If the Library Board agrees, the matter could be brought to the Planning Committee and Finance Committee. If the Library Board supports the idea and the square footage wise, the city could then look at it from a facilities perspective to determine if it is something that could be done logistically.

Minutes

Motion made by P. Schaffner, second by M. Adank to approve minutes from July 8, 2026,
Motion carried 6-0.

Public Works Department

Monthly inspections and equipment maintenance were completed at the wastewater plant. Fire hydrants were painted, brush mowing was completed, and the Liberty Street project was completed.
Progress was discussed regarding electronic meter reading. Meters will be discussed at the next Public Works Committee meeting as well as Finance, as quotes are a bit higher than anticipated.
The DNR water inspection was completed. There is no final report yet, but the person who conducted the inspection indicated that it went well without concern. Normal cross-connection inspections are also being completed.
The Council discussed risks associated with water systems that were hacked in Minnesota. The City has seen lots of notes from the Wisconsin DNR regarding this issue and has checked with the City's engineering firm. The engineering firm indicated that the city is okay. The city has done its due diligence, and the engineering firm said the city is not at risk as far as they can tell.

Public Works Utility Committee

The Public Works Utility Committee will meet on August 25. Highway 35 will be the largest part of the discussion. Sidewalks and curbs on Highway 35 were discussed. Street sweeping was not done, and signs and cones are still in place.

Finance and Administration Committee

The audit was not delivered and will be reviewed at the next meeting in September.
Communication with FCBC regarding the Band Shell project was discussed.
Policies that have been introduced are being reviewed, including initiating a review of the paid time off policy, which would be a change from what is currently in the handbook.
The city did not move forward with the donation request from Friends of Lake Pepin.

DOT invoices were reviewed and updated. Updating the Wi-Fi at City Hall was discussed. The Cintas rug proposal will not move forward, with the city purchasing rugs from Menards instead.

Economic Development

Masquerade Ball invitations have been sent to print. The city is going to do every-door direct mail, going out in late August and early September.

The idea of a non-volunteer office or individual approach was discussed. Mike talked to an individual from Cassville to look at how the city would like to look five years from now. More information will be coming on that.

Regarding Pig Island Overlook, the city is working with Jake on how to repair this and is taking steps for improvement.

A way-finding sign by the docks was discussed. More information will be provided in the future.

An update was provided on Library Board scheduled interviews. The bylaws were approved, and the city is working with Marcia on the furniture and making sure they abide by the deadline.

The city contacted UW for help to get a more detailed plan for the park and where the future sites are for the fountains in the city.

Planning, Zoning and Community Development

The committee is compiling a list of items that has been neglected and they will address them at the next meeting.

Flexible Facilities Program

The project looks nice. The Dutch door is being remade because it was the wrong size. Lockers are in and they look great and should be ready to go for bowlers in November.

A pipe from the drainage under the sidewalk was broken, leaking, and causing issues. The contractor will remove the concrete and dig down a foot or two to see what they find. The contractor wants to determine why there is water seeping into the basement.

There are 164 punch list items to address on a walkthrough of the auditorium.

Mayor's Report

The Fountain City Fire Association meeting was held on July 28. An easement with Rick Duellman for old Bishop Street and the Fire Station was discussed so he could share the road and drainage system that was put in. Rick wants the easement to state that the Fire Association will maintain it going forward. It is reviewed with Rick and is expected to be finalized in January.

At the Fire Association Meeting a pump failure in Unit 216 was discussed. The cost of repairing is between $10,000 and $20,000. There is an equipment fund available for the unit. Peter communicated that the cost had doubled to $40,000. There will need to be a discussion on how that will be paid since they will not have enough in their equipment fund. Budgetary items were discussed. The pay scale increase of 3.5% for the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Secretary, and Treasurer went up from a combined $7,471.00 to $7,733.00. Incident pay is going from $22.35 to $23.24. The budget remains flat at $60,000.00 and the assessment remains flat at $15,000 for 2026-2027.

At the weekly team meeting, it was decided to close Pig Island due to safety concern. A public works worker fell through the floorboard but was not hurt. The city will be getting quotes with Scott for repairs.

The Liberty Street Paving Project is complete, and street sweeping will begin tomorrow.

S. Qualy questioned the lateral being added on Liberty Street and who paid for it. It was the property owner who paid for it, and he had to restore it to its original condition.

Old Business
None.

New Business
Mayor Ben Adank recused himself from this discussion. Barb Schmidtknecht, Common Council President, took over the meeting.
Discussion was held regarding approval of Alex's project with the help of Economic Development to help them understand why Alex could not attend the meeting. S. Feraro let the Council know how good of a job Alex did when he appeared before the Economic Development Committee Meeting
The cost will be $200 a year going forward, which can come out of the boat launch money. Alex has a physical plan and means of donation funding and the volunteers to help construct this project.
There were some questions regarding the cost of the life jackets and how he can get them at such a low cost.
Motion made by P. Schaffner, second by S. Qualy to approve Alex Adank's project of Boat Landing Life Jacket Loaner Station at the Lower Landing. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by B. Schmidtknecht, second by S. Qualy to renew the 100 Fund Old National Bank CD for $69,568 which Matures August 22, 2026, for 11 Month at 3.93%. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by B. Schmidtknecht, second by S. Feraro to renew the 800 Permanent Cemetery Fund CD on August 30, 2026, in the Amount of $89,800 and open a new CD in the amount of $27,693 for the 100 General Fund for the 11 Months at 3.93%. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by S. Feraro, second by S. Qualy to approve the wording of the Referendum Ballot Question pending legal review and potential alteration of titles. Motion carried 6-0

Motion made by P. Schaffner, second by S. Feraro to approve the Operator's License for Amelia Grace Wellner, Alexandryia "Alexis" Sue Ryan, Brooke Nicole Oteterson-Engel. Motion carried 6-0.

Motion made by P. Schaffner, second by S. Qualy to approve the Flexible Facility Change Order Request #34 in the amount of $2,565 for 3 Door Closures and 5 Smoke Seals. Motion carried 6-0.

The Finance Committee presented a quote of $20 per I Pad ($120 per month) with a 3-year contract. This will save on printing costs and staff time printing. The benefits were discussed. Some members may need training, but it would be worth it for future savings on printing. Council members will also be able to join in a meeting remotely with the I Pad. Motion made by S. Feraro, second by B. Schmidtknecht to move forward with the I Pads for the Common Council Members with the caveat that we will check in on accessory pricing. B. Schmidtknecht, S. Feraro, M. Adank, & S. Qualy voted yay. P. Schaffner & C. Williamson voted nay. Motion carried 4-2.

Motion made by P. Schaffner, second by C. Williamson to approve the picnic license for the Fireman's Dance. Motion carried. 6-0.

Discussion was made for the special event permit for the Main Street Dance on August 15, 2026, that if it rains then the dance can be moved into the auditorium. Motion made by S. Feraro, second by B. Schmidtknecht to approve the special event for the street dance 2026 with the addition of the potential of moving it to the auditorium pending the approval of the contractor. Motion carried 6-0.

Accounts Payable

Motion made by P. Schaffner, second by S. Feraro to pay the bills excluding the Wisconsin Department of Transportation Highway 35 Project Bill. Motion carried 6-0

Adjourn

Motion made by S. Feraro second by B. Schmidtknecht to adjourn at 7:19 pm. Motion carried 6-0.