COMMISSION ON PUBLIC WORKS/UTILITIES
COUNCIL ROOM, CITY HALL
OCTOBER 13, 2026
6:45 P.M.

The Commission on Public Works/Utilities met in regular session, Chair Clough presiding. On roll call: all members present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared approved.

Chair Clough read Director of Public Works Friemoth's report on no cremations and two full burials at the Cemetery, completed set up and tear down for the Autumn Harvest Festival, weed trimming, mulching leaves clean-up of sticks, garbage and other debris from the Cemetery, finished up the repairs to the Listeman Arboretum walking bridge, prepping pothole patches throughout town, hauling brush and compost, equipment maintenance, street sweeping and getting ready for leaf pickup, Water Department-daily testing and well rounds, utility locates, scheduling meter change outs, exercising valves on the equipment, installed dehumidifier at the treatment plant, working with CBS Squared on the Pilot Study and planning Well #1 rehab, Sewer Department-daily testing and lift station rounds, lift station inspection and maintenance, took soil samples for field applications of sludge.

Chair Clough announced that Director Friemoth is anticipating starting leaf pickup sometime late next week, following a good frost. They will try to wait until most of the leaves have fallen before beginning , as the process is time-consuming and we want to make the most efficient use of our resources. The fuel budget will be very tight this year and they are doing what they can to control costs and improve efficiency; however, much of their work relies heavily on equipment and fuel, which limits our ability to reduce expenses significantly.

Chair Clough also stated that a dumpster will be delivered on October 19, 2026, for bulky items as in the past. It will remain available until it is full, at which point it will be removed. This service is for the City of Neillsville residents only; please note that the area is monitored by security cameras

Jerilyn St. Amand asked how long the dumpster will be there but then realized that it was listed in the ad.

Motion Poeschel, second Neville, to adjourn. All Aye.

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Daniel M. Clough, Chair

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Debbie Winder, Clerk

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COMMON COUNCIL
COUNCIL ROOM
OCTOBER 13, 2026
7:00 P.M.

The Common Council met in regular session, Mayor Poeschel presiding. On roll call: all members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the previous meeting were declared approved.

Council Member Petkovsek reported on the September 22, 2026 meeting of the Grants Committee regarding: 1) updates on Ad Hoc Technology Committee meeting on September 15, 2026 with discussion held but no action taken, 2) updates on housing loan programs with Erpenbach being added to the work group, 3) resignation of Jill Neville so

she can focus on her work with the School District, 4) updates on grant applications that are in progress and review of possible grant opportunities and 5) discussion of open Committee positions with names being forwarded to Erpenbach as soon as possible.

Council Member Clough reported on the September 24, 2026 meeting of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners regarding: 1) current activities, 2) receiving and approval of a bench donation request from the family of Mason Barth to place a granite bench they provide in the Cemetery, 3) updates on the Columbarium project, 4) approval of and recommendation to the Common Council to authorize a 33% down payment to start work on the Columbarium as presented, 5) approval of and recommendation to the Common Council to authorize the installation of the concrete base and pathways now with cost not to exceed $6,000 and to wait until the Spring for the crane, 6) work on and referral of the 2027 Cemetery budget to the Finance Committee and 7) approval of and recommendation to the Common Council to allow the transfer and reconveyance from Martha Appleyard of Grave 2, Lot 44, Division AA, E ½ , Map of 1969 to return the grave to the City of Neillsville at the original purchase price of $500.00.

Mayor Poeschel reported on the September 30, 2026, October 7 and 13, 2026 meetings of the Finance Committee regarding: 1) presentation of department budgets; 2) work on the 2027 budget; 3) adoption of the Wage Schedule for 2027 excluding the Police Officers, 4) recommendation of budget categories and levy amount of the 2027 budget to the Common Council for Public Hearing, Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at 7:15 P.M. Total Budget $3,946,186

Council Member Petkovsek reported on the October 6, 2026 meeting of the Personnel Committee regarding: 1) discussion on and approval of providing Police Department Extra Help (Utility) position with retirement benefits, 2) a closed session on Heavy Equipment Operator/Water and Wastewater Operator position and Union contract negotiations with the Neillsville Police Association, 3) reconvening into open session, 4) the recommendation to the Common Council to transfer Ronald Stankey from Heavy Equipment Operator/Water and Wastewater Second Utility Operator position to Heavy Equipment Operator/Water and Wastewater First Utility Operator position and to advertise for the Second Operator position.

Council Member Clough reported on the October 13, 2026 meeting of the Commission on Public Works/Utilities regarding current activities.

Mayor Poeschel declared all reports filed as presented with the City Clerk.

Jerilyn St. Amand stated that she wanted to make sure we understood her comments from the last Common Council meeting and that we do not cut the Police Department budget.

Mayor Poeschel stated that the first item on the agenda is a donation of a bicycle rack.

Clerk Winder stated that Judy Zickert is here on behalf of Neillsville Improvement Corporation (NIC) to donate a bicycle rack that was donated from another individual and the proposed location for it is in the lower Downtown parking lot across from JJ’s Drippy Creek at the corner of W. Sixth Street and West Street; this way it will be out of the way for plowing.

Chief of Police James Mankowski asked how it is to be mounted.

Clerk Winder stated that Director Friemoth plans to bolt it to the asphalt.

Motion Gelhaus, second Pavlac, to approve the donation of a bicycle rack from Neillsville Improvement Corporation on behalf of another individual for the lower Downtown parking lot across from JJ’s Drippy Creek at the corner of W. Sixth Street and West Street. All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel asked if there were any questions on the Board of Cemetery Commissioners items (1, 2 and 3).

Motion Neville, second Clough, to accept the recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to authorize the installation of the concrete base and pathways now with the cost not to exceed $6,000 and the crane to be used in the Spring. All Aye.

Motion Gelhaus, second Pavlac, to accept the recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to authorize a 33% down payment to start work on the Columbarium as presented. All Aye.

Motion Petkovsek, second Pavlac, to accept the recommendation of the Board of Cemetery Commissioners to allow the transfer and reconveyance from Martha Appleyard of Grave 2, Lot 44, Division AA, E ½ , Map of 1969 to return the grave to the City of Neillsville at the original purchase price of $500.00. All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel asked if there were any questions on the Personnel Committee item (1).

Motion Clough, second Gelhaus, to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee transfer Ronald Stankey from the Heavy Equipment Operator/Water and Wastewater Operator-Second Utility Operator to Heavy Equipment Operator/Water and Wastewater Operator-First Utility Operator and to advertise for the Heavy Equipment Operator/Water and Wastewater Operator-Second Utility position. All Aye.

Mayor Poeschel stated that we are removing the second Personnel Committee item from the agenda as the Police Union Contract negotiations have not yet been finalized.

Chief of Police Mankowski reported on trainings, squad car maintenance, parking enforcement, citations, warnings, office activity, officer activities, officer assists, business patrols and contract policing.

City Clerk Winder reported that the City of Neillsville website has undergone an upgrade and we are in the process of learning the new site and asks that residents bear with us but feel free to go online and check it out.

Council Member Clough stated that he has had several people come up to him and provide him with some feedback regarding the new site.

Motion Neville, second Clough, that City Bills Nos. 898 to 948 in the amount of $633,812.00 be paid. All Aye.

Motion Pavlac, second Gelhaus, to adjourn. All Aye.

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Duane G. Poeschel, Mayor

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Debbie Winder, Clerk

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