



City of Fort Atkinson
City Manager's Office
101 N. Main Street
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
IN PERSON AND VIA ZOOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024 – 7:00 PM
CITY HALL – SECOND FLOOR**

MINUTES

1. Call meeting to order

President Lescohier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll call

Present: Cm. Becker, Cm. Jaeckel, Cm. Johnson, Cm. Schultz and President Lescohier. Also present: City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk/Treasurer, City Engineer, Park & Recreation Director, Library Director and Fire Chief.

3. Public Hearings

None.

4. Public Comment

John Hausz, 104 Jefferson Street - referenced an electric vehicle that the Council had authorized the purchase of at the Council's last meeting and inquired on electric blankets used to distinguish vehicle fires. He referenced a vehicle fire in California. He also questioned buying another Ambulance.

Ron Martin, 409 Nadig Drive - He questioned the Council Agenda that includes purchase of a new Ambulance. He asked how it fits into the referendum and if another referendum will occur in the future.

5. Consent Agenda

Cm. Jaeckel moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. *Review and possible action relating to the **minutes of the August 27, 2024 Plan Commission meeting** (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- b. *Review and possible action relating to the **minutes of the September 3, 2024 City Council meeting** (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- c. *Review and possible action relating to the **minutes of the September 10, 2024 Finance***

Committee meeting (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)

- d. *Review and possible action relating to **building, plumbing, and electrical permit report for August 2024** (Draeger, Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator)*
- e. *Review and possible action relating to the City Clerk-issued **License and Permit Report for August 2024** (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- f. *Review and possible action relating to **City Sewer, Water, and Stormwater Utility Financial Statements** as of August 31, 2024 (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- g. *Review and possible action on a **Special Event: Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, Saturday, September 28, 2024, 4:00- 8:30 pm** (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- h. *Review and possible action on a **Special Event: Haunted Hike Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 and Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024 from 6 to 9 pm at Haumerson's Pond** (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- i. *Review and possible action on a **Special Event: Rotary Wine Walk Friday, Oct. 11, 2024, from 4:30-8:30 pm in downtown Fort Atkinson** (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*
- j. *Review and possible action relating to the **Citizen Appointment of Wyatt Cooper** to the Economic Development Commission (Houseman, City Manager)*

6. Petitions, Requests, and Communications

- a. *Presentation on the Summer Aquatic Center season (Dayton, Director of Parks and Recreation)*
Park & Recreation Director Dayton gave a presentation on the 2024 Aquatic Center. No action was taken.

7. Resolutions and Ordinances

- a. *Review and possible action relating to a Resolution **requesting exemption from the County Library Tax** for the City of Fort Atkinson (Houseman, City Manager)*
Manager Houseman discussed that the Jefferson County Board has established a County Library Service and levies a County Library Tax. State Statutes provide that a municipality is exempt from this County Library Tax if the municipality levies a minimum amount for public library services. Annually, in September, the County calculates the minimum levy for municipalities to qualify for this exemption. In August, the City received the attached letter from the Jefferson County Finance Department reminding the City of the minimum appropriation to the Dwight Foster Public Library in order to be exempt from paying the County Library Tax. Per the attached documentation and statutory calculation, the City is required to appropriate at least \$292,719 to the Dwight Foster Public Library to be exempt from the tax. The City is proposing to levy \$624,000 in property taxes to fund Library operations in 2025. This amount exceeds the minimum appropriation for exemption from the County Library Tax. The proposed amount to be levied (\$624,000) represents an increase of \$8,000 over the 2024 levied amount of \$616,000, or 1.3%.

Cm. Schultz moved, seconded by Cm. Becker to adopt the Resolution requesting exemption from the County Library Tax and direct the City Clerk to provide copies of the Resolution to the County Clerk and the Jefferson County Library Council Administrator. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Reports of Officers, Boards, and Committees

- a. City Manager's Report (Houseman, City Manager)*
No action was taken.

9. Unfinished Business

None.

10. New Business

- a. Review and possible action relating to the repair of Fort Atkinson Fire Department Tender 8192 at a cost between \$16,000 and \$18,000 (Peterson, Fire Chief)*

Chief Peterson stated that Tender 8192 is a vital piece of equipment for the fire department, carrying 3,000 gallons of water. In 2018, to extend the life of the 1994 vehicle and repair the leaking stainless steel tank, the vehicle was outfitted with a plastic liner inside the steel tank. However, during a recent training session, a leak was discovered in the tank, and the dump chutes were found to be misaligned. The vehicle was returned to the original repair vendor, Stainless & Repair Inc., in Marshfield, WI. Upon inspection, a more significant issue was identified with numerous broken welds in the interior tank baffles. To address this problem, the rear steel cover must be removed, and all interior welds must be re-welded. This issue is likely a result of poor workmanship by a subcontractor who is no longer in business. Additionally, the original vendor has changed ownership, and the 1-year warranty has expired. If approved, the repair is anticipated to take approximately two weeks. Peterson added that Staff has discussed all available options for the repair of Tender 8192. If the vehicle is not repaired, the department would be left with only one 3,000-gallon tender in operation. This is not aligned with the Department's response plan, which includes having two tenders available for all non-hydrated areas. A single tender would also eliminate availability of a backup tender for mutual aid or when the primary tender is out of service for repairs. Staff consulted the City's Attorney to review options for legal recourse and determined that the tank is beyond the 1-year warranty provided by the vendor and the 30-year warranty from the subcontractor is now null and void due to the subcontractor's dissolution.

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to approve the inner tank liner repair for Fire Department Tender 8192 at a cost between \$16,000 and \$18,000 with S&R Truck, LLC in Marshfield. Motion carried unanimously.

- b. *Review and possible action relating to the **purchase of a new Fire Department ambulance** from Foster Coach Sales, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$378,948 (Peterson, Fire Chief)*

Chief Peterson stated that Ambulance 8157, a 2004 GMC Kodiak ambulance, was purchased in 2022 in anticipation of the department taking over full-time EMS coverage. This was purchased with the intent of being the "ready reserve" ambulance, meaning it would be the third ambulance in the fleet, used only as needed. According to NFPA guidelines, ambulances have an expected life span of 15 years, factoring in the high levels of use, extended idle time, and the resulting wear and tear. Ambulance 8157 has now been in service for over 20 years. The Department's five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) originally scheduled this ambulance for replacement in 2026. However, delivery times for emergency vehicles have drastically increased, and if a new ambulance is ordered in September 2024, the earliest estimated delivery date is January 2027. The purchase of this ambulance will maintain the department's fleet of three ambulances; two front line responses and one in ready reserve status. If approved for purchase and upon receipt, the new ambulance will go into front line status and be the first vehicle out. This will be done for the first year to find any issues before any warranties expire. After that, the ambulances are rotated every few months to keep the mileage down on the newest vehicle and exercise all the ambulances. When the new ambulance is received and put into service, staff will either recommend that the Council declare Ambulance 8157 surplus and attempt to sell it or consider converting the vehicle into a specialty rig such as a rehab unit, water rescue unit, or command van. Peterson noted the total cost for the new ambulance is \$378,948, which includes the remounting feature designed to extend the vehicle's service life and maximize its long-term value. It is important to note that this proposal does not cover additional capital equipment required for the ambulance. These items include a patient cot (\$42,994), CPR device (\$21,500), a patient stair chair (\$9,901), and an EKG machine (\$55,000), which have been included in the five-year CIP for purchase in 2026. This vehicle comes with a 3-year warranty on the body, a 7-year/100,000-mile warranty on the electrical system, and a 7-years/84,000 miles on the paint.

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Johnson to recommend the purchase of the ambulance from Foster Coach Sales, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$378,948, to be funded through the anticipated 2026 general obligation borrowing and paid for upon receipt in 2027. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Miscellaneous

None.

12. Claims, Appropriations and Contract Payments

- a. *Review and possible action relating to the **Verified Claims** presented by the Director of Finance and authorization of payment (Ebbert, Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director)*

Cm. Jaeckel moved, seconded by Cm. Schultz to approve the list of Verified Claims as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Adjournment

Cm. Becker moved, seconded by Cm. Jaeckel to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Ebbert
City Clerk/Treasurer/Finance Director