



MINUTES

Common Council Special Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 5:30PM

City Hall, 410 E Leffler Street, Dodgeville, WI

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hottmann at 5:30pm. Members present: Shaun Sersch, Roxanne Reynolds-Lair, Tom DeVoss, Jeff “Potsie” Weber, Mike Olson, Jerry Johnson, Julie Johnson-Solberg, Larry Tremelling. Others present: Dan Meuer (Dodgeville Resident), Steve DeMuth (Dodgeville Resident), Lisa Borne (Dodgeville Resident), Dylan Wadzinski (Direct of Public Works), Brandon Wilhelm (Dodgeville Police Chief)

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT *Citizen or delegation presentations, requests or comments and discussion of same, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.83 (2) and Sec. 19.84 (2). Ten minute limit except by consent of council. No action will be taken on any item that is not specifically listed on the agenda.*

There was no public comment

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Discussion of the City’s 2026 budget

Mayor Hottmann began the discussion of the City’s 2026 budget by saying that \$30,000 of budget dollars were moved from Mayors wages to help fund the additional programs that were requested by Council Member Reynolds-Lair, including the Seniors United for Nutrition (SUN) program, Dodgeville Senior Citizens, LTD, and Iowa County Historical Society. Mayor Hottmann noted that he has been working with Ehlers on the creation of the 2026 budget and has verified with them that expenditure restraint was met. Mayor Hottmann also noted that no major changes had been made to the 2026 budget from the December 2nd preliminary review of this budget. Lastly, Council member Johnson-Solberg clarified that the mayor wages noted on the 2026 budget were for the City Administrator and part-time Mayor role.

2. Public comment regarding the City’s 2026 budget

During Public comment regarding the City’s 2026 budget, Dodgeville resident Steve DeMuth addressed the council with several concerns about the budget, including the line item for leisure activities and asking what this was. Mayor Hottmann stated that this was for items within the city such as parks, recreation programs, swimming pool, etc. During public comment, DeMuth asked about local property taxes and why they were increasing. Mayor Hottmann and other council members confirmed that the reasoning for the increase in property taxes was for recent borrowing to help cover expenses for the library project, New City Hall, road work on East Fountain Street, road work on Washington Street, the purchase of a new

ambulance, etc. Lastly, DeMuth asked about the General Obligation Debt at \$13.9 million. Mayor Hottmann and other council members stated that in 2024, the General Obligation Debt for the city was a little over \$6 million, and that with the recent borrowing in 2025, this added an additional \$8 million, totaling approximately \$14 million.

Dan Meuer (Dodgeville resident) addressed the Common council with several concerns, including the percentage at which the city can borrow, and asking if there would be a cost savings in YTD expenses for 2025 due to not filling the clerk/treasurer role. Mayor Hottmann noted that the maximum the city can borrow to reach their 75% borrow is \$35 million. Mayor Hottmann also noted that there may be a cost savings in YTD expenses due to not filling the clerk/treasurer role, but Mayor Hottmann was unsure at this time, due to payouts that were made to the city's previous Director of Public Works.

Lisa Borne (Dodgeville resident) addressed the Common Council with a few concerns as well, including the status of the Clerk/Treasurer role. Council members who also sit on the Admin & Personnel committee stated that A&P is looking to create a City Administrator role with part-time Mayor role. Once this City Administrator role with part-time Mayor role has been finalized, the A&P committee will re-evaluate the role of the Clerk/Treasurer. Other concerns that Borne addressed to the council was who put the 2026 budget together, and also when 2025 tax statements would be sent out. Mayor Barry Hottmann informed Borne that the 2026 budget was put together based on information received from department heads, and then was reviewed multiple times at Common Council and Finance Committee meetings. Regarding 2025 taxes, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Wolfe informed Borne that final numbers for the 2025 tax statements were dependent on the final budget being approved at the December 9th Special Council Meeting. Once the budget was approved, the final numbers would be submitted to Iowa County Treasurer, and then would be reviewed again by Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Wolfe and Iowa County Treasurer Heisner, prior to statements being printed and mailed. Wolfe's hope was to have statements mailed out by December 20th or earlier.

3. Adjourn the Public Hearing

Motion by DeVoss, second by Sersch to adjourn Public Hearing. Roll Call Vote 8-0. Motion carried.

V. NEW BUSINESS

4. Discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2025-12: Approving the 2026 Budget and Setting the Tax Levy

Motion by DeVoss, second by Sersch to approve Resolution 2025-12: Approving the 2026 Budget and Setting the Tax Levy. Roll Call vote 7-1. Motion carried.

VI. ADJOURN

5. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by DeVoss, second by Johnson. Voice vote 8-0. Motion carried.

Time: 5:49pm

