



PUBLIC NOTICE

Finance Committee

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers, 410 E Leffler St, Dodgeville,

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AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.

Members present: Sersch, DeVoss, Johnson-Solberg

Also present: Chief Cushman, Chief Wilhelm and Mayor Hottmann

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from January 13, 2026.

Motion by DeVoss; Seconded by Johnson-Solberg; motion carried 3-0

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

2. Discussion and possible recommendation to the common council to consider multiple officer positions for DPD.

Discussion:

Vacancy exists following officer resignation in November

Two strong candidates identified after recruitment challenges

Chief proposed options:

Hire one full-time officer (current budgeted position)

Hire two full-time officers (proactive staffing approach)

Combination of full-time + part-time

Rationale:

Long hiring/training timeline (~1 year)

Ongoing turnover (approx. one officer/year)

Current staffing shortages causing operational strain

Financial considerations:

Estimated \$60,000 budget flexibility in 2026

Potential to use carryover funds with budget amendment

Legal/union concern addressed:

No requirement to permanently maintain increased staffing level

Future vacancy could remain unfilled

Action:

Motion to recommend to Council to hire 2 officers with one immediate hire; second contingent on Council approval

Motion by Sersch, seconded by Johnson-Solberg, motion carried 3-0

3. Discussion and possible recommendation to common council for needed EMS positions and funding.

Discussion:

Significant staffing shortage and burnout among volunteers:

- Volunteers reduced from ~41 to ~26

- Many working excessive hours (90–120 hrs/month)

Service challenges:

- High call volume (~3 calls/night)

- Majority Medicare/Medicaid reimbursement (~40–50% recovery)

- Increasing demand (aging population, nursing home calls)

Current needs:

- Filling existing part-time EMT positions

- Request for 2 additional part-time positions

Long-term outlook:

- Potential need for 2 full-time + 2 part-time positions

- Consideration of regional or county EMS models

Action:

Motion to recommend the approval of 2 additional part-time EMS positions

Motion by DeVoss; seconded by Johnson-Solberg; Motion carried 3-0

4. Discussion and possible recommendation to the common council for TID 3 upfront paygo.

Discussion:

Developer requires \$25,000 upfront pay-go to engage contractor

Current agreement requires “shovel in ground” before payment

Proposed solution:

- Use room tax funds (not property tax)

- Risk acknowledged but considered low

Project tied to:

- Potential Idle Sites Grant

- Significant future room tax revenue

Action:

Motion to recommend to common council to use room tax funds for \$25,000 upfront pay-go

Motion by DeVoss; second by Johnson-Solberg; motion carried 3-0

5. Discussion and possible recommendation to common council for use of TID 2 affordable housing.

Discussion:

Proposal to extend sewer infrastructure (~\$82,000 estimate)

Remaining affordable housing funds: ~\$20,000

Developer interest in:

- Housing development (including potential senior/accessible housing)

Concerns:

- Cost vs. benefit

- Precedent for public infrastructure support

Committee preference:

- Further negotiation and cost refinement

Action:

Motion to authorize Mayor to engage in negotiations with developer (Jason Reed)

Motion by Sersch, second by DeVoss; motion carried 3-0

6. Discussion of the use of carryovers and the process moving forward.

Key issues identified:

- Lack of historical financial transparency

- Unclear distinctions between:

 - Carryover funds

 - Restricted funds

 - Capital outlay accounts

Opportunities identified:

- Potential to reduce future borrowing

- Better use of existing reserves

Need for clearer financial structure and policies

No formal action taken. Informational discussion only

V. ADJOURN

7. Motion to Adjourn by DeVoss, seconded by Johnson-Solberg. Motion carried 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.

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