

MINUTES

EAU CLAIRE CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

City Council Chamber

4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Council President Berge called the meeting to order. The following Council Members were present: Council Members Emily Anderson, Emily Berge, Aaron Brewster, Charlie Johnson, Larry Mboga, Joshua Miller, Nate Otto, Jessica Schoen, Clara Serrano, and Andrew Werthmann. The following Council Member was absent: Ethan Reed.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

The Honorable Judge Sarah Harless administered the Oath of Office to City Council Members Johnson, Mboga, Miller, and Otto.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Council President Berge stated that two Council Members had expressed interest in serving as City Council Vice President, including Council Members Schoen and Werthmann. Interest was expressed on a form which Council Members submitted prior to the Organizational Meeting.

Council Members Schoen and Werthmann delivered short speeches promoting their selection. Upon conclusion, the Council voted for Council Vice President via secret ballot.

In the first round of voting, Council Member Schoen received 5 votes and Council Member Werthmann received 5 votes.

In the second round of voting, Council Member Schoen received 5 votes and Council Member Werthmann received 5 votes. Council Member Schoen withdrew her name from consideration.

Council Member Werthmann was elected Vice President by unanimous consent.

SEATING ARRANGEMENT

The Council drew for their Chamber seating arrangement.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Council Members had previously submitted their committee preferences and a chart had been prepared. Council President Berge said in cases where more Council Members had expressed interest in a particular committee than there are positions available, the Council would vote on the membership.

There was one position on the Housing Authority Board. Council Member Brewster had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Board.

There were two positions on the Waterways and Parks Commission. Council Members Otto and Schoen had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Commission.

There was one position on the Sustainability Advisory Committee. Council Members Reed and Werthmann had expressed interest in serving on the Committee. The Council voted by a show of hands. Council Member Reed received 0 votes. Council Member Werthmann received 10 votes. Council Member Werthmann will serve on the Committee.

There was one position on the Housing Opportunities Commission. Council Members Brewster, Miller, and Schoen had expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Council Members Brewster and Miller withdrew their names from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Member Schoen will serve on the Commission.

There was one position on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Council Members Miller, Otto, and Reed had expressed interest in serving on the Committee. The Council voted by a show of hands. Council Member Miller received 10 votes. Council Member Miller will serve on the Committee.

There was one position on the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Commission. Council Members Mboga and Reed had expressed interest in serving on the Commission. The Council voted by a show of hands. Council Member Mboga received 10 votes. Council Member Mboga will serve on the Commission.

There was one position on the Transit Commission. Council Members Otto and Serrano had expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Council Member Serrano withdrew her name from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Member Otto will serve on the Commission.

There were three positions on the Advisory Committee on Appointments. According to City Code, the Council President serves on the committee by virtue of the office. Council Members Anderson, Brewster, Miller, and Schoen had expressed interest in serving on the Committee. Council Members Miller and Schoen withdrew their names from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Member Anderson and Brewster will serve on the Committee along with Council President Berge.

There were three positions on the Ad Hoc Committee on Strategic Planning and Community Engagement. According to City Code, the Council President (or her designee) and Vice President will serve on the committee by virtue of the office. The Council President would like to designate this Committee position to another Council Member. Council Members Brewster and Otto had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Committee along with Council Vice President Werthmann.

There were five positions on the Fiscal Stability Committee. Council Members Brewster, Johnson, Miller, Reed, Schoen, and Serrano had expressed interest in serving on the Committee. The Council voted by a show of hands. Council Member Brewster received 8 votes. Council Member Johnson received 10 votes. Council Member Miller received 10 votes. Council Member Reed received 2 votes. Council Member Schoen received 10 votes. Council Member Serrano received 10 votes. Council Members Brewster, Johnson, Miller, Schoen, and Serrano will serve on the Committee.

There were three positions on the City Manager Evaluation Committee. According to City Code, the Council President (or her designee) and Vice President will serve on the committee by virtue of the office. The Council President would like to designate this Committee position to another Council

Member. Council Members Anderson, Brewster, Schoen, and Serrano had expressed interest in serving on the Committee. Council Member Brewster withdrew his name from consideration. The Council voted by a show of hands. Council Member Anderson received 6 votes. Council Member Schoen received 8 votes. Council Member Serrano received 6 votes. Council Member Schoen will serve on the Committee. The Council again voted by a show of hands. Council Member Anderson received 5 votes. Council Member Serrano received 5 votes. City Attorney Nick flipped a coin to determine the winner. Council Member Serrano will serve on the Committee along with Council Member Schoen and Council Vice President Werthmann.

There was one position on the Chippewa St. Croix Rail Commission. Council President Berge had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Commission.

There was one position on the Chippewa-Eau Claire Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). According to City Code, the Council President serves on the MPO by virtue of the office. Council President Berge will serve on the MPO.

There was one position on the Downtown Eau Claire Inc (DECI) Board. According to City Code, the Council President or her designee serves on the Board by virtue of the office. The Council President would like to designate this Board position to another Council Member. Council Members Brewster, Serrano, and Werthmann had expressed interest in serving on the Board. Council Members Serrano and Werthmann withdrew their names from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Member Brewster will serve on the Board.

There was one position on the Eau Claire Confluence Arts Inc. Board of Directors. According to City Code, the Council President or her designee serves on the Board by virtue of the office. The Council President would like to designate this Board position to another Council Member. Council Members Johnson and Miller had expressed interest in serving on the Board. Council Member Miller withdrew his name from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Member Johnson will serve on the Board.

There were two positions on the Putnam Parks Commission. Council Member Otto had expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Council Member Miller nominated Council Member Reed to serve on the Commission. By unanimous consent, Council Members Otto and Reed will serve on the Commission.

There were two positions on the Visit Eau Claire Board. Council Members Johnson and Mboga had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Board.

There were two positions on the Visit Eau Claire Tourism & Cultural Arts Grant Program Committee. Council Members Otto and Mboga had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Committee.

There was one position on the City / County Board of Health. Council Member Miller had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Board.

There was one position on the Library Board. Council Members Miller, Otto, Reed, and Schoen had expressed interest in serving on the Board. Council Members Miller, Otto, and Schoen withdrew their names from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Member Reed will serve on the Board.

There was one position on the Redevelopment Authority (RDA). According to City Ordinance, Council Members appointed to the Redevelopment Authority are to be elected by a four-fifths vote, meaning nine affirmative votes of the Common Council. Council Members Brewster, Reed, and Schoen had expressed interest in serving on the RDA. Council Member Brewster withdrew his name from consideration. The Council voted by a show of hands. Council Member Reed received 0 votes. Council Member Schoen received 10 votes. Council Member Schoen will serve on the RDA.

There were two positions on the Board of Review and one alternate. Council Member Brewster had expressed interest in serving on the Board. Council Member Brewster nominated Council Member Reed to serve on the Board. Council Member Johnson nominated himself to serve as the alternate on the Board. By unanimous consent, Council Members Brewster, Reed, and Johnson (alternate) will serve on the Board.

There was one position on the Landmarks Commission. Council Member Brewster had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Commission.

There was one position on the Loan Administration Board. Council Member Mboga had expressed interest and by unanimous consent, will serve on the Board.

There were two positions on the Plan Commission. According to City Ordinance, Council Members appointed to the Plan Commission are to be elected by a two-thirds vote, meaning eight affirmative votes of the Common Council. Council Members Brewster and Reed had expressed interest in serving on the Commission. Council Member Werthmann nominated Council Member Anderson to serve on the Commission. Council Member Anderson declined the nomination. Council Member Serrano nominated herself to serve on the Commission. Council Member Serrano withdrew her name from consideration. By unanimous consent, Council Members Brewster and Reed will serve on the Commission.

There was one position on the Utility Appeals Board. No Council Members had expressed interest in serving on this Board. Council Member Mboga nominated Council Member Reed to serve on the Board. By unanimous consent, Council Member Reed will serve on the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned without objection.

Adjournment: Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Time: 5:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

/s/ Emily K. Berge
Council President

/s/ Kristina M. Kuzma
City Clerk