

CITY OF NEENAH
PUBLIC SERVICES AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Present: Chairman Lendrum, Alderman, Linski, Pollnow (arrived at 5:13 pm), and Weber

Excused: Alderman Borchardt

Also Present: Mayor Lang, Public Works Director Kaiser, Police Chief Olson, Assistant Police Chief Bernice, City Clerk Nagel, Public Works Office Manager Mroczkowski, Alderman Bruno, Frank Cuthbert, Russell Zibell, Corey Wells-Nelson, Dave Froehlich, Andy Kruger, Wendy Szczepanski, William Szczepanski, Duke Behnke Bethanie Gengler, and Scott Becher

Chairman Lendrum called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM

Approval of Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 2025

Motion by Weber, seconded by Linski to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 10, 2025

Call for vote by Chairman Lendrum

Motion Carried. All voting Aye. 3/0

Public Appearance

Wendy Szczepanski, 1037 Oak Street, Neenah – Ms. Szczepanski addressed the committee regarding the firework discussion. She stated that she doesn't understand why the ordinance is not enforced and why citations are not being issued. She stated that she would like to see more enforcement.

William Szczepanski, 1037 Oak Street, Neenah – Mr. Szczepanski addressed the committee regarding the firework discussion. He stated that the firework stands continue to sell fireworks that are illegal to possess unless you have a permit. He stated that his pets need to be medicated during this time of year because of the fireworks. He stated that he is aware that it is difficult for the police to catch someone in the act of lighting off the illegal fireworks, but would like the police department to mail flyers to residents and start enforcing the ordinance like the City of Oshkosh has promised to do.

Chairperson Lendrum closed Public Appearances

Licenses

Wrestling License and Temporary Extension of Licensed Premises Application for the Dome Sports Bar & Grill, 1338 S. Commercial St., Neenah

City Clerk Nagel reviewed her memo of June 19. She stated that the Clerk's Office received an application for a wrestling permit and a temporary extension of licensed premises for the Dome Sports Bar & Grill. She stated that the ordinance that requires a wrestling event to be permitted was adopted in 1977. She stated that the permit requires council approval, must be signed by the City Clerk and requires two supervisors to attend the event to ensure that it is conducted in a manner that does not disturb the peace of the city. She stated that the ordinance also gives administrative authority to the mayor to shut down the event should things get out of control.

Clerk Nagel stated that the city attorney reviewed the ordinance. She stated that City Attorney Rashid is recommending the two-supervisor language in the ordinance be waived due to the ambiguity of the ordinance language. Clerk Nagel stated that the police chief was consulted as well and is in agreement with the city attorney.

Clerk Nagel stated that the wrestling event is being held in the parking lot of the Dome. She stated that this will cause the parking lot to be unavailable for parking. The Dome is requesting permission to use two city-owned parking lots across the street on S. Commercial Street for the event. She stated that in order to use the city-owned parking lots, vehicles will have to traverse through two private parking lots.

Clerk Nagel stated that staff is recommending approval of the wrestling license and the temporary extension of licensed premises for "Now That's Wrestling" event to be hosted by The Dome Sports Bar & Grill on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 4-9 PM, including the use of the city owned lots for event parking.

Motion by Weber, seconded by Linski to recommend council approve wrestling license and the temporary extension of licensed premises for "Now That's Wrestling" event to be hosted by The Dome Bar & Grill on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 4:00-9:00 PM, including the use of the city owned lots for event parking.

Alderman Linski asked if the Dome has hosted events like this in the past. Clerk Nagel stated yes. She stated that they have held several inside the premises and did not have permits.

Alderman Lendrum asked for the motion to include the date of the event in regard to the use of the city owned parking lots. She stated that future events would require approval for the use of the parking lots.

Motion was amended by friendly consensus.

Motion to amend by Weber, seconded by Linski to recommend council approve wrestling license and the temporary extension of licensed premises for “Now That’s Wrestling” event to be hosted by the Dome Sports Bar & Grill on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 4:00-9:00 PM, including the use of the city owned lots for event parking on July 12, 2025, only.

Alderman Pollnow arrived at 5:13 PM

Alderman Pollnow asked if the certificate of insurance had been submitted. Clerk Nagel stated that it had not. She stated that the Dome’s insurance carrier would cover them, and the city would have recreational immunity which our insurance company would handle if anything happened in the city owned parking lots.

The Committee discussed the need for a certificate of insurance for events that are held on private property. The Committee consensus was to amend the motion to include approval contingent on providing certificate of insurance.

The amended Motion was amended by friendly consensus.

Motion to amend the amended motion by Weber, seconded by Linski to recommend council approve wrestling license and the temporary extension of licensed premises for “Now That’s Wrestling” event to be hosted by the Dome Sports Bar & Grill on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 4:00-9:00 PM, including the use of the city owned lots for event parking on, July 12, 2025, only, and contingent that the Dome Sports Bar & Grill provide a certificate of insurance.

The Committee discussed the ordinance requirement for supervisors at the event and if the ordinance should include a better description of what type of security should be required for these types of events, such as background checks for the private security companies.

Cari Lendrum stated that the owner of the Dome Sports Bar & Grill was unable to attend the meeting tonight because of prior commitments but did email Director Kaiser. She stated that the email will be included as part of the minutes.

Alderman Linski asked what the status of S. Commercial Street construction project will be at the time of the event. Director Kaiser stated the west side of the road will be complete, but the east side will be under construction with removal of the existing pavement and grading work.

Alderman Linski asked if there are turn offs onto the city owned parking lots. Director Kaiser stated there are not. He stated that the only access to the city owned lots is through private property.

Andy Kruger, the Dome’s bar manager stated that they have a good relationship with the neighboring businesses and have permission from both adjacent businesses next to the city owned lots to access the city-owned lots through their parking lots.

Call for vote by Chairman Lendrum

Motion Carried. All voting aye. 4/0

Fireworks Discussion

Police Chief Olson stated that this topic is discussed every year with internal staff, external police agencies and citizens on both sides of the argument. He stated that in 2018 the Winnebago County Sheriff's Department did a county-wide survey to gauge what the community thought about fireworks. Chief Olson stated that the results showed that 50% of the community supported fireworks, 25% wanted enforcement to the best of the agencies abilities, and 25% had no opinion either way.

Chief Olson stated that the City of Neenah's philosophy is education over citation. He stated that the guidance that the patrol officers have received since 2009 is that if you're able to respond to a firework call, respond and educate if you can. He stated that if the call proves that there are egregious violations or you were called to the same address twice, write a citation.

Alderman Weber asked what type of education is used. Chief Olson stated that the police department has a social media campaign and officers have flyers that they hand out when they feel it is appropriate.

Aldersperson Pollnow asked Chief Olson how many citations and warnings have been issued in the past. Chief Olson stated that 2 citations were issued in two years; he did not have the number of warnings.

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the current ordinance, the need to rewrite the current ordinance using the parameters from the state statute, the timeline to bring the rewritten ordinance back to committee, which departments would be involved and where the directive should come to allow staff to begin the process.

The consensus from the Committee was to acknowledge Chief Olson's plan to reach out to the other communities and police agencies to gather information on their policies, ordinances and enforcement of fireworks and then have him report back to the committee.

Public Works General Construction and Department Activity Report

1) S. Commercial Street:

- Sidewalk and driveway installation are being completed for the west side.
- Landscaping for the west side of the street is ongoing.
- Asphalt side street and driveway tie-ins are being done.
- The contractor anticipates shifting traffic to the new pavement around June 30, weather allowing.

2) Contract 7-21 (Harrison Pond): Work under the contract is complete. A final pay request is being prepared.

- 3) Contract 7-23 (High, River Utility and Street Construction): A final payment request is being processed.
- 4) Contract 4-24 (S. Park Avenue Easement – Utilities): Work is complete. A walk-through was held with the contractor to review softscape restoration. A final pay request is being prepared.
- 5) Contract 6-24 (Jewelers Park Drive): Work on the original contract is complete. Chane ordered work on the Arrowhead loop road is complete. Pricing is being received for rough backfilling work.
- 6) Contract 7-24 (Misc Concrete Pavement/Sidewalk Repair): The majority of the work is complete. The sidewalk on the west side of the north end of Baldwin will be done when arrangements have been finalized with the abutting property owner.
- 7) Contract 11-24 (Douglas Park Pond): Work is complete pending a walk-through.
- 8) Contract 13-24 (S. Commercial St Turn Lane at Winneconne Av): The contract was awarded to Vinton Construction. The work has not been scheduled. We are working through the property acquisition.
- 9) Contract 1-25 (Alexander, Lexington, Forest Manor Ct, Bruce, Southfield Plat Utilities and Street): Water main and service installation is complete. Road work will start after 7/4.
- 10) Contract 2-25 (Elm, Douglas Utilities and Street): Utility work is complete. Concrete repairs are complete. Proof rolling, fine grading, and paving are upcoming.
- 11) Contract 3-25 (Caroline, Hickory Utility and Street Construction): Service line pipebursting is complete. Mainline sewer and water installation are scheduled to start in late June/early July.
- 12) Contract 8-25 (Tullar Garage Roof Repair): The contractor mobilized on June 18.
- 13) Contract 10-25 (City Hall Window Replacement): The RFP for this work has been posted. Proposals are due on June 20. Proposals have been opened, and the recommendation will be to go to the Board of Public Works on June 26.
- 14) Contract 11-25 (Church/Wisconsin intersection): Work is complete pending final cleanup.
- 15) Fiber Installation Project: Fiber is live for all locations. One strand has an identified issue the contractor is working on fixing. The contractor needs to label cables and clean up a few punchlist items. A change order will be processed for added cost due to encountering cobbles during drilling.

Director Kaiser stated that he had one more item. He stated that staff received the preliminary results for the grant application for the storm water management plan. He stated that the City of Neenah was ranked 2nd. Director Kaiser stated that the state is waiting to award projects until after the state legislation completes the budget negotiations and has an approved budget so they know how much funding will be available for projects.

Announcements/Future Agenda Items

Adjournment

Motion by Weber, seconded by Pollnow to adjourn at 5:56 PM.

Call for vote by Chairman Lendrum

Motion Carried. All voting Aye. 4/0

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lisa Mroczkowski".

Lisa Mroczkowski
Public Works Office Manager

Lisa M. Mroczkowski

From: Gerry J. Kaiser
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 4:50 PM
To: Lisa M. Mroczkowski
Subject: FW: Tonight's meeting

From: DEAN KAUFERT <dkfrt@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 3:22 PM
To: Gerry J. Kaiser <gkaiser@neenahwi.gov>
Subject: Tonight's meeting

5 pm meeting city hall public works meeting Hauser room ground floor

Due to commitments in Madison with floor session taking place I will be unable to attend tonight's meeting. I appreciate being on the agenda for this temporary event. My manager Andy Kruger will attend along with possibility of a representative of the applicant "Now that's Wrestling"

"Honorable Mayor and all the women thanks for allowing us to speak regarding our special event being held at the Dome in July.

Road construction for South Commercial St business owners is especially challenging this summer we are looking for ways to draw customers to our venues.

Thank you for helping us to bring a special event for our customers and employees. Over our seven years at The Dome we have had "Now that's Wrestling" several times inside with Zero issues. This wrestling is similar to WWE only for semi pro trained participants. We are asking for a waiver of the two paid officers because This event is only \$10 per ticket with approximately 150 to 160 people expected generating about \$1500 in revenue which would be cut in half with the provisions of the ordinance regarding security officer. The organization does provide own security.

The hours in the parking lot will be limited to 3-9 PM

I have spoken with many of our neighbors regarding parking and most have agreed that a Saturday after 5 PM is allowable to them to use. We also intend to use the public parking across the street because part of our parking lot will be used for the outside activity

This is a family orientated event with many young people that attend have a great time.

Food and beverages will be sold outside and inside on premise only

Our Manager Andy Kruger will be on premise that evening to ensure a positive experience and answer any questions.

We would respectfully ask for your positive vote to allow us to have this outside activity and the waiver of the two paid security officers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Renee and Dean Kaufert & Andy Kruger

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