

It is expected that a Quorum of the Personnel Committee, Board of Public Works, and Common Council will be attending this meeting: (although it is not expected that any official action of any of those bodies will be taken)

**CITY OF MENASHA
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Third Floor Council Chambers
140 Main Street, Menasha
July 5, 2011
6:30 PM
or immediately following Common Council
AGENDA**

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES
- C. MINUTES TO APPROVE
 - 1. [Administration Committee, 6/20/11](#)
- D. ACTION ITEMS
 - 1. [R-29-11 Resolution Protecting Menasha's Ability to Collect Unpaid Utility Bills Through the Tax Roll \(Recommendation of Utility Commission\)](#)
[\(Introduced by Ald. Benner\)](#)
- E. ADJOURNMENT

"Menasha is committed to its diverse population. Our Non-English speaking population and those with disabilities are invited to contact the Menasha City Clerk at 967-3603 24-hours in advance of the meeting for the City to arrange special accommodations."

CITY OF MENASHA
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Third Floor Council Chambers
140 Main Street, Menasha
June 20, 2011
MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairman Klein at 6:36 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL/EXCUSED ABSENCES

PRESENT: Aldermen Englebert, Benner, Klein, Taylor, Sevenich, Langdon, Krueger

EXCUSED: Ald. Zelinski

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Merkes, CA/HRD Captain, Lt. Brunn, DPW Radtke, CDD Keil, C/T Stoffel, PRD Tungate, Clerk Galeazzi and the Press.

C. MINUTES TO APPROVE

1. [Administration Committee, 6/6/11](#)

Moved by Ald. Krueger, seconded by Ald. Englebert to approve minutes.

Motion carried on voice vote.

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. [R-26-11 Resolution to Apply for Matching Grant Funds for the Gilbert Site Through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. \(Introduced by Ald. Langdon\)](#)

PRD Tungate explained the grant funds being requested are for the Gilbert Mill Shoreline Restoration and Trail Project. Between grant funds and donations, the goal is to use little or no City funds for this project. The grant application deadline is July 15. The Resolution will be part of the application process.

Moved by Ald. Langdon, seconded by Ald. Sevenich to recommend approval to Common Council.

Motion carried on voice vote.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Ald. Sevenich, seconded by Ald. Langdon to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.

Motion carried on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by Deborah A. Galeazzi, WCMC, City Clerk

**RESOLUTION PROTECTING MENASHA’S ABILITY TO COLLECT
UNPAID UTILITY BILLS THROUGH THE TAX ROLL**

Introduced by Alderman Benner (Recommendation of Utility Commission)

WHEREAS, the CITY OF MENASHA has been well served by a community-owned, locally controlled, nonprofit electric, water, sewer and stormwater utility; and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF MENASHA and MENASHA UTILITIES have consistently provided low-cost, reliable utilities to our residents, businesses and industries on a not-for profit basis; and

WHEREAS, the utility uses various collection methods and processes to minimize the amount of unpaid utility bills going to the property tax roll; and

WHEREAS, MENASHA UTILITIES has created a landlord ad hoc committee and this group has worked at improving communication and collection processes as well as educating what rules and rights each party has; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 182 would prohibit MENASHA UTILITIES from collecting unpaid municipal electric, water, sewer and stormwater bills using the property tax roll; and

WHEREAS, the utility on average places \$92,000 annually on the property tax roll; and

WHEREAS, since a municipal utility is owned by the residents and businesses of the community, any costs not absorbed through traditional ratemaking and payments for service, must be directly borne by the utility customers and city and unlike an investor-owned utility, a municipal utility does not have the ability to simply “write-off” any unpaid utility bills; and

WHEREAS, we fully support current statutory authority (§66.0809) that allows for the placement of unpaid municipal utility bills on the property tax roll and believe that the existing authority is reasonable to all parties involved; current law being the result of a 15 year old compromise between the landlords and the municipal utilities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CITY OF MENASHA and MENASHA UTILITIES opposes Assembly Bill 182 since it would shift property owner costs to other utility customers, increasing their utility bills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we ask the Wisconsin Legislature to oppose Assembly Bill 182 and instead support the current statutory authority in this regard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we pledge to continue working with landlords in our community to improve collection methods and communications with them, with the objective being to continue our ability to offer low-cost municipal utility service to all of our customers;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution will be sent to our State Legislators, Governor Scott Walker, and the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin.

Passed and approved this day of July, 2011.

Donald Merkes, Mayor

Attest:

Deborah A. Galeazzi, City Clerk