

# City Manager's Report City Council Meeting December 16, 2024



Surfing off the North Pier, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024



Photo by Jeff Dawson, Lester Public Library Director

# 10. City Manager's Report

## B. Status Update/Reports

### 1. Staffing Updates

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 16, 2024



#### Ongoing Recruitment and Selection Processes:

**Police Clerk/Evidence Custodian**- In process of conducting interviews

**City Manager**—Search consultant approved by City Council on November 18, will begin engagement with Recruitment and Selection Committee in January 2025 with goal of filling position by July 2025

**City Planner/Community Development Director**—Accepting applications



*Recruitment Announcement*  
**Community Development Director / City Planner**

#### ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Two Rivers, Wisconsin is a historic Lake Michigan shoreline city of 11,271, located 90 miles north of Milwaukee and 55 miles southeast of Green Bay.

Located in Manitowoc County (population 81,500), Two Rivers and the larger, neighboring City of Manitowoc together form an industrialized, urban center of about 45,000 people. The balance of the county is mostly rural, with significant agricultural activity.

Outdoor recreational opportunities are abundant in Two Rivers, and have helped attract new residents, new business investment, and increased tourism activity in recent years. These assets include:

- Point Beach State Forest, with 1,800 acres of forests, ridges and swales, 6 miles of unspoiled Lake Michigan shoreline, Historic Rawley Point Lighthouse and a bike/hiking trail connection to the city.
- Woodland Dunes Nature Center, with 1,200 acres of forests, meadows and wetlands along the West Twin River.
- The VanDerBrohe Arboretum, currently under development on the City's northeast side.
- Neshotah Park and beach, a 50 acre city-owned shoreline park that's home to the Best Beach in Wisconsin.
- The Rawley Point Trail and Mariners Trail, which together form a 12-mile bike/pedestrian trail connecting Two Rivers to the State Forest to the north and Manitowoc to the south.
- The East and West Twin Rivers, which course through the City to their confluence at the harbor at Lake Michigan, providing kayaking and canoeing opportunities as well as ready access to the big lake for sailing, powerboating and sport fishing.



Two Rivers has a traditional downtown business district, which remains a vital, thriving center for business and for community activities, thanks to both City and private reinvestment. Two Rivers is a Wisconsin Main Street Community. Redevelopment of former industrial sites along the City's downtown river corridors is an ongoing effort.

## 10. City Manager's Report B. Status Update/Reports

### 2. Two Rivers Utilities Annual Community Food Drive

#### TWO RIVERS UTILITIES' ANNUAL COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Donation made to TREP



#### Magee Elementary School Winners!



Winner of electric scooter was Maverick & winners of \$25 gift card to Amazon were Meea, Rylce, Beau, & Mackayjal

#### Koenig Elementary School Winners!



Winner of electric scooter was Madi & winners of \$25 gift card to Amazon were Kaden, Jessica, Isla, & Carter!



50" Smart TV - Winner Eldona!



Cordless Drill/Impact Combo Kit.  
Winner Bob!



Energy Star Dehumidifier  
Winner Janet!

# Thank you!

TREP informed us that we had 1001 items donated, with a total weight of 975 pounds of food donated.

Thank you to Magee & Koenig Schools for teaming up with TRU. Students were asked to bring one non-perishable food item. Students who donated were entered to win an electric scooter or Amazon gift card.

Thank you to our local residents. Local residents who donated 3 non-perishable items could select a string of Christmas lights, a flood bulb, or light bulb. They were also entered to win a TV, a dehumidifier, or a toolset.

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**3. Thanksgiving at Two Rivers Senior**



100 People Served  
108 Volunteers

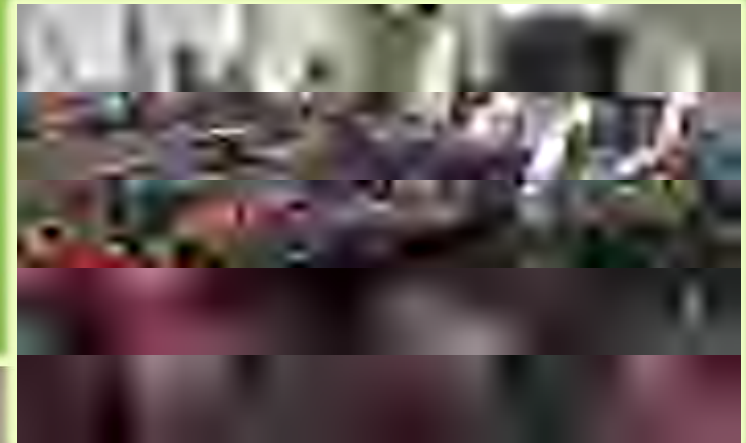
\$2,400 in donations  
& in-kind giving

**Thank you to all donors & volunteers**

## 10. City Manager's Report

### B. Status Update/Reports

#### 4. Two Rivers Police Department "Operation Elijah" Toy Drive



In honor of Elijah Vue, the "Remembering Elijah Vue Facebook Group" organized a toy drive to benefit local children in need. Unwrapped toys and monetary donations were collected at the Two Rivers Police Department. The amount of support & donations was truly amazing. Thank you to all who donated!



# 10. City Manager's Report

## B. Status Update/Reports

### 5. Cool City Christmas 2024



**2nd ANNUAL COOL CITY CHRISTMAS**  
In Downtown Two Rivers

Saturday, December 14 | 10:00am - 3:30pm

SPONSORED BY:

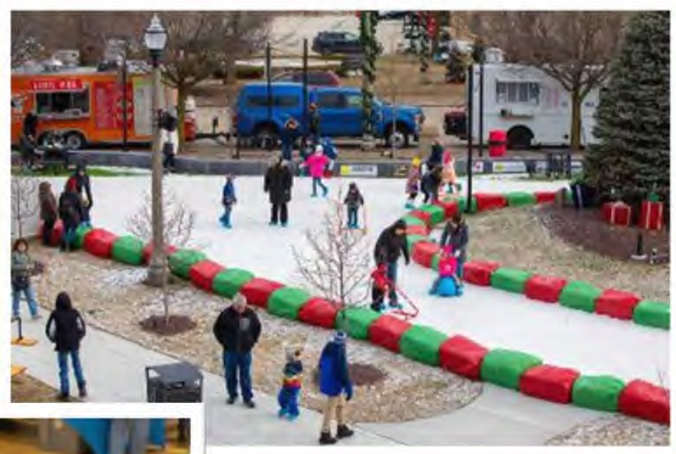


- Visit with Santa (10am - 3pm)
- Meet Santa's Reindeer (1pm - 3:30pm)
- Carolers (10:30am, 11am, & 11:30am)
- Digital Photo Booth (10am-1pm)
- Craft & Vendor Fair
- Holiday Craft Making
- Downtown Shopping & Dining
- Food Trucks
- Fires & Warming Fire
- Face Painting
- Ice Skating
- Candy Cane Hunt
- Two Rivers Police K9 Unit
- More family fun activities!

For details visit: [www.explore2rivers.com](http://www.explore2rivers.com)




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**5. Cool City Christmas 2024**



## 10. City Manager's Report

### B. Status Update/Reports

#### 6. Reminder on Ordinance Requirements for Clearing Snow and Ice from Sidewalks



**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO PROPERTY OWNERS, LEASEES, AND OCCUPANTS that snow and ice shall be removed from any public sidewalk within 24 hours from the time when the snow ceases to fall. For corner lots, this includes the sidewalk and any ramps.**

**If such snow or ice is not removed, the City Manager or City Engineer may cause such to be removed. The City shall bill the cost of such removal to the property owner and, if said bill is not paid by the property owner, shall insert such cost in the tax roll as a special tax and lien against the premises.**

**The cost of such removal shall include the City's reasonable costs for establishing an incident report/file for the violation, for site inspection and documentation of the violation, and for producing and mailing the related billing, in addition to the labor, equipment and material costs incurred in clearing the sidewalk of snow and/or ice.**

**For the second and any subsequent violations of this section within any November 1 through April 30 period, the owner of said property may be subject to a forfeiture of \$150 plus court costs, in addition to any billing for snow and ice removal by the City. (New in 2021).**

**Blowing or depositing snow or ice in the street is against the law. Offenders are subject to fines in accordance with the Two Rivers Municipal Code 4-1-12. The Police Department or the City Engineer may enforce this section.**





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**7. Reminder of Closures for the Christmas and New Year's Holidays**

- a. City Hall; b. Community House; c. Senior Center; d. Lester Public Library

**City Hall, Community House, & Senior Center**

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Wednesday, December 25**

**Wednesday, January 1**



**Closed for the Holidays**



**Lester Public Library**

**Tuesday, December 24**

**Wednesday, December 25**

**Tuesday, December 31**

**Wednesday, January 1**



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**8. Winter Parking Ban December 1, 2024 – March 15, 2025**



**Two Rivers is NOT Having a December Like Buffalo, so...  
Enforcement of the Winter Parking Ban remains **"on hold"****

Enforcement of the on-street overnight parking ban will only occur when there is a snow event in the forecast, and to allow cleanup in the wake of any major snowfalls.

Watch the TR City Hall and Police Dept. Facebook pages for updates.



Weather.com



Updated December 15, 2024

## 10. City Manager's Report

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#### 9. Lead Water Service Lateral Replacement, 2024-25 Contract



2024-25 Scattered Site LSL Contract Replacements as of 12-12-2024:

- 64 - Public Water Services Replaced
- 42 - Public Sewer Laterals Replaced
- 9 - Private Water Services Replaced
- 7 - Private Sewer Lateral Replaced

- Two services were replaced on Madison Street due to service leaks, under contract
- Contracts with Manitowoc County, for shared ARPA funding assistance on the 2024 Roosevelt Avenue project and 2024-25 Scattered Site LSL replacement, are on tonight's agenda

## 10. City Manager's Report B. Status Update/Reports

### 10. Sandy Bay Highlands Subdivision Phase 3

#### Project Construction Update:

- Orchard Lane (Lake Breeze Way to Rawley Court) along with all of Rawley Court is graveled
- Those roads are "available for public access" but a reminder that the area is still an active construction site
- Contractor has completed all of the sanitary sewer on Orchard Lane and started up Sandy Ridge Drive



## 10. City Manager's Report

### B. Status Update/Reports

#### II. Recent Funding Awards to Assist with Parks and Recreation Capital Projects and Forestry Programs

##### a. A \$100,000 Grant from The West Foundation and a \$20,000 Contribution from the Room Tax Commission to go to Neshotah Park Investment

Climbing Boulder and Bamboo Climber will go next to the zipline at Neshotah Park, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from West Foundation and a \$20,000 contribution from the City's Room Tax Commission. Installation will take place in spring 2025.



## 10. City Manager's Report

### B. Status Update/Reports

#### 11. Recent Funding Awards to Assist with Parks and Recreation Capital Projects and Forestry Programs (continued)

b. WI DNR \$25,000 Grant to Urban Forestry

c. Packers Foundation \$3,000 Grant to Build Dugouts at Vietnam Veterans Park and Little League Fields.

**\$25,000 WI DNR Urban Forestry grant.** This grant will fund planting trees at Koenig Elementary, removal of ash trees at the library, planting trees at the library, outreach and education programs, a forestry track youth apprentice, and continuing efforts to remove and plant street trees.



**\$3,000 Packers Foundation Grant** - to build dugouts at Vietnam Vets Memorial Park and one of the little league fields. We will partner with the Two Rivers High Construction Class and Art Class to plan, design, and build the dugouts.



## 10. City Manager's Report B. Status Update/Reports

### 12. Community and Economic Development Update

1. City Council and Plan Commission met in joint session on December 9 for site and architectural plan review for a 52-unit market rate apartment complex proposed for construction on the former Hansen the Florist site at 3000 Forest Avenue.
  - Public hearing on the site plan for this project is on January 6, 2025 at 6:00 PM
  - Draft development agreement for possible City TIF grant assistance is being reviewed by the developer
2. Construction continues on downtown projects at Sauve's Automotive and the Violet Inn.



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**B. Status Update/Reports**

**13. Upcoming Events:**

**a. Shop with a Cop, Wednesday December 18, 2024**

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This year, fifteen children have been chosen to go "Shop with a Cop" on December 18.

About a dozen officers will take the children shopping. They get to pick out gifts for themselves and their families, about 40 people in total.

Parents will receive gift cards to places like Piggly Wiggly and Kwik Trip thanks to generous donations.

**Thank you all  
donors & volunteers!**





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13. Upcoming Events:

b. Lester Public Library Events

December 21, 2024, 10:30am & January 3, 2025, 1:00pm

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December 21, 2024 at 10:30 AM



**Adult Craft:  
Crepe Paper Holiday Trees,**

A fun and crafty meetup just for grownups. Form cones with cardstock and embellish with crepe paper (choose from different methods) to produce a beautiful set of trees for display.

**Registration required; call (920)793-8888.**



**LPL Flix: White Bird**

**Enjoy an afternoon movie on the library's big screen.**

Popular recent releases are shown at 1 p.m. the first Friday of each month. The library also offers an international film for adults at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday every month (except December).

**For adults 18+. Bring a beverage. Free popcorn!**

**10. City Manager's Report**  
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**13. Upcoming Events:**

- c. Two Rivers Parks and Recreation FREE Slow Flow Yoga Class,  
Monday December 30, 2024, 5:30PM (Registration deadline December 27)**



**FREE**

**Slow Flow Yoga Class  
& Community Giving**

Cathy Hendricks hosts this FREE Yoga Class.  
This hour long class will target both beginner and  
experienced yogi alike.

All you need is your yoga mat and a non-perishable  
food item to donate to our local pantry.

Located in the Behringer Room at the Community House  
Monday, December 30, 2024  
5:30pm – 6:30pm

Call 920-793-5594 to register



**10. City Manager’s Report**  
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**14. Other—Other—2024 Tax Bills**

Two Rivers had not conducted a city-wide revaluation since 1999. State law requires that a revaluation be completed if WI Department of Revenue sales studies show that the total assessed valuation of the municipality varies by more than 10 percent from actual market value for a period of five years or more.

As shown in the graphic at right, Two Rivers’ Aggregate Assessment Ratio, as determined by the WI Department of Revenue, was “in compliance” for the years 2018-2020, but went out of compliance in 2021 and moved further out of compliance over the next two years, due to rapidly escalating home values—this trend has true here and across the country.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessment Ratio</u>
2018	1.01.66
2019	0.9622
2020	0.9266
2021	0.8177
2022	0.7294
2023	0.6302

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 14. Other—2024 Tax Bills

CITY COUNCIL MEETING — DECEMBER 16, 2024

**WHERE ARE YOUR PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS GOING?  
 HERE'S A BREAKDOWN BY TAXING ENTITY:**



As shown at right, the City of Two Rivers is the only local taxing unit that's NOT collecting more taxes from city taxpayers in 2024 (for the 2025 Budget) than in 2023. The City Manager and City Council shared this goal for the 2025 Budget, bearing in mind that many taxpayers would see increases in their tax bills due to the 2024 revaluation.

That commitment to keeping taxes down is not unique to 2024; it is the City's track record for the past 5 years (and beyond). As shown in the box below, the City portion of the total levy has increased by only 7.78% over the past 5 years, a far lower rate of increase than the levies of other local taxing entities.

Taxing Entity	2023 Levy	2024 Levy	\$ Change	% Change
City of Two Rivers	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 5,521,361	\$ -	0.0%
Two Rivers Public Schools	\$ 5,008,571	\$ 6,391,521	\$ 1,382,950	27.6%
Manitowoc County	\$ 2,915,734	\$ 3,118,009	\$ 202,275	6.9%
Lakeshore College	\$ 437,736	\$ 477,315	\$ 39,579	9.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,883,402</b>	<b>\$ 15,508,206</b>	<b>\$ 1,624,804</b>	<b>11.7%</b>

Five-Year Tax Levy History, 2020-2024 (TID Out)

Taxing Entity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	\$ Increase 2019-2024	% Increase 2019-2024
City of Two Rivers	\$ 5,122,778	\$ 5,142,778	\$ 5,242,539	\$ 5,399,912	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 398,583	7.78%
Two Rivers Public Schools	\$ 4,588,031	\$ 4,218,263	\$ 4,544,896	\$ 4,223,926	\$ 5,008,571	\$ 6,391,521	\$ 1,803,490	39.31%
Manitowoc County	\$ 2,630,065	\$ 2,642,294	\$ 2,669,777	\$ 2,854,432	\$ 2,915,734	\$ 3,118,009	\$ 487,944	18.55%
Lakeshore College	\$ 393,028	\$ 401,821	\$ 405,793	\$ 424,648	\$ 437,736	\$ 477,315	\$ 84,287	21.45%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 12,733,902</b>	<b>\$ 12,405,156</b>	<b>\$ 12,863,005</b>	<b>\$ 12,902,918</b>	<b>\$ 13,883,402</b>	<b>\$ 15,508,206</b>	<b>\$ 2,774,304</b>	<b>21.79%</b>

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**14. Other—Other—2024 Tax Bills**

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**As shown in the table at right, the City of Two Rivers did not realize one additional dollar in property taxes from the higher assessed valuation that resulted from the 2024 revaluation**

<u>Taxing Entity</u>	<u>2023 Levy</u>	<u>2024 Levy</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
City of Two Rivers	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 5,521,361	\$ -	0.0%
Two Rivers Public Schools	\$ 5,008,571	\$ 6,391,521	\$ 1,382,950	27.6%
Manitowoc County	\$ 2,915,734	\$ 3,118,009	\$ 202,275	6.9%
Lakeshore College	\$ 437,736	\$ 477,315	\$ 39,579	9.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 13,883,402</b>	<b>\$ 15,508,206</b>	<b>\$ 1,624,804</b>	<b>11.7%</b>
<b>*Components of City Levy</b>				
General Fund	\$ 2,250,000	\$ 2,288,033	\$ 38,033	1.7%
Debt Service	\$ 2,589,571	\$ 2,551,538	\$ (38,033)	-1.5%
Library	\$ 681,790	\$ 681,790	\$ -	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,521,361</b>	<b>\$ 5,521,361</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

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**14. Other—Other—2024 Tax Bills**

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – DECEMBER 16, 2024

Five-Year Tax Levy History, 2020-2024 (TID Out)

<u>Taxing Entity</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u> <u>2019-2024</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>2019-2024</u>
City of Two Rivers	\$ 5,122,778	\$ 5,142,778	\$ 5,242,539	\$ 5,399,912	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 398,583	7.78%
Two Rivers Public Schools	\$ 4,588,031	\$ 4,218,263	\$ 4,544,896	\$ 4,223,926	\$ 5,008,571	\$ 6,391,521	\$ 1,803,490	39.31%
Manitowoc County	\$ 2,630,065	\$ 2,642,294	\$ 2,669,777	\$ 2,854,432	\$ 2,915,734	\$ 3,118,009	\$ 487,944	18.55%
Lakeshore College	\$ 393,028	\$ 401,821	\$ 405,793	\$ 424,648	\$ 437,736	\$ 477,315	\$ 84,287	21.45%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 12,733,902</b>	<b>\$ 12,405,156</b>	<b>\$ 12,863,005</b>	<b>\$ 12,902,918</b>	<b>\$13,883,402</b>	<b>\$ 15,508,206</b>	<b>\$ 2,774,304</b>	<b>21.79%</b>

**The City has held the line on taxes not only in 2024, but over the past 5 years, as shown in the table above.**

**..And even longer, as shown in the table at right, comparing tax levies over the 9-year period 2015-2024**

<u>Taxing Entity</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u> <u>2015-2024</u>	<u>% Increase</u> <u>2015-2024</u>
City of Two Rivers	\$ 5,060,890	\$ 5,521,361	\$ 460,471	9.10%
Two Rivers Public Schools	\$ 4,782,165	\$ 6,391,521	\$ 1,609,356	33.65%
Manitowoc County	\$ 2,659,738	\$ 3,118,009	\$ 458,271	17.23%
Lakeshore College	\$ 379,700	\$ 477,315	\$ 97,615	25.71%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 12,882,493</b>	<b>\$ 15,508,206</b>	<b>\$ 2,625,713</b>	<b>20.38%</b>



Happy Holidays!

Two Rivers

Home for the Holidays



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