

MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE GREENFIELD CITY HALL ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

A. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Neitzke at 7:00 PM.

Present: Alderpersons Andrew Drzewiecki, Bruce Bailey, Karl Kastner, Shirley Saryan, Pamela Akers

Also present: Jeff Katz, Director, Neighborhood Services; Jennifer Goergen, City Clerk; Tim Sowinski, Assistant Finance Director

B. Opening Prayer

An opening prayer was given by Chaplain Leggett.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Approval of the October 21, 2025 Common Council minutes

Motion by Alderperson Bailey, seconded by Alderperson Saryan to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Mayor's Report

Mayor Neitzke said that he wrote an email to Governor Evers regarding the FEMA reimbursement. The email stated: "Governor Evers, on behalf of the City of Greenfield, I would respectfully request that your office formally appealed a FEMA decision denying public cost reimbursement of costs and expenses related to this year's historic sewer flooding. With a budget that is already adversely revenue restricted, Greenfield's taxpayers face a significant physical challenge and obligation as a direct result of the flooding. Actual expenses and damages approach one million dollars. A summary of those expenses and damages by FEMA categories [is] attached. Of course, this substantial documentation previously submitted and reviewed by FEMA is available, if so required. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter." He spoke about the significant flooding in the city and that Tom, the emergency manager, and the department heads worked on tight schedules. They put together processes, investigated, quoted, and created order. He spoke about how they helped Clement Manor. All of it costs money, and safety was a critical concern in our community. With the levy restrictions, he has to present a balanced budget every year. We can't raise taxes to meet expenses. The historical flood expenses needed to repair damages have a significant fiscal impact in our community. He urged Governor Evers to appeal the FEMA determination, where municipalities are being adversely impacted.

Mayor Neitzke issued a statement that read: "We understand criminal charges have been filed against Chief Jay Johnson, who is currently on paid administrative leave from his role pending the completion of the City's internal investigation into alleged violations of City policy, rules, procedures, and expectations of conduct. Although Johnson is presumed innocent until proven guilty of these criminal charges, they appear to be serious charges, and we do not take them lightly. To ensure the integrity of the criminal investigation, the City was asked by outside criminal authorities to pause its internal investigation for multiple months while the external and independent criminal process occurred. The City has resumed its internal investigation and seeks to conclude the investigation in a timely, thorough, and fair manner. Johnson is entitled to due process and will continue paid administrative leave through the City's investigation, as is required by state law."

F. Aldermanic Reports

G. Announcements

Alderperson Akers said that the Farmer's Market is paused for the winter.

H. Citizen Commentary

I. Public Hearings

1. Public Hearing on the proposed 2026 Budget (Schafer)

The public hearing opened at 7:08 PM.

Mayor Neitzke thanked the department managers that were present. He said the budget is completely transparent. He spoke about contract negotiations.

Mayor Neitzke presented the changes to the proposed budget; the total budget; the fund types; city employee positions; the General Fund expenditures; the Police Department, Fire Department, and the Department of Neighborhood Services are the largest parts of the budget; department revenues; shared revenues; other revenues and aids that contribute to the budget; the State Aid history; other General Fund revenues; the levy and the formula; levy allocation; the levy limit versus the Expenditure Restraint Program (ERP); the breakdown of the General Fund; capital improvement types and funding sources; capital equipment; the estimated property taxes; tax rates; and assessment history. He spoke about the categories that make the city a better place: safety and services, schools, quality of life, and a reason to visit. He said that there isn't wasteful spending in our budget. He spoke about the harsh realities: being forced to borrow debt and that the most impactful expense is staff. The state's levy limit formula, as it stands, will never provide enough levy increase to meet growing expenditures. The state's shared revenue and aid do not keep meaningful pace. The other revenues practically cannot be increased. The levy burden is being shifted to residential property owners. Residential property owners cannot be expected to be able to tolerate high burdens. He said that it means that there's not going to be the ability to continue to fund current City functions unless levy limit laws are changed and aids and revenues are increased. The increase in shared revenue saved us.

Aldersperson Kastner and Mayor Neitzke discussed the Turf Special Revenue account and fundraising. The other parks won't be affected because they are a part of the capital budget. They are trying to create a nonprofit Friends of the Turf organization and a foundation. The return on investment would be greater if a shelter with bathrooms was built so that it could be rented like the other park shelters.

Motion by Aldersperson Akers, seconded by Aldersperson Bailey to close the public hearing at 8:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

- a. Decision regarding the 2026 budget and adoption of a resolution levying property taxes. (Schafer)
Mayor Neitzke read the resolution.

Motion by Aldersperson Kastner, seconded by Aldersperson Drzewiecki to approve as presented. On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Aldersperson Akers, seconded by Aldersperson Kastner to reconsider. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Aldersperson Kastner, seconded by Aldersperson Drzewiecki to reaffirm. On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

J. Old Business

1. Appointments to various committees and commissions:

- a. Mayor appointments, confirmed by Council:

- i. Two members to the Civil Service Commission for terms to expire 5/1/27 (formerly David Podeszwa and Paul Leu)
Place on the next agenda.

K. New Business

1. Claim received from Morgan Czaplewski. (Goergen)
Referred to City Attorney.

Minutes are not official until formally approved by the Common Council at the next scheduled meeting.

2. Approve applications for 2025-2026 operator licenses (Goergen)
Motion by Alderperson Akers, seconded by Alderperson Drzewiecki to approve. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Discussion and decision to transfer \$5,000 from the PD Equipment Replacement account (CECOPS) into Capital Equipment account CE2506 (Marked/Unmarked Squads) (E. Lindstrom)
Motion by Alderperson Akers, seconded by Alderperson Saryan to approve. On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
4. Adopt an ordinance establishing the 2026 Service Charges for the Collection of Garbage, Refuse, Yard Wastes and Recycling Services. (BPW- Bailey, 10/28/25)
Motion by Alderperson Bailey, seconded by Alderperson Akers to approve. On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
5. Discussion and decision to renew an agreement with Johns Disposal Service for Refuse, Recycling, and Yard Waste Disposal. (BPW- Bailey, 10/28/25)
Motion by Alderperson Bailey, seconded by Alderperson Drzewiecki to approve. On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Alderperson Bailey and Mayor Neitzke discussed how responsive Johns Disposal was during the flooding.
6. Approval of mileage reimbursements in the amount of \$747.60. (Schafer)
Motion by Alderperson Saryan, seconded by Alderperson Bailey to approve agenda items K6-K9. On a roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.
7. Approval of schedules of disbursements in the amount of \$3,518,658.24. (Schafer)
Approved under agenda item K6.
8. Accept Investments and Reinvestments for September 2025. (Schafer)
Approved under agenda item K6.
9. Accept September 2025 financial statements. (Schafer)
Approved under agenda item K6.

L. Items for future agenda

M. Adjourn

Motion by Alderperson Akers, seconded by Alderperson Drzewiecki to adjourn at 8:07 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Jennifer Goergen, City Clerk

Minutes transcribed by Trina Kaminski, Administrative Assistant

Distributed: 11/7/2025

ORDINANCE NO. 3094

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12.12 OF THE HEALTH & SANITATION CODE
OF THE CITY OF GREENFIELD RELATING TO
RECYCLING, YARD WASTE, REFUSE AND SOLID WASTE

The Common Council of the City of Greenfield do ordain as follows:

PART I. Section 12.12 is hereby amended as follows:

(27)(b) There is hereby levied and imposed a special charge for services rendered in the form of garbage, rubbish, yard wastes and recycling collection and disposal and other related programs as follows:

1. Individual Collection (non-dumpster)

\$ 71.89 per annum per unit for recycling services

\$178.92 per annum per unit for garbage, refuse and yard waste services

\$250.81 per annum per unit for total special charge

PART II. The terms and provisions of this ordinance are severable. Should any term or provision of this ordinance be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining terms and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

PART III. All ordinances or parts of ordinances contravening the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

PART IV. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from 12:00 AM on January 1, 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Greenfield on the 4th day of November 2025.

APPROVED:

Michael J. Neitzke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Goergen, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 4090

WHEREAS, the City of Greenfield has prepared an Annual Budget for the 2026 fiscal year in accordance with the requirements of the City of Greenfield Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed the proposed revenues from all sources and the proposed expenditures for all purposes and has directed that the proposed budget be adjusted accordingly; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the Annual Budget was held November 4, 2025 after due and proper notice of said hearing having been given in accordance with the provisions of Section 65.90, Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to levy a property tax in the amount of \$29,656,631 (exclusive of the TIF levy) to fund the expenses of the City of Greenfield contained in the 2026 Annual Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Greenfield, Wisconsin, as follows:

1. That the 2026 Annual Budget, a summary of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, be and is hereby approved;
2. That the property tax is hereby levied in the amount of \$29,656,631 (exclusive of the TIF levy) on all taxable property within the City of Greenfield as returned by the Assessor in the year 2025, for the purposes as set forth in the budget.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Greenfield on the 4th day of November, 2025.

APPROVED:

Michael J. Neitzke, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Goergen, City Clerk