



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes - Final

City Administrator Working Group

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

12:00 PM

Grandad Conference Room - City Hall

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Working Group Chair, Larry Sleznikow at 12:03 p.m.

Welcome

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barb Janssen, Larry Sleznikow, Erin Goggin

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Janssen, seconded by Goggin, to **APPROVE** the minutes of April 9, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items:

Thanks were given to the members of the City Administrator Working Group including CM Janssen and CM Goggin and former Working Group members and former city council members Mac Kiel and Mark Neumann, Director of Human Resources Rebecca Franzen, Nikki Elsen and Sondra Craig in the City Clerk's Office, City Department Heads, and Daniel Foth, JD, Director, Certified Public Manager Program and Local Government Specialist, Local Government Education at University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension.

This meeting of the City Administrator Working Group will be the summary of the working group's work since it started meeting in December 2024. It will include an overview of the draft city administrator information paper created by Daniel Foth in collaboration with the working group.

Mr. Foth will also present a public engagement plan for providing information to and receiving feedback from community members related to the possibility of hiring a city administrator.

Daniel Foth, JD, Director, Certified Public Manager Program and Local Government Specialist, Local Government Education at University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension joined the meeting in person and provided another overview of the document he created for the working group members titled Draft 4-7-25 City of La Crosse - Mayor vs. City Administrator Information Paper including updates from the April 9th meeting.

Mr. Foth also provided an overview of the 4-21-25 DRAFT One Pager, a concise summary of the information paper, and DRAFT Public Engagement Outline - La Crosse 4-21-25 document outlining a suggested framework for public engagement about hiring a city administrator.

24-1585

Proposed City Administrator position.

A motion was made by Janssen, seconded by Goggin and unanimously approved to recommend that J&A and the Common Council refer 24-1287 (Charter Ordinance to create position of City Administrator) until the February 2026 council cycle.

The motion allowed for refilling the two open working group positions as was done originally. Once the working group is back to five members, the City Administrator Working Group will continue the work it has started with the assistance of city staff including engaging the public about the hiring of a city administrator.

Sleznikow will work with the Legal Department to develop a resolution for the motion and request that the Mayor short-circuit the resolution (see File 25-0502).

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.