

Hello Waupun!

I'm proud to share our 2026 City Budget—a plan focused on protecting what matters, stewarding our resources with purpose, and meeting today's needs while preparing for the future.

Public Safety: Protecting What Matters

Building on strong investments in 2025, this budget strengthens our commitment to the police department by fully supporting a detective position partially funded in 2025 and increasing investment in technology and new training resources, ensuring a strong foundation of public safety.

New for 2026, we elevate our commitment to sustainable fire and emergency response services. By working hand-in-hand with our neighboring townships, we are creating a unified, regional approach that ensures high-quality, responsive fire protection—while keeping costs manageable for our taxpayers and ensuring that those costs are fairly distributed to each participating municipality. This partnership is a testament to what we can achieve when we break down old walls and focus on shared goals.

Thanks to successful grant writing efforts over the last several years, we have been able to uniquely position the city with a fully equipped EMR program. With increasing ambulance call volume, our 2026 work plan examines ways to leverage that investment to advance the capabilities of our service with the goal of improving response times for residents in need.

We're also modernizing our compensation plan to more fairly compensate our volunteer firefighters and emergency medical responders, who give so much of themselves to serve this community. I can't thank them enough!

Finally, one of the most significant investments this year is the purchase of a new aerial ladder truck for our fire department. This is a major piece of equipment—essential for protecting both lives and property, especially as our community grows and our buildings evolve. We recognize that this purchase has an impact on our levy, and we've been very deliberate in planning for it. It's a big commitment, but it's a necessary one. This truck isn't just about today—it's about ensuring our city remains safe and well-prepared for decades to come.

Strategic Investment: Stewardship with Purpose

Quality of place matters to residents, to employers seeking to fill open jobs, and to a community's ability to attract visitors. The 2026 budget supports strategic placemaking investments, including reconstruction of the back alleyways along the north side of the 300 and 400 blocks of East Main St to replace failing infrastructure, increase parking and improve pedestrian safety, all benefits to our flourishing downtown. The project will be funded by the success of a Tax Increment District and will have **NO** impact on our tax levy. Additionally, we will extend **Shaler Drive** from the Heritage Ridge Travel Plaza north to Mayfair Drive near the High School to open additional commercial and residential development opportunity. This project will be funded with the support of a Community Development Grant and Tax Increment Financing. Other projects on our radar require planning, including housing development, flood mitigation, and industrial park growth.

Any built environment must be maintained, and as you know, in some cases that can pose challenges. For 2026, we will invest in additional resources in code enforcement activity to address blight and strengthen property values in key areas of the city.

Additional areas of focus include an increase in hours and programming at the Waupun Community Center to enhance recreation opportunities for people of all ages. And work with nonprofits to better coordinate volunteers to support key priority areas that include the economic vitality of Main Street, entrepreneurship and an increased focus on art and cultural assets that support our City of Sculpture brand. By making strategic, quality of place

investments, we are focused on reducing barriers, encouraging entrepreneurship, and making our city a place where residents and businesses can grow and thrive.

Future-Readiness: Building for Tomorrow, Today

Being future-ready means thinking long-term and making smart, responsible choices today that lay a foundation for what we'll need tomorrow. This budget supports succession planning for key department leadership roles, ensures we have the right people and systems in place, and continues to modernize how we operate—using technology and collaboration to be more efficient and effective.

The plan also supports formation of public-private partnerships that align resources to support economic development goals, ensuring that from Main St to our industrial park, we leverage available resources for the betterment of our community.

Finally, this budget prioritizes transparency and accessibility. We are launching a new, user-friendly city website and investing in digital tools that improve how we share information and engage with residents. These upgrades are not just about technology—they are about trust and accountability.

United: Moving Forward Together

Waupun might be a small city, but we're a great city, too. Our strength as a community comes from working together—neighbors helping neighbors, people volunteering their time, and all of us doing our part to keep this City safe, strong, and welcoming. Through common sense, collaboration, and careful planning, we're building a Waupun that honors our history while being ready for what's next. Thank you to our staff, volunteers, and board members for their hard work and dedication, and to all of you for your continued trust and support. Together, we're proving that small cities with big hearts and steady hands can do great things. Safe. Strong. Future Ready. That's our promise for 2026 and beyond.

Thank you and God Bless,

Mayor Rohn

DECEMBER 7 – CHRISTAMS CAROL SING – 6PM – Enjoy an evening of featured performances and singing favorite Christmas Carols! A free will offering will support Waupun Holiday Help. Held at First Reformed Church, 422 W Franklin St, Waupun. Livestreaming available on Facebook at First Reformed Church Waupun

WAUPUN HOLIDAY HELP

Applications are available at Waupun City Hall, Waupun Food Pantry, the National Exchange Bank, and Waupun Area School District offices. Completed applications need to be returned no later than Friday, November 21 to City Hall, Food Pantry, or National Exchange Bank. Distribution of gifts and food coupons will be on Saturday, December 13, at the Waupun Fire Department. In addition, we are looking for individuals, families, and organizations from the Waupun area who would be willing to adopt a family and purchase gifts for their children. Applications for donors can be obtained by contacting Jessica Buchholz at the National Exchange Bank (920-324-5551).

COMMUNITY GARDEN QUESTIONS – Please call 920-324-4000 or 920-318-3335.

WAUPUN AREA VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL PROJECT: The Waupun Area Veterans Memorial Wall is located in Shaler Park and is a lasting tribute to all Waupun area veterans who have served or are now serving their country. Those veterans have served the country in times of war and peace from the War of 1812 up through present day. The project was started in 2004 and there are currently over 1214 veteran's names on the walls and more are added every year. For more information, or to have additional names added to the walls, call the project director at 920-324-4641. Application forms are also available at the National Exchange Bank & Trust in Waupun.

CITY HALL

Open 7:00am - 4:00pm, Monday-Thursday. Friday 7am – 11am. For assistance, call 920-324-7900.

CALL YOUR COMMON COUNCIL

Mayor Rohn Bishop 920-210-1063; District 1 – Jason Westphal, 920-210-5140, District 2 – Pete Kaczmariski, 920-324-2213; District 3 – Ryan Mielke 920-517-0854; District 4 –Mike Matoushek 262-470-5975; District 5 – Dan Siebers 920-205-3065; District 6 – Bobbi Jo Kunz 920-392-9366.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Contact Susan Leahy 920-229-6360. City Hall hours: Monday's & Wednesday's 10:00am – 12:30pm.

PROPERTY ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

Call Associated Appraisal Consultants 1-800-721-4157

WAUPUN COMMUNITY CENTER (520 McKinley Street):

HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, from 8AM to 4PM. Tuesday & Friday, from 8AM to 2PM.

WAUPUN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00am - 8:00pm, Friday-Saturday 9:00am - 4:30pm. Sunday CLOSED. Curbside pick-up is available. 920-324-7925.

WAUPUN BUSINESS ALLIANCE

Tuesday from 8AM to 12PM. Thursday from 1PM to 5PM. Additional time can be made available for appointments and special projects. For any questions you can call the Waupun Business Alliance at 920-324-3491 Monday – Friday, 8AM to 5PM or you can email at info@envisiongreaterfdl.com. The Waupun Business Alliance is located at 10 W Main Street.

WAUPUN UTILITIES

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

For assistance, call 920-324-7920. An answering service is available to take your call outside of normal business hours.

WAUPUN TAXI

HOURS OF OPERATION: Waupun Taxi provides shared-ride taxi services in the City of Waupun. Hours are: Mon. – Thurs., 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., Fri., 6 a.m. – 6 p.m., 9 p.m. – 2:30 a.m., Sat. 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., 9 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. No Sunday service. Phone number is 324-2426.

PARK RESERVATIONS: If you are planning picnics, graduations, or family gatherings, you may wish to hold your event in one of our City park shelters. Park fees vary with each park. To reserve a park, call 324-7930. Leave a message if no one answers. For more information: <https://www.cityofwaupun.org/parksrec/page/parks-and-recreation-home>. Parks are scheduled to open April 1st, weather permitting. They close October 1st.

THE ELDERLY IN OUR COMMUNITY DESIRE YOUR HELP!

There is a significant need in and around Waupun for a variety of services for the elderly. Some of these services include house cleaning, moving/downsizing, lawn/landscaping services, home repairs, snow removal, technology help and more. To that end, the ONE Waupun ministry is organizing the ongoing efforts to connect those in need with those that are able to donate some of their time. We plan to start offering these services to the seniors in Waupun soon; however, we first need to generate a list of people that are willing to serve. Even if you can only help occasionally, it all helps. We need both men and women volunteers. Also, we realize that some of you may be reluctant to serve right now because of COVID, but please fill out this survey with the idea that this virus should be less of a concern in the coming months. To learn more about this service and to sign up as a volunteer, please go to www.onewaupun.com and click on the "Service" link at the top of the page.

WAUPUN DOG PARK (903 N. Madison St.): Waupun is pleased to offer an area for local dog owners to bring their dogs to run and play, as well as socialize with other dogs. It is open from sunrise to sunset, 7 days a week, year round. Please use the driveway entrance to the Waupun Area Animal Shelter. You may stop in at City Hall (201 E. Main Street) for an information guide that contains the rules and regulations.

WAUPUN ANIMAL SHELTER INC.: Hours: Monday 4PM to 7PM, Thursday 2PM to 6PM & Saturday by appointment only. 920-324-3200. Please visit our website www.waupunareanimalshelter.org to see all of the wonderful animals that we have available for adoption and a listing of our current needs.

WAUPUN AREA ANIMAL SHELTER SELLS BRICKS: The Shelter is selling bricks @ \$30.00. The 4 x 8 bricks will hold 3 lines (13 characters per line) and the icon of your choice. Order forms are available at the Animal Shelter. For questions, call the animal shelter at 920-324-3200.

HOUSING GRANT PROGRAM: Information on the Housing Grant Program can be obtained by calling MSA Professional Service, Beaver Dam, at 920-392-5142. Web Address: www.msa-ps.com

GLACIER RIDGE LANDFILL DUMP SITE: Glacier Ridge Landfill in Horicon has a dump site that is open Monday – Friday from 6:15 am to 4:30 pm. It is located at N7296 Cty Rd V, Horicon (off of Hwy 33). If you have questions you may call them at 920-387-0987.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SERVICE: ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SERVICE: Bargains Galore Thrift Store is an E-Cycle Wisconsin Registered Collector of electronics (computers, CPU's, copiers, phones, mice, keyboards, printers, scanners, fax machines, other electronics and/or any household items with a cord). Recycling Fees effective 10/22/18: TV's under 27" - \$20, TV's 27" & over - \$50, Consoles, Projections & Over 50" - \$75, Monitors - \$20, Microwaves - \$20, Stoves, Dishwashers, Washers & Dryers, etc. - \$20. Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners & Dehumidifiers are NOT accepted. (All other electronic recycling is free.) Drop-off hours: Thurs. 10–8, Fri. & Sat. 10–2. 810 W. Main St. Waupun. (920) 324-8677 or www.BargainsGaloreThriftStore.com