CITY OF MUSKEGO

COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA

08/24/2026
6:00 PM
Muskego City Hall, Meeting Rm 2, W182 S8200 Racine Avenue
***SPECIAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

PUBLIC COMMENT

City Residents and Taxpayers Only - Speakers will be limited to making comments related to all agenda items excluding closed session items relating to employment and labor issues. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker per agenda item. There will be no discussion by/with the Common Council during Public Comment. To speak during Public Comment at Common Council Meetings, please complete the Public Comment Registration Form. This form must be submitted to the City Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution #064-2026 - Authorizing a Referendum to Exceed Levy Limits for Public Safety
CCR2026.064-Public Safety Referendum.docx
Memo - Update to referendium language..pdf

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MEMBERS OF AND POSSIBLY A QUORUM OF MEMBERS OF OTHER GOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE MUNICIPALITY MAY BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE ABOVE-STATED MEETING TO GATHER INFORMATION; NO ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY ANY GOVERNMENTAL BODY AT THE ABOVE-STATED MEETING OTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENTAL BODY SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO ABOVE IN THIS NOTICE.

ALSO, UPON REASONABLE NOTICE, EFFORTS WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED INDIVIDUALS THROUGH APPROPRIATE AIDS AND SERVICES. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST THIS SERVICE, CONTACT MUSKEGO CITY HALL, (262) 679-4100.

COMMON COUNCIL – CITY OF MUSKEGO
RESOLUTION #064-2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM TO EXCEED LEVY LIMITS AND REFERENDUM BALLOT QUESTION FOR NOVEMBER 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on local government property tax levies under Wis. Stat. § 66.0602; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. § 66.0602 limits the City of Muskego's levy for 2026 (to be collected in 2027) to be no more than the greater of either 0% of last year's actual levy or a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed; which for the City of Muskego is estimated to be 0.542%, plus a percentage for terminated tax incremental finance districts, which for the City of Muskego is estimated to be 1.051%; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council for the City of Muskego, Waukesha County believes it is in the City's best interest to exceed the state levy limit as described above by a greater percentage than 1.593% for the purpose of improving public safety services in the City of Muskego; and

WHEREAS, the City of Muskego's actual tax levy in 2025 (collected in 2026) was $14,381,621; and state law would limit the increase to $351,255.84, including an adjustment for debt service, for a total allowable 2026 City tax levy (to be collected in 2027) of $14,732,877 in the event the tax levy limit is not increased by referendum.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Muskego that:

1. The Common Council supports an increase in the City tax levy for 2026 (to be collected in 2027) to exceed the state-imposed levy limit. The Common Council intends that the levy increase be applied on an ongoing basis by including it in the base used to calculate the limit in 2027. The increased levy will be used to improve public safety services in the City of Muskego, which, are the City's Police, Fire, Rescue, and Public Works services, including staffing and support for those services.

2. The Common Council directs that the question of increasing the City tax levy by 40.047%, which would increase the City levy by $5,900,000.00, for a City tax levy of $20,632,877.00 (to be collected in 2027) shall be submitted to the electorate in a referendum at the general election to be held on November 3, 2026; this increase will be used for the purpose of improving public safety services in the City of Muskego by increasing staffing in the police department, establishing a municipal fire department, and increasing staffing in the department of public works to support the municipal fire department.

3. The question shall be submitted to the electorate and appear on the ballot as follows:

> Under state law, the increase in the levy of the City of Muskego for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2027, is limited to 1.593%, which results in a levy of $14,732,877.00. Shall the City of Muskego be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2027, for the purpose of improving public safety services in the City of Muskego, which, are the City's Police, Fire, Rescue, and Public Works services, including staffing and support for those services, by a total of 40.047%, which results in a levy of $20,632,877.00, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of $5,900,000.00 for each fiscal year going forward?

DATED THIS 24th DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

CITY OF MUSKEGO

_____
Richard Petfalski Jr., Mayor

This is to certify that this is a true and accurate copy of Resolution #064-2026, which was adopted by the Common Council of the City of Muskego.

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Kerri Roller, City Clerk

the City of MUSKEGO

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Rick Petfalski, Mayor
(262) 679-5675
rpetfalski@muskego.wi.gov

MEMO

TO: Common Council
FROM: Mayor Rick Petfalski
DATE: August 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Update to Resolution #056-2026 – November 3, 2026 Referendum Question

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I am requesting Common Council approval of an update to Resolution #056-2026, which was originally approved on August 4, 2026.

The revised resolution clarifies the referendum question by specifically identifying public safety as the City's **Police, Fire, Rescue, and Public Works departments**, including staffing and support for those departments.

Some opponents of the referendum have expressed concern that the term "public safety" is too broad. Although the City has consistently communicated which departments and services would be funded, I believe revising the language is appropriate and will provide voters with greater clarity directly within the ballot question.

The updated resolution will also incorporate the final levy amounts and percentage increase provided by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. The original resolution contained estimated figures because the final information was not yet available when it was adopted.

This update does not change the purpose or scope of the referendum. It provides more precise language and replaces the estimated financial figures with the final numbers provided by the Department of Revenue.

If the Common Council does not approve the updated resolution, Resolution #056-2026 will remain in effect as originally adopted, and the language contained in that resolution will be used for the November 3, 2026 ballot question. Failure to approve this update will not prevent the referendum from appearing on the ballot; it will simply mean that the original language and estimated figures will remain in place.

Time is of the essence. To meet the Tuesday filing deadline with the Waukesha County Clerk, the Common Council must consider and adopt the updated resolution at a special meeting on Monday.

I apologize for the need to schedule another special meeting and recognize the inconvenience this may cause. However, I believe making this clarification and providing voters with the final, accurate financial information is in the best interest of the public.

I recommend that the Common Council approve the update to Resolution #056-2026 so voters receive the clearest and most accurate information possible when considering the referendum on November 3, 2026.