

SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

**Council Chambers
County-City Building**

**February 23, 2011
5:00 P.M.**

1. Roll Call.
2. Consideration of Resolution opposing provisions in the proposed budget adjustment bill.
3. Adjournment.

Any person who has special needs while attending this meeting or needs agenda materials for this meeting should contact the City Clerk as soon as possible to ensure that reasonable accommodation can be made. The City Clerk can be reached by telephone at (715) 346-1569, TDD #346-1556, or by mail at 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Copies of ordinances, resolutions, reports and minutes of the committee meetings are on file at the office of the City Clerk for inspection during the regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET ADJUSTMENT BILL

Whereas, the City of Stevens Point recognizes the financial situation which exists in the State of Wisconsin and is willing to cooperate with the State of Wisconsin to remedy the situation; and

Whereas, among Wisconsin's great assets as a state are the public employees who work hard to provide the essential services and infrastructure for the people and businesses of Wisconsin to thrive; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin and its governmental employees have established an extensive history of progressive advancement of public employees and their resulting work product; and

Whereas, the City of Stevens Point has experienced long history of productive relationships with our public employees and our public unions which is reflected in the recent police union settlement securing a zero percent increase in wages for the year of 2011; and

Whereas, the state budget adjustment legislation proposed by Governor Walker would prohibit any local governmental unit from collectively bargaining with its employees, except for public safety employees, and collective bargaining rights under current law would be effectively retained for public safety employees only; and

Whereas, with over 4300 public sector employees in Portage County, the estimated cuts in take home pay from the "Budget Repair Bill" would be \$3149 or a net loss of almost \$14 million dollars to our local works and economy(1); and

Whereas, prohibiting the provisions of current law regarding collection of union dues and certification of unions would assist neither the State of Wisconsin nor the City of Stevens Point in addressing current and future budget challenges; and

Whereas, the City of Stevens Point employs transit workers for its transit system and under Section 5333(b) of Title 49 U.S.C. effectively requires the City to continue "collective bargaining rights" that existed at the time of the initial federal assistance or potentially lose the annual federal funds in the amount of approximately \$782,000 per year. The City of Stevens Point would further lose State revenue in the amount of \$299,000 which would effectively eliminate the City's transit system and require certain payments be made to its discharged employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Stevens Point Common Council hereby requests that the Wisconsin State Legislature delete the provisions of the Fiscal Repair Bill currently being considered that pertain to Collective Bargaining; and that the said items be given separate consideration with public hearings, legislative committee mark-up and deliberations in each house of the legislature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that issues relating to health insurance and retirement be phased in over a period of twenty-four (24) months for public employees of the State of Wisconsin; and that municipal shared revenue reductions be made over a twenty-four (24) month period of time as well.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Stevens Point stands in solidarity with the hard working men and women of the public sector and thanks them for their invaluable contribution to our community.

APPROVED: _____
Andrew J. Halverson, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
John V. Moe, City Clerk

Dated: February 23, 2011

Adopted: _____, 2011