



## City of River Falls News Release

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**For Immediate Release:**

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### **CITY COUNCIL ENDORSES PARTNERSHIP FOR PROSPERITY Also Supports Additional 2015 Legislative Priorities**

Endorsing the idea of working collaboratively with Governor Scott Walker and the Legislature, the River Falls City Council adopted the “Partnership for Prosperity: An Agenda for a Competitive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Wisconsin” at their meeting on January 27, 2015.

The League’s *Partnership for Prosperity* legislative agenda recognizes that thriving municipalities are critical to a successful state economy and calls for a new state-local partnership to drive the state’s economy forward and spur job creation by:

- 1) Helping communities continue to provide quality local services while holding the line on property taxes.
- 2) Investing in local transportation infrastructure.
- 3) Enhancing and promoting economic development best practices, like the expansion of the historic tax credit that was accomplished in the 2013-2014 legislative session.

“We work every day to not only to provide basic services, but also to capitalize on what makes our community unique and provide for economic growth,” said Mayor Dan Toland. “We’re proud of what we’ve accomplished as a community.”

The City Council also adopted additional legislative priorities for the 2015 session at their February 10, 2015 meeting. Attention to these issues by state lawmakers will directly improve the operational and financial sustainability of the City. They include:

- 1) A statutory exception for law enforcement to obtain library patron records to assist in the recovery of lost, stolen, or unreturned library materials.
- 2) A statutory exception for cities that directly employ someone that can provide the services required in the plumbing supervision statute.
- 3) Support for the recommendations of the 2014 Study Committee on the Review of Tax Incremental Financing.

Says City Administrator Scot Simpson, “adopting these positions will allow staff and elected officials to better advocate for issues that will benefit the residents of the City of River Falls.”

The resolution supporting the ***Partnership for Prosperity*** is based on a model by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, of which the City of River Falls is a member, being adopted by cities and villages statewide. The League is a nonpartisan statewide organization which advocates for Wisconsin’s cities and villages. It was founded in 1898.

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RESOLUTION NO. 5909

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE  
LEAGUE OF WISCONSIN MUNICIPALITIES  
PARTNERSHIP FOR PROSPERITY

**WHEREAS**, the State Legislature and the Governor understand that job creation and economic growth is a top priority; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities are the foundation of Wisconsin's economy and local leaders share the same goal of job creation and economic vitality; and

**WHEREAS**, the State should focus its support and limited resources for local government on incorporated communities, which are the economic engines of the state as evidenced by the following:

- Wisconsin's metropolitan regions already account for 75% of the state's Gross Domestic Product;
- Wisconsin's cities and villages are home to 70 percent of the state's population, 87 percent of all manufacturing property, and 89 percent of all commercial property;
- Most of the small businesses created in Wisconsin get their start in cities and villages;
- Cities and villages are where nearly all technology based entrepreneurship is occurring in Wisconsin;
- Startups and other knowledge-based economic activity occur almost exclusively within cities and villages; and

**WHEREAS**, to compete globally, Wisconsin needs to develop and maintain quality communities that can attract and retain talent and enterprise and spur job creation; and

**WHEREAS**, for the State's economy to flourish, State and local leaders must work collaboratively; and

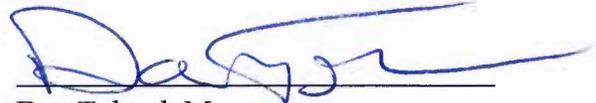
**WHEREAS**, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities' *Partnership for Prosperity* legislative agenda recognizes that thriving municipalities are critical to a successful state economy and calls for a new state-local partnership to drive the state's economy forward and spur job creation by:

- 1) Helping communities continue to provide quality local services while holding the line on property taxes;
- 2) Investing in local transportation infrastructure;
- 3) Enhancing and promoting economic development best practices, like the expansion of the historic tax credit that was accomplished in the 2013-2014 Legislative Session;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls urges the Governor and the Legislature to work collaboratively with municipal leaders to accomplish the critical goals of job creation and economic growth; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls urges the Legislature and the Governor to enact the League's attached Partnership for Prosperity agenda.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2015.

  
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Dan Toland, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk



RESOLUTION NO. 5914

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING 2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of River Falls adopted Resolution No. 5909 In Support of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Partnership for Prosperity on January 27, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of River Falls staff has identified additional legislative proposals that directly improve operational and financial sustainability of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the Common Council of the City of River Falls requests the attention of its elected representatives to these issues;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls hereby supports a statutory exception for law enforcement to obtain library patron records to assist in the recovery of lost, stolen, or unreturned library materials; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls hereby supports a statutory exception for cities that directly employ someone that can provide the services required in the plumbing supervision statute; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of River Falls hereby supports the recommendations of the 2014 Study Committee on the Review of Tax Incremental Financing.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2015.

  
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Dan Toland, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Lu Ann Hecht, City Clerk