



City of Manitowoc

900 Quay Street
Manitowoc, WI 54220
www.manitowoc.org

Meeting Minutes

Common Council

Monday, September 16, 2019

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ROLL CALL

Alderspersons Present: 7 - Jim Brey, Eric Sitkiewitz, Steven Czekala, Mike Williams, Scott McMeans, Jeremiah Novak and Todd Lotz

Alderspersons Absent: 2 - Lee H. Kummer and Mike Howe

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

D. PRESENTATIONS

[19-1024](#) Election of District 10 Aldersperson for the City of Manitowoc for the term ending 4/19/21.

Attachments: [C. Pelot Letter Resume](#)
[D. Steinbrenner Letter Resume](#)
[T. Fessler Letter of Interest & Resume](#)
[K. Zucchi Letter of Interest & Resume](#)

Moved by Brey, seconded by Novak, to reconsider the August 2019 decision to appoint this vacancy through April 19, 2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak and Lotz

Moved by Brey, seconded by Novak, to appoint a representative to District 10 through April 20, 2020 and to hold a special election in April 2020 to fill the remainder of the term though April 19, 2021. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak and Lotz

Mayor Nickels explained the nomination process and opened the floor for nominations.

Aldersperson McMeans nominated Courtney Pelot
Aldersperson Brey nominated Dennis Steinbrenner
Aldersperson Williams nominated Theresa Fessler
Aldersperson Czekala nominated Kathy Zucchi

Upon a roll call vote, Pelot received three votes, Fessler received two votes, Steinbrenner received one vote and Zucchi received one vote.

There being no absolute majority, the Council took a second vote of the top two candidates: Pelot and Fessler.

Upon a roll call vote, Pelot received five votes and Fessler received two votes. Courtney Pelot was declared appointed as District 10 Aldersperson for the term ending April 20, 2020. City Clerk administered the Oath of Office and Aldersperson Pelot assumed the seat of District 10 Aldersperson.

Updated roll call

Alderspersons Present: 8 - Jim Brey, Eric Sitkewitz, Steven Czekala, Mike Williams, Scott McMeans, Jeremiah Novak, Todd Lotz and Courtney Pelot

Alderspersons Absent: 2 - Lee H. Kummer and Mike Howe

[19-1032](#) Crime Prevention Month Proclamation

Attachments: [Crime Prevention Month Proclamation](#)

[19-1033](#) Fire Prevention Month Proclamation

Attachments: [Fire Prevention Month Proclamation](#)

[19-1034](#) Commendation to Post 88 of the American Legion

Attachments: [Post 88 Commendation](#)

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[19-0972](#)

6:30 PM - Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of a proposed Conditional Use Permit for a proposed use to operate a transitional housing establishment at 3 Riverview Drive.

Mayor declared the meeting open for a public hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of proposed Conditional Use Permit for a proposed use to operate a transitional housing establishment located at 3 Riverview Drive.

City Clerk reported that the notice of the hearing was published in the Herald Times Reporter on 9/2/19 & 9/9/19. (Proof of publication is on file in the City Clerk's office).

The following persons appeared to address the Council regarding the proposed item:

Christopher Ford
Sue Diener - 100 Blk Riverview Drive
Amber Daus - 108 Riverview Drive
Christmas Rusch
Bill Holmes - 702 Park Street
Kathy Nichols
Chris Gilbert
Tom Diener - 100 Blk Riverview Drive
Donna Firman
Donna Lindholm - 142 Riverview Drive
Jeff Dunn - 903 St. Clair Street

No other interested parties appeared.

Mayor declared the public hearing closed. (A recording of the entire hearing is on file in the City Clerk's office).

[19-0988](#)

6:31 PM - Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of proposed changes to Chapter 15 regulating signs.

Mayor declared the meeting open for a public hearing for the purpose of hearing any and all interested parties in the matter of proposed changes to Chapter 15 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code regulating signs.

City Clerk reported that the notice of the hearing was published in the Herald Times Reporter on 9/5/19 & 9/9/19. (Proof of publication is on file in the City Clerk's office).

The following persons appeared to address the Council regarding the proposed item:

No interested parties appeared.

Mayor declared the public hearing closed. (A recording of the entire hearing is on file in the City Clerk's office).

F. PUBLIC INPUT

Mayor declared the meeting open for public input. In accordance with policy, the public input portion of the meeting is not made a part of the official record.

G. APPOINTMENTS AND BUSINESS PRESENTED BY THE MAYOR

H. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Removal of Consent Agenda Items

None

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Moved by Sitkiewitz, seconded by McMeans, to accept the Consent Agenda Items and recommendations of the various committees The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

2. Miscellaneous

[19-0989](#) Minutes of August 19, 2019 Common Council meeting, recommending acceptance and place on file.

Attachments: [CC Min 8-19-19](#)

[19-0990](#) Communication from Public Service Commission of WI, recommending acceptance and place on file.

Attachments: [PSC Communication](#)

[19-1019](#) Resignation from Heidi Schroderus from Library Board effective immediately, recommending acceptance and place on file

Attachments: [Schroderus Resignation](#)

3. Committee of the Whole (Consent)

- [19-1026](#) Report of Special Events Committee relative to approval of the following events: Fiesta Nayarit on 9/7/19; Waiver of Fees: Mtwc. County Drug Court Program Appreciation Picnic; Waiver of Fees: Cardboard City; Waiver of Fees: My Tiger Jungle; recommending acceptance of report and place on file.

Attachments: [SE Report](#)
[Fiesta Nayarit](#)
[Waiver of Fees - Mtwc County Drug Court](#)
[Waiver of Fees - Habitat for Humanity](#)
[Waiver of Fees - My Tiger Jungle](#)

4. Finance Committee (Consent)

- [19-0904](#) Natural Gas Pre Buy Program and Sample Agreements for Delivery Period: November 1, 2020 End: October 31, 2023, recommend to place on file.

- [19-0944](#) Wireless Telecommunications Equipment and Service Agreement with Cellcom, recommend to enter into agreement.

Attachments: [Cellcom Agreement](#)

- [19-0966](#) Request from Ted Frisch, Agent, Three T's, Inc. to extend his tavern license TAV-1950 on September 14th to include the parking lot, for premise located at 2202 Marshall St., recommend to approve the request.

Attachments: [3Ts Request](#)

- [19-0991](#) General City Claims in the amount of \$2,265,775.19 enumerated on list thereof, recommending that the claims be allowed and ordered paid and Mayor, Clerk and Finance Director/Treasurer are instructed to issue the necessary order.

Attachments: [September Claims](#)
[8-23-19 \(2\)](#)
[8-30-19](#)
[9-6-19](#)
[9-13-19](#)
[8-23-19](#)

- [19-1020](#) Report of Finance Committee to grant the various licenses subject to approvals, inspections, insurance, payment of license fees and meeting State Statute requirements, as detailed therein, recommending acceptance.

Attachments: [September Licenses](#)

5. Personnel Committee (Consent)

6. Public Infrastructure Committee (Consent)

[19-0748](#) Maintenance of Stormwater Pond on corner of Deerbrook Lane, recommending having the City to maintain the Stormwater Ponds on Deerbrook and Knuell Street to include the grass and outfall.

Attachments: [19-0748](#)
[19-0748 Deerbrook storm pond 9.4.2019](#)

[19-0850](#) Department of Public Infrastructure Reorganization, recommending approval.

Attachments: [Memo re staff recommendations to committee 19-0850](#)

[19-0851](#) New Project State/Municipal Agreement Project ID 1470-37-00/71 STH 42 Memorial Drive (Waldo Blvd - E Magnolia Ave), recommending approval and entering into agreement

Attachments: [State Municipal Agreement Memorial Drive STH 42](#)
[19-0851 State-Municipal Agreement STH 42 Memorial Dr - Waldo to E Magnolia](#)
[19-0851 State-Municipal Agreement STH 42 Memorial Dr - Waldo to E Magnolia](#)

[19-0957](#) Flooding under Dewey Street Trestle, recommending DPI to install signage the states "Flooding when Rains" and work with Manitowoc Public Utilities on the lighting.

Attachments: [Memo re staff recommendations to committee - Flooding Under Dewey St. Railroad Trestle 19-0957](#)
[19-0957 Flooding Under Dewey Street Trestle](#)

[19-0959](#) Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forestry Management Update Plan, recommending approval of plan and placing on file.

Attachments: [19-0959 Emerald Ash Borer Urban Forestry Management Update Plan](#)
[19-0959 Emerald Ash Borer Recommendation 9.4.2019](#)

[19-0962](#) Request to Discuss the possibility of eliminating Dale Street Park as a listed Park and consider Rezoning the Property, recommending placing on file

Attachments: [19-0962 Possibility of Eliminating Dale Street Park](#)

[19-0965](#) To review proposals for the City of Manitowoc Parks Concessions, recommending DPI to work out a three (3) year contract agreement with a vendor for Concessions for the Zoo and Aquatic Center

Attachments: [19-0965 Konop Proposal for Park Concessions](#)
[19-0965 Scott's Vending Proposal for Park Concessions](#)
[19-0965 Request to explore sub-contracting Concessions staff recommendations to committee](#)

[19-0968](#) Park Playground Equipment Donation, recommending approval of donations

Attachments: [19-0968 Playground Equipment donation staff recommendations to committee](#)

[19-1001](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 8/21/19 for 1st and Final payment of \$140,305.30 to Scott Construction, Inc. for 2019 Seal Coating Program, WS-19-6, recommending payment.

Attachments: [WS-19-6 Final Payment](#)

[19-1002](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 8/21/19 for 2nd and Final payment of \$10,576.03 to Forward Contractors for 2019 Concrete Slab Replacement, WS-19-10, recommending payment.

Attachments: [WS-19-10 Final Payment](#)

[19-1003](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 9/4/19 for 3rd and Final payment of \$14,457.77 to Visu-Sewer, Inc. for 2019 Re-Lining Sanitary Sewer, WU-19-7, recommending payment.

Attachments: [WU-19-7 Final Payment](#)

[19-1004](#) Progress invoice from WI Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$7,323.52 for Waldo Blvd, project no. 39545701200, recommending payment.

Attachments: [Progress Invoice - pymt 24](#)

[19-1005](#) Progress invoice from WI Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$16,650.37 for Waldo Blvd, project no. 39515003700, recommending payment.

Attachments: [Progress Invoice - pymt 29](#)

[19-1006](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 8/21/19 of denial of request to rescind weed cutting assessment for property at 815 Green Street, recommending acceptance and place on file.

Attachments: [BPW Weed Appeal - 815 Green St](#)

[19-1007](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 8/21/19, of bids received for Manitowoc River Docks, Project WO-19-15, recommending awarding to low bidder, Mammoth Construction in the amount of \$174,000.00.

Attachments: [WO-19-15](#)

[19-1008](#) Progress invoice from WI Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$219,913.16 for Waldo Blvd, project no. 39545701272, recommending payment.

Attachments: [Progress Invoice - Waldo Blvd](#)

[19-1009](#) Progress invoice from WI Dept. of Transportation in the amount of \$134,975.38 for Waldo Blvd, project no. 39515003775, recommending payment.

Attachments: [Progress Invoice - Waldo](#)

[19-1011](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 9/4/19 of approval to reduce 2018 concrete Paving Assessment on parcel no. 390-001-0140 to \$649.74 to account for corner lot adjustment, recommending acceptance and place on file.

Attachments: [Concrete Paving SA - Hood](#)

[19-1012](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 9/4/19 of approval to reduce 2018 concrete Paving Assessment on parcel no. 355-016-001 to \$7,129.94 to account for corner lot adjustment, recommending acceptance and place on file.

Attachments: [Concrete Paving SA - Cedar Crest](#)

[19-1013](#) Report of Board of Public Works of 9/4/19 of reduction in noxious weed assessment for property at parcel no. 813-201-100, recommending acceptance and place on file.

Attachments: [Noxious Weed Appeal 813-201-100](#)

7. Public Safety Committee (Consent)

[19-0890](#) Discussion regarding proposed parking stall markings on the west side of North 9th Street off Maritime Drive in front of the existing unused driveway entrances, recommending approval.

Attachments: [Revised Plan for Parking Stalls on N. 9th St. - Maritime Dr. to York St.](#)

8. Plan Commission (Consent)

- [19-0936](#) PC 29-2019 Site Plan Review - Manitowoc Aquatic Center Proposed Expansion pursuant to §62.23(6) "Matters Referred to the Plan Commission," recommending to grant the proposed expansion to the Manitowoc Family Aquatic Center per the presented plans.

Attachments: [19-0936 Report to Council Aquatic Center](#)
[19-0936 PC Report Aquatic Center Expansion](#)

- [19-0937](#) PC 1-2019: Bright Horizon Properties, LLC; Quit Claim Deed for N. 8th Street purposes, recommending to grant the quit claim deed for the dedication N. 8th Street.

Attachments: [19-0937 Bright Horizons N 8th St QC deed](#)
[19-0937 Bright Horizon N 8th st Quit Claim Deed](#)

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee of the Whole

- [19-0947](#) CN Peninsula update

Moved by Sitkiewitz, seconded by McMeans, to enter into contract with Stantec and Ehlers at a cost not to exceed \$227,315 to be budgeted from the balance in downtown delegated funds from 2019 capitol budget to begin Phase 1. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

- [19-1027](#) Report of Special Events Committee relative to approval of the following events subject to Council approval: Halfway to St. Patrick's Day on 9/21/19 (Closure of Jay St. between S. 8th & S. 9th Streets; waiver of the noise ordinance until 11p.m.; extension of alcohol premise); Lincoln Homecoming, Tailgate & Rubick Run on 10/4/19 (Closure of streets from Lincoln High School to Municipal Field for parade & closure of Grand Ave. from S. 21st to S. 23rd until 10pm)

Attachments: [SE Report - needing CC Action](#)
[Halfway to St. Patrick's Day](#)
[LHS Homecoming, Tailgate & Rubick Run](#)

Moved by Sitkiewitz, seconded by McMeans, that this Report be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

2. Finance Committee

[19-0939](#) Election by Common Council of Manitowoc Public Utilities Commissioner for a term of five years, pursuant to Municipal Code, as the following term will expire: Daniel Hornung, term expires September 30, 2019.

Attachments: [MPU Commissioner Hornung Interest Letter For MPU Commission](#)

A nomination was on the floor to elect Daniel Hornung to the MPU Commission. There being no other nominations, it was moved by Brey, seconded by McMeans, to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot appointing Daniel Hornung to the MPU Commission for a five year term ending September 30, 2024. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-0948](#) Resolution to Extend TID #9 to Fund Healthy Neighborhood Initiative

Attachments: [Res to extend TID #9 for Housing Programs 9-16-2019](#)

Moved by Brey, seconded by McMeans, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1000](#) Resolution Providing for the Sale of Approximately \$2,390,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds

Attachments: [Res 2.39M GO Refunding Bonds](#)
[prs finance committee plan_manitowoc 09.3.19 \(2\)](#)

Moved by Brey, seconded by McMeans, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1018](#) Resolution to backfill part time Security Guard position at Rahr West Art Museum

Attachments: [Security Guard JD](#)
[Request to backfill](#)
[Res to backfil RWAM Security Guard position 9-16-2019](#)

Moved by Brey, seconded by McMeans, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1021](#) Request from HFM Wellness Center request to have Sabbatical Brewery serve beer at the HFM Wellness Center for an open to the public event on October 25th.

Attachments: [HFM Request](#)

Moved by Brey, seconded by McMeans, that this Request be approved according to State and City policy. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

3. Personnel Committee

[19-1028](#) Resolution Appointing Adam Tegen as Community Development Director

Attachments: [Res to hire Adam Tegen as Community Dev Dir 9-16-2019](#)

Moved by Czekala, seconded by Sitkiewitz, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1029](#) Resolution to Approve Revised Employee Policy Manual

Attachments: [Memo to Council re EPM Revisions 9.2019](#)

[EPM Revisions to Council 9.2019](#)

[EPM-CURRENT DRAFT rev 09.2019](#)

[Res revise EPM-revisions from Personnel Committee Sept 2019 \(3\)](#)

Moved by Czekala, seconded by Sitkiewitz, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1030](#) Resolution to Approve Reorganization of Department of Public Infrastructure

Attachments: [Parks and Recreation Division Manager JD 09-2019](#)

[Operations Division Manager JD 09-2019](#)

[Recreation Team Leader JD 09-2019](#)

[Res approve reorg of DPI due to retirement 9-16-2019](#)

Moved by Czekala, seconded by Sitkiewitz, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1031](#) Resolution to Approve Robin HealthPartners Health Plan for 2020

Attachments: [City of Manitowoc 2020 Robin Plan Design](#)

[jcl edits Res authorize health dental ins participation agmt w Robin HealthPartners - Copy](#)

Moved by Czekala, seconded by Sitkiewitz, that this Resolution be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

Abstain: 1 - McMeans

4. Public Infrastructure Committee

[19-0853](#) Ordinance to amend Section 7.110 of Municipal Code regulating Railroads Operating in the City of Manitowoc.

Attachments: [Post-PI Memo](#)

[Ordinance to Amend 7.110 Regulations of RR Operating in City](#)

[19-0853-1 Ordinance to Amend Section 7.110 regulating Railroads operating in the COM](#)

[19-0853 Ordinance to Amend Section 7.110 of Municipal Code regulating Railroads Operating in COM](#)

Moved by Novak, seconded by Brey, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1010](#) Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance Agreement with Investors Community Bank

Attachments: [Stormwater Agmt - Investors](#)

Moved by Novak, seconded by Brey, that this Agreement be entered into. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

5. Public Safety Committee

[19-0823](#) Ordinance to amend Section 10.390 of the Municipal Code regulating parking on N. 9th Street

Attachments: [Ord - Parking on N. 9th](#)

Moved by Lotz, seconded by Czekala, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-0979](#) Lifequest billing dispute 182A-19-2420.

Moved by Lotz, seconded by Czekala, to waive the ambulance fee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-0985](#) Ordinance to create Section 14.100 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code regulating tampering with ring life buoys prohibited.

Attachments: [Ord to Prohibit Tampering with Safety Buoy](#)

Moved by Lotz, seconded by Czekala, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-0986](#) Ordinance to amend Section 14.860 of the Manitowoc Municipal Code regulating general penalty.

Attachments: [Ord to Amend 14](#)

Moved by Lotz, seconded by Czekala, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-0987](#) Town of Newton Agreement for Ambulance Services beginning January 1, 2020.

Attachments: [Agmt for ambulance services - Newton](#)

Moved by Lotz, seconded by Czekala, that this Agreement be entered into. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1025](#) Ordinance amending Section 10.4990 of the Municipal Code regulating two-hour parking on Maritime Drive

Attachments: [Ord - 2 hr parking on Maritime Dr](#)

Moved by Lotz, seconded by Czekala, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

6. Plan Commission

[19-0934](#) PC 33-2019 Holy Family Memorial / Core Treatment Services Pursuant to MMC 15.230(3)k. Request for a Conditional Use Permit for the establishment of a Transitional Housing Residential Treatment Center in the B-1 Office - Residential Zoning District located at 3 Riverview Drive.

Attachments: [19-0934 Report to Council HFM CORE](#)
[19-0934 PC Report HFM Core CUP](#)

Moved by McMeans, seconded by Czekala, to amend the motion to approve the CUP contingent upon confirmed communication of neighborhood listening session as well as communication of policies around loitering, security and visibility of clients in the neighborhood. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Czekala, McMeans and Novak

Nay: 5 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Williams, Lotz and Pelot

Moved by Brey, seconded by Sitkiewitz, that this Conditional Use Permit be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

[19-1022](#) Ordinance to amend Section 15.450 of the Municipal Code regulating signs

Attachments: [Ord regulating signs](#)

Moved by Brey, seconded by Sitkiewitz, that this Ordinance be adopted. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

J. OTHER BUSINESS

K. ADJOURN

Moved by Sitkiewitz, seconded by McMeans, that this meeting be adjourned at 9:11 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 8 - Brey, Sitkiewitz, Czekala, Williams, McMeans, Novak, Lotz and Pelot

**Deborah Neuser
City Clerk**