

**From:** [Ted Losby](#)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item 11 #86169  
**Date:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 4:58:50 PM

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Dear Finance Committee,

We write as concerned taxpayers. We oppose the eventual forgiveness of debt and the sale of the 2 ice arena's and the land. There needs to be more transparency in the process and we ask to be slowed down so more information can be provided.

Consider: Who benefits? Who is burdened?  
Who does not have a voice at the table?  
How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Kathy and Ted Losby  
542 Charles Ln  
Madison WI. 53711

**From:** [Laura Swisher](#)  
**To:** [Conklin, Nikki](#)  
**Cc:** [council](#); [Finance Committee](#); [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Continued Support of the Ice Arena Resolution Requested at the 1/6/25 Finance meeting  
**Date:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 7:31:31 PM

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Some people who received this message don't often get email from [laurabeaswisher@gmail.com](mailto:laurabeaswisher@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Your previous support of this important resolution is appreciated and your continued support would mean the world to our family and many others.

Thank you in advance! Laura Swisher

On Tue, Nov 26, 2024 at 1:06 PM Laura Swisher <[laurabeaswisher@gmail.com](mailto:laurabeaswisher@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear Alder Conklin -

Thank you in advance for reading my message. I hope it is helpful as you consider your support of the resolution that is to be discussed in your council meeting this evening...I wanted to include how much the rinks mean to us (it is a great deal) and I'll try not to make it too long.

My name is Laura Swisher and I live in your district (on Oxwood Circle). My husband and I moved to the area 10 years ago from Pittsburgh for an amazing opportunity for him. We were excited to join an amazing place where we had only spent long weekends despite it being far from home (we are both new englanders). When we told our then 5 year old son, Will, we were moving he asked two questions - it went something like this:

Will - "Okay - Wisconsin - well, what are they?"

Us - (looking puzzled) - "what do you mean?"

Will - "Will Pittsburgh is the Panthers - what is Madison?" (He was referring to the University of Pittsburgh's mascot.)

My Husband "The Badgers"

Will - "Okay, I can be a badger. Can I play hockey when we get there?"

Us - "Yes - we will work on it."

Our then 5 year, asked for a cookie and went to pack. We moved here 2 months later, looked for a close ice rink and quickly enrolled him in skating lessons and then 6 months later - he started playing for the West Madison Polar Caps in their cross ice program. Fast forward 10 years later and that 5 year old is still playing. Tonight as you are in your meeting, he will have his first game as a Memorial Spartan and he couldn't be more excited or proud to represent his school and his community. I am not one to get emotional but there will probably be a tear in my eye when he takes to the ice.

Over the past 10 years I think we have spent countless days, nights and early mornings at the rink for practices, games, volunteering, lessons, clinics and community events. The friends that he met playing have supported him throughout celebrations of his first goal to heart breaks of losing to a long time rival yet again. My son is not the best player on the ice by far but he loves the game. He has

learned teamwork, perseverance, hard work, handling disappointment with his head held high and winning with grace ... and that is all because MIA gave him a place to play.

And he is just one of many many kids and adults who have benefited from the city's generosity. I can only imagine how hard your job and the job of your fellow council members is as you work to balance spending and community priorities. You must receive requests all day and from a number of perspectives. In your discussion tonight about our rinks, I ask that for kids like Will you please strongly consider supporting the Ice Arena Resolution so that we can continue to provide these experiences for many more years to come. I have attached two photos of Will one from his first year as a Polar Cap and a second in his Memorial uniform. Despite the more grown up look on the most recent photo, please know he is smiling just as big as in the earlier one on the inside.

Thank you for your time, your effort and your dedication to our community. If you have any questions about my message - please don't hesitate to reach out.

Best - Laura Swisher  
412-260-2476





**From:** [GERRY ROESING](#)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Ice Rink Debt Forgiveness  
**Date:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 6:08:36 PM

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Hello Finance Committee Members,

Let me just say that I oppose the debt forgiveness for the ice arenas. It is appalling that in this era of high taxes and people having problems maintaining adequate food and housing that a plan could arise to benefit a few to the detriment of the other citizens of the City of Madison. Please stop with any consideration of this proposal. It is just a horrible idea. Also please send me the names of the Finance Committee members so I will always have a source of who considered this issue.

Gerry Roesing  
9801 Hill Creek Drive  
Verona, WI 53593  
City of Madison resident with a Verona mailing address

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Joseph Keyes](#)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose Finance Committee Agenda Item 86169  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 8:20:05 AM

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Madison Finance Committee,

I oppose Agenda Item # 86169. The committee must suspend discussion of Agenda Item # 86169 concerning Madison Ice MIA, LLC, the forgiveness of the \$1.6 million owed to the city, and the donation of 7 acres of city land. Since Madison Ice's assertions do not agree with the IRS Form 990 filings, more in-depth analysis needs to be done. Also, Madison General Ordinance 8.075 requires an economic feasibility study which has not been done. Once the in-depth analysis is done and economic feasibility study completed, those studies should be released to the public for further public discussion before any action is taken on the two skating rinks. This will add transparency to the process which is currently lacking.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Keyes

District 11

**From:** [Beth Rawlinson](#)  
**To:** [Office of Business Resources](#); [Latimer Burris, Amani](#); [Guequierre, John](#); [EDC](#); [Finance Committee](#); [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** Re #86169 MAI and Hartmeyer loan & land sale proposals  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:35:59 PM

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You don't often get email from [bethrawlinson@yahoo.com](mailto:bethrawlinson@yahoo.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear City of Madison leaders,

My 17-year-old daughter Eliza is a short track speed skater. She started skating at our local rinks in the learn to skate programs at age 4. She loved it immediately and it became her passion.

When she was about 8, we had been watching the Winter Olympics. She turned to me and said, "I'm going to the Olympics and I'm not returning without the gold". It got me thinking, because as good as she is at skating, her body type was going to have limitations in figure skating.

I asked her if she would like to try speedskating and she agreed, with hesitation. After her first lesson she lost all hesitation. At her first race a few months later, she qualified to race at Nationals.

Currently she trains every morning at 6:30 in Milwaukee at the Pettit Center, goes to high school two blocks away and then we drive back to Madison to skate at our local rinks. She is no longer competing with figure skating, but the relationships she has formed with coaches and skaters over the years are too important to her to lose.

Two years ago, Eliza made the US Speedskating Jr National Development team. Last year she was named by US Speedskating to be the US Speedskating Jr Development skater of the year. In January she is competing in Salt Lake City, hoping to make the Jr National Team.

This past January, Eliza was one of two girls nationally to represent Team USA at the Youth Olympics in Gangneung, Korea. Her relay team, the 2 girls and 2 boys representing the US, won a silver medal. She was voted by her fellow Team USA athletes to be the female flag bearer in the Youth Olympics opening ceremony.

Last month she represented Team USA in Bormio Italy at the Jr World Cup. Last week she represented Team USA at the Canadian Invitational in Montreal.

Skating has defined the trajectory of her life. It has given her a purpose and huge life goals that she is starting to achieve. 100%, without our local rinks, she would not be the person she is today.

Without our local rinks, our children will have limited options of sports to participate in. We'll end up with just the basic school sports, as good as they may be. Ice sports will be lost, along with the potential they give to young athletes to find themselves, believe in themselves and excel.

I do understand the question of forgiving loans made using taxpayer money. It does bother me that we work hard for our earnings which in turn we give to the city, but the effort does not seem to be fully reciprocated by Madison Ice Inc. But to me, the issue of how losing our rinks would impact our kids and community exceeds my irritation with what looks to me like fiscal irresponsibility.

It worries me that thousands of children who use our rinks will lose this outlet. It is my hope that you can find a way to continue the rinks, and our kids can find confidence through skating and have their lives changed by it as my daughter has.

Please work your hardest to support our kids. Thank you very much for your time.

Best wishes,  
Beth Rhodehamel

**From:** [Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen](#)  
**To:** [Tishler, Bill](#); [Fields, Debbie](#); [Windsor, Liz](#); [Mikolajewski, Matthew](#)  
**Cc:** [Koh, Christine E](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [District 11] Ice Arenas  
**Date:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 11:06:04 AM

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Adding in Christine Koh.  
K

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**From:** Tishler, Bill <district11@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 9:43 AM  
**To:** Fields, Debbie <DFields@cityofmadison.com>; Windsor, Liz <LWindsor@cityofmadison.com>; Kapusta-Pofahl, Karen <KKapusta-Pofahl@cityofmadison.com>; Mikolajewski, Matthew <MMikolajewski@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** Fw: [District 11] Ice Arenas

Please add this email from a resident into public comment for tomorrow's Finance Committee meeting.

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**From:** noreply <noreply@cityofmadison.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 5, 2025 8:31 AM  
**To:** Tishler, Bill <district11@cityofmadison.com>  
**Subject:** [District 11] Ice Arenas

Recipient: District 11: Bill Tishler

Sunday, January 5, 2025 – 8:30am

Andrea Welch  
4318 Critchell Terrace  
Madison, Wisconsin. 53711 Yes, by email. [andrea.welch@hotmail.com](mailto:andrea.welch@hotmail.com) District 11 Ice Arenas  
Good morning,

In light of receiving \$22 million in additional tax funding I find it appalling that the city seems to think it is flush enough to give away ice arenas and forgive tax debt. I can't imagine anyone is going to give me the home and land I live on and forgive the rest of my mortgage.

At the very minimum I am requesting complete answer to the following questions that were put forth in Sunday's Wisconsin State Journal:

1. How much is the property worth? This is 7 acres of land that is likely worth many millions of dollars with or without the arenas. Is the city now so fiscally healthy that we can forgo these funds?



2. What is the state of the buildings? Hartmeyer arena needs millions of dollars of repairs to stay open. Property transfers should always include a building inspection and evaluation. Why hasn't one occurred in this case?

3. What are other uses of the property? A senior city official wrote in an email, "We have not explored any alternative in detail." Why? Clearly, the city has not met its "duty of due diligence" and considered all options for the land and facilities.

4. What is the use of the arenas? Most time on the ice is given to hockey teams from Madison, Monona Grove and DeForest schools as well as youth "prep" teams from the region, according to our review of recent schedules. Only about 5% of time on the ice appears to be for "public skating." Are the rates for use consistent with other arenas in the area? Is the level of use worth the actual cost to the city of many millions of dollars?

Kind regards,  
Andrea Welch

**From:** [Bonnie Roe](#)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [All Alders](#)  
**Subject:** Skating Rinks  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 3:32:11 PM

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Members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing in opposition to Agenda Item #11 on today's meeting. There needs to be more transparency and discussion regarding the forgiveness of the \$1.6 million owed to the city, and the donation of 7 acres of prime city real estate.

Madison Ice, Inc's assertions do not line up with the IRS 990 filings and more in-depth analysis and problem-solving needs to be done.

To my knowledge, an economic feasibility study has not been done. Once that analysis is done, those studies should be released to the public for further public discussion before any action is taken on the two skating rinks. This will add public transparency to the process, which is currently lacking.

Please slow this process down and do right by all parties instead of rushing this through.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Roe  
District 11