

From: [Amy Brinza](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Letter in support of council agenda item 86169 - ice arena contracts
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:18:27 PM

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Dear Alders,

I am writing today to voice my support for the modification and sale of the ice arena contracts. I am writing as the parent of a U6 patriot youth hockey association player. My son, Ben, has been skating at Hartmeyer for 4 years. It is something he looks forward to every week and asks when does he get to go back to hockey. He has made some of his best friends at Hartmeyer and I have truthfully expanded my friend/ support group by being a parent of a youth hockey player. Youth sports have been shown to build respectful adults. It goes beyond the game. They become team players, learn to work together and how to be responsible. Supporting youth sports supports the future of our city and children.

These facilities have such an impactful force on the youth of our community and it would be terrible if we lose this facilities due to disrepair. Hartmeyer and MIA are in dire need of repairs. There are many days that the heat can't be turned on in the building because there is only one compressor working at a time to keep the ice frozen so the building needs to be kept colder. Madison ice, inc has tried to fix the problem but only bandaids have occurred due to funding. By allowing the sale and allowing for fundraising to occur these problems could be fixed and we could have a rink that families and other associations would want to play at. At this point no other association or family wants to play or skate at Hartmeyer or Madison Ice arena because of the conditions.

Once again, I hope that you vote in support of this action item as it will support the future generations and the future of our city. I will leave you with some visual proof of what can happen when we support our youth. These are pictures of our teams skating recently. Thank you for your time and support!







Amy Brinza
7102 Littlemore Drive

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brady DeBouche](#)
To: [Duncan, John](#); [Bennett, Juliana](#); [Field, Derek](#); [Verveer, Michael](#); [Vidaver, Regina](#); [Rummel, Marsha](#); [Wehelie, Nasra H](#); [Govindarajan, MGR](#); [Conklin, Nikki](#); [Figueroa Cole, Yannette](#); [Tishler, Bill](#); [Latimer Burris, Amani](#); [Evers, Tag](#); [Knox Jr., Isadore](#); [Martinez-Rutherford, Dina Nina](#); [Currie, Jael](#); [Madison, Sabrina](#); [Myadze, Charles](#); [Guequierre, John](#); [Harrington-McKinney, Barbara](#); [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Hartmeyer Ice Arena
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 8:02:33 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from bdebouche2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hello,

My name is Brady DeBouche, I am the head coach of the South Central Navigators high school hockey team. I am writing to you to ask for your support in continuing to fund Hartmeyer Ice Arena and all rinks in the greater Madison area. Hockey is a great sport for our high school athletes to partake in that teaches accountability, responsibility, and pushes the importance of work ethic. This sport offers way more to these student athletes than just learning the game of hockey, as it also builds their character and teaches them life lessons that they will use upon their graduation from high school.

The continued support of these rinks not only benefits high school students directly, but it also creates positive impacts on our community in general and the youth in the Madison area as well. I played hockey for 14 years of my life and cannot stress the importance that it has had on my life. It is now my time to give back as I am currently in the 3rd year of coaching as I see the importance it has on each individual that steps foot in the rink.

Please consider everyone that is showing support of hockey in our area, as there is a large population of passionate hockey fanatics that need this sport to not only stick around, but to continue to foster and grow. If there is anything I can do, please reach out to me. My personal cell phone is (920) 676-7298.

Thank you.

Brady

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Brady DeBouche
Sales Representative - Able Distributing at Hajoca Corporation
South Central Navigators Hockey Coach

From: [council](#)
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: FW: Item no. 87, Resolution no. 86169, Meeting agenda for November 26th, 2024
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 2:22:52 PM

Dear Alders,

We received this message in the Council inbox.

Best,
Karen

From: Shirley Drouin <smdrouin@wisc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 10:19 AM
To: council <council@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: Mayor <Mayor@cityofmadison.com>; Finance Committee <financecommittee@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Item no. 87, Resolution no. 86169, Meeting agenda for November 26th, 2024

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As a life long member of the Figure Skating Club of Madison, going back to the 70's when my children began figure skating, I was involved in major events our organization brought to Madison, and continue to bring to this area. I'm asking for your support for Madison's community ice rinks - Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison East) and Madison Ice Arena (Madison West). On November 26, 2024, the Common Council is considering Ice Arena Resolution no. 86169, which would provide critical funding for much-needed infrastructure updates for both of Madison's community ice rinks. For 74 years, these rinks have been pillars of our community, serving thousands of children and families across Dane County. They host several non-profit organizations, high school hockey teams, free programming for low-income families, adaptive skating and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

This resolution is crucial. Why???

- Operating revenue alone cannot cover the significant capital equipment replacements and repairs needed to keep the rinks operational.
- Users of these facilities have already begun fundraising for improvements, but debt forgiveness is essential to ensure long-term financial stability.
- With proper investment and support, these facilities can continue to thrive for years to come.

Your support will make a lasting impact on our community and help preserve these ice rinks as a vital community asset for many years to come! Appreciate your support for this worthwhile endeavor. Thank you, Shirley Drouin

From: [John Fons](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Fw: Forgive Me
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 8:34:23 AM

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: John Fons <jefons@aol.com>
To: wsjopine@madison.com <wsjopine@madison.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 at 08:31:20 AM CST
Subject: Forgive Me

Letter To The Editor:

I went to the bank last year and borrowed enough money to pay my fourth quarter property taxes in Madison.

Forgive me.

A corporate entity defaults on \$1.6 million owed to the city with \$1.5 million in the bank and the city wants to forgive their debt and all interest from 2021 after raising my taxes.

Forgive me.

The city wants to give seven acres of real estate to the same corporation. I want the city to forgive my taxes and give me a free home. That would be fair, equitable and inclusive.

Forgive me.

John Fons
4634 Tokay Blvd.
Madison, WI 53711
608-236-0844 Hm
661-917-0850 cell

From: [Joey Frayne](#)
To: [Tishler, Bill](#)
Cc: [Finance Committee](#); [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Please Support the Ice Arena Resolution on 11/26/2024
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 9:51:24 AM

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Dear Alder Tishler,

I'm writing to ask for your support for Madison's community ice rinks - Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison East) and Madison Ice Arena (Madison West). On November 26, 2024, the Common Council will consider the Ice Arena Resolution, which would provide *critical funding for much-needed infrastructure updates for both of Madison's community ice rinks*.

For 64 years, these rinks have been pillars of our community, serving thousands of children and families across Dane County. They host several non-profit organizations, high school hockey teams, free programming for low-income families, adaptive skating, and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

Here's why this resolution is crucial:

- Operating revenue alone cannot cover the significant capital equipment replacements and repairs needed to keep the rinks operational.
- Users of these facilities have already begun fundraising for improvements, but debt forgiveness is essential to ensure long-term financial stability.
- With proper investment and support, these facilities can continue to thrive for years to come.

I also wanted to add as having the honor of coaching, serving on the board of the West Madison Polar Caps, and now be tasked with leading the organization as President Madison Ice Arena has had a profound impact on our family. I played hockey as a kid and when I showed up with my oldest daughter 9 years ago to do Learn to Skate I didn't realize where that journey would lead us. She enjoyed it joined hockey with the Polar Caps and her little sister has followed. My girls have been able to learn a lot of lessons playing the great game of hockey, have had a ton of fun, and my wife and myself have been welcomed to a great group of friends. It allows our family to stay active and keep busy in the winter. Outside of my board duties and coaching I get together with a group of guys to play on the studio rink at MIA on Monday nights and my wife has joined the mom's hockey club that the Polar Caps mom's started last spring. So for our family MIA is integral in allowing us to do something we all enjoy. We also love living in Madison and feel strongly that Madison should offer the same amenities to it's residents that are offered in the surrounding communities. People want to live places they can be active and enjoy activities and Madison Ice Arena is paramount to being able to offer winter sport opportunities.

Thank you for your time and for considering this request. Your support can make a lasting impact on our community and help preserve these ice rinks as a vital community asset for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Joey Frayne
President
West Madison Polar Caps
4505 Woods End
Madison, WI 53711
563-564-6545
joey_frayne@yahoo.com

From: [Dan Rolfs](#)
To: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support for Madison Ice Rinks
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 10:44:20 PM

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Dear Mayor Rhodes-Conway and City of Madison Common Council members,

I'm writing to ask for your support for Madison's community ice rinks - Hartmeyer Ice Arena (Madison East) and Madison Ice Arena (Madison West). On **November 26, 2024**, the Common Council will consider the **Ice Arena Resolution**, which would provide *critical funding for much-needed infrastructure updates for both of Madison's community ice rinks*.

For 74 years, these rinks have been pillars of our community, serving thousands of children and families across Dane County. This includes my daughter, Skylar, who is a proud hockey player and Madison Dragon Girls Hockey U14A team member. These rinks host several non-profit organizations, high school hockey teams, free programming for low-income families, adaptive skating, and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

Here's why this resolution is crucial:

- Operating revenue alone cannot cover the significant capital equipment replacements and repairs needed to keep the rinks operational.
- Users of these facilities have already begun fundraising for improvements, but debt forgiveness is essential to ensure long-term financial stability.
- With proper investment and support, these facilities can continue to thrive for years to come.

Thank you for your time and for considering this request. Your support can make a lasting impact on our community and help preserve these ice rinks as a vital community asset for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Dan Rolfs (Girl Hockey Dad)

2805 Oakridge Ave

Madison, WI 53704

From: [Andrea Singletary](#)
To: [Wehelie, Nasra H](#); [Finance Committee](#)
Cc: [All Alders](#); [Mayor](#)
Subject: Support the Ice Arena Resolution on 11/26/2024
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024 1:05:51 PM

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Dear Alder Wehelie and members of the Finance Committee,

I'm writing to ask you to support the debt forgiveness resolution for Madison's ice arenas, which is being considered starting this evening.

For 64 years the Madison Ice Arena and its East-side counterpart, the Hartmeyer Ice Arena, have served thousands of children and families across Dane County. They host several non-profit hockey and figure-skating clubs and are the home arenas for MMSD's four high school hockey teams. They offer free programming for low-income families, as well as adaptive skating and sled hockey for people with disabilities. Their "try hockey for free" events draw visitors from all over southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Without the resolution's support, these programs — and the rinks themselves — are at risk of disappearing.

The ice arenas, like many community groups, took a huge hit during the pandemic, and the debt forgiveness resolution is necessary to keep them solvent. Both facilities are bringing in enough income to keep the lights on day-to-day, but operating revenue alone cannot cover the significant capital equipment replacements and repairs needed to keep the rinks running. Users of these facilities have already begun fundraising for improvements, but debt forgiveness is essential to ensure long-term financial stability. With proper investment and support, which the resolution entails, these facilities can be self-sustaining and continue to thrive for years to come.

Due to climate change, outdoor skating opportunities in Wisconsin are becoming fewer each year. Losing the ice arenas would be a significant blow to winter sports and recreation across Dane County, one that will harm our whole community and have a direct impact on my family.

My 6-year-old son, Leo, was invited to join a friend at open skating this past February, and he was immediately smitten with the activity, asking to get back on the ice every chance he could. For him, the natural pathway to more ice time was youth hockey, so we signed up with the West Madison Polar Caps at the Madison Ice Arena. He's tried many other sports, but none have clicked the way hockey has. Rather than shutting down when he struggles with a skill, he's motivated to practice and get better. He's learning valuable lessons about teamwork, patience, community, and overcoming adversity. He's surrounded by positive role models in the form of older players. We've already seen the positive impacts of his participation at home and at school. I'm genuinely distressed at the idea that Leo and so many kids like him could permanently lose the ability to participate in a sport they love.

One of the best things about Madison is its investment in community spaces, from parks to lakes and everything in between. I hope that you will support this resolution to keep Madison

a vibrant hub for skating of all kinds for years to come.

Thank you,
Andrea Singletary
3706 Drumlin Ln
Madison, WI 53719
608-239-8768

From: [Carol Steinhart](#)
To: [Finance Committee](#); [All Alders](#)
Subject: Forgiving debt on Madison's ice arenas
Date: Monday, November 25, 2024 9:45:01 AM

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Outdoor ice skating in Madison—traditionally free, fun, and healthful for everyone—will soon be a memory. Even I, moving to Madison as an adult, donned ice skates for the first time and shakily ventured onto frozen Lake Wingra. It soon became a favorite winter activity.

I believe it is as important for our forward-looking city to facilitate continued enjoyment of ice skating as it is to provide parks and greenspace. Therefore, although the details are a black box to me, I strongly support the proposed solution or a variant that would guarantee indoor skating venues for all Madisonians now and in the future.

Carol Steinhart
District 19

From: taylor.warsek
To: [All Alders](#)
Subject: Re: Resolution to forgive Madison Ice Inc. debt plus interest on land contract.
Date: Sunday, November 24, 2024 2:26:13 PM

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<https://77squaremiles.com/so/f7PDQtIwd?languageTag=en&cid=12714970-5d9e-455a-b533-ef20b56906b7>

On Sun, Nov 24, 2024 at 10:20 AM taylor.warsek <taylor.warsek@gmail.com> wrote:

The attached information came to our attention this morning and we have several questions for you.

First, How can the city be considering forgiving debt and transferring a public asset to a private entity at no cost immediately after securing a 22 million dollar perpetual override of the property tax levy limits.

Second. Why was the council not notified of the default as soon as it was discovered?

Third. If in fact the land contract between the City and Madison Ice has been in default since 2021 why has this issue been referred to the City Attorney's Office to have the Land Contract foreclosed on and suit filed to recover delinquent payments?

Fourth. Why is this process being fast tracked at the end of the year when there has been knowledge of the situation within the administration since the beginning of the default in 2021 and when were the citizens going to be given an opportunity to publicly question the process.

Lastly. Whose interests are being served by giving away a city asset to a private entity when the city is unable to live within its revenue limits?

Rick Taylor and Linda Warsek
1118 Risser Rd, Madison, WI 53705
920-344-1033