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Page: 05A

Rules change broadens public comment period

MANITOWOC — Residents who want to address the Common Council will be able to do so at either the first or second meeting of the month, after the aldermen on Tuesday changed meeting rules.

Previously, residents were only allowed to speak at the second meeting of the month. District 2 Alderman **Justin Nickels** introduced the rule change, saying not all residents can attend the second meeting of the month. **Nickels** also said the public should have the opportunity to speak about issues considered at the first meeting of the month.

The proposal was passed unanimously; the rule change was implemented at Tuesday's re-organizational meeting.

During the meeting, District 1 Alderman Thennes was elected president of the Manitowoc Common Council.

The members of the Common Council elect the president, which is a one-year term.

Thennes said he is "happy to serve in the position."

"I appreciate the opportunity," Thennes said.

Also, newly elected Alderman Dave Soeldner and four incumbents who were re-elected in the general election were sworn in. Soeldner beat incumbent Paul Tittl, 470-282, in the April 1 election.