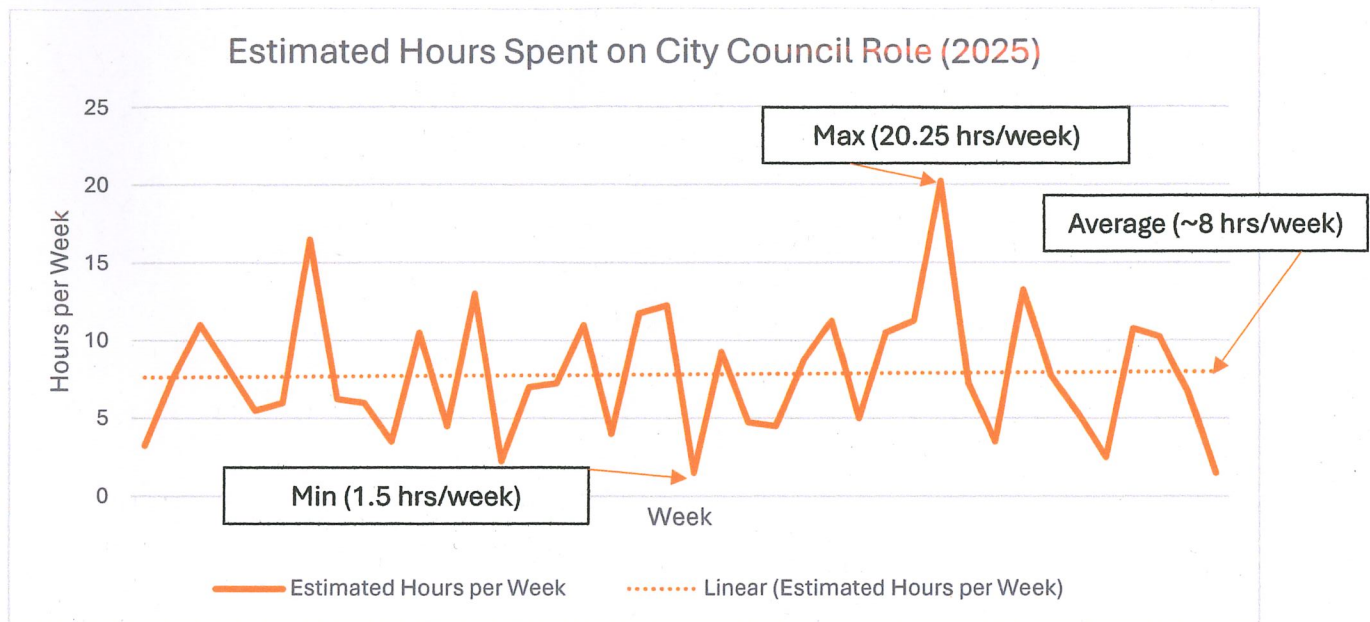


## Serving in Local Government – Jessica Schoen (Eau Claire City Council)

Since joining the Eau Claire City Council in 2023, one of the questions I hear most often is: “How many hours do you spend on this role?”

After giving plenty of shoulder-shrugs, I decided to start keeping track. This year, I started logging my hours to get a more accurate picture of what serving on the Council looks like. I hope this information helps anyone who is curious about how local government works, what the time commitment looks like, or who might be considering running for local office themselves.



### Key Takeaways:

- The time demand varies a lot week-to-week/month-to-month.
- Most council hours in one week: 20 hours, 15 minutes
- Least council hours in one week: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- Average council hours per week: Approximately 8 hours

### Things to Keep in Mind:

- Each elected representative has different professional and personal responsibilities outside of their role as an elected official that impact their capacity to attend meetings, meet with constituents, and participate in other ways.
- These numbers reflect my personal experience. Others may have very different schedules and commitments.