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**For Immediate Release
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City Breakwater Town Hall Forum draws standing-room only crowd ahead of Mayor's trip to Washington D.C.

PORT WASHINGTON, WI: The Breakwater Town Hall Forum hosted by the City of Port Washington last Thursday, November 14th drew an energized standing-room only crowd of about 100 people, including representatives from the offices of Congressman Tom Petri and Senator Ron Johnson. City staff and local elected officials answered questions and provided new information about the city's efforts to secure federal authorization and appropriation for funding of a long-term fix of the federal breakwaters in the city's harbor.

"These federal assets are on the verge of failure, with some sections already failing," stated City of Port Washington Mayor, Tom Mlada. "They play a vital role in our harbor, for our city, and for all of Ozaukee County. Failure would place at risk people and property, including up to \$70 million in investment and infrastructure; significantly damage our local economy, tourism industry, and charter fishing operations; and leave Southeast Wisconsin without a critical harbor of refuge, resulting in a distance of 60 miles between the two nearest safe harbors."

At the Breakwater Town Hall Forum, local elected officials shared the options for repair and affiliated rough cost estimates, information provided by Army Corps of Engineers officials.

"The cost to taxpayers of reconstruction and rebuild would be exorbitantly higher than a responsible fix of the structures," said Mayor Mlada. "For so many reasons, we believe that allowing the breakwaters to fail is an irresponsible, dangerous, morally wrong, and simply unacceptable choice. We expect more; we deserve better."

Later this week, Mayor Mlada will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with Army Corps officials and elected representatives and make the case for action.

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