

Issues of smoke and fire are settled by the La Crosse City Council on Thursday night...

By a two-vote margin, the council decides to decriminalize marijuana use in the city. But on a more lopsided vote, council members approve the hiring of seven new firefighters for next year. Even though Mayor Matt Harter has objected to hiring new workers at this time, a compromise was reached with the mayor's office hours before the council meeting. On the marijuana vote, councilman Dick Swantz changed his previous vote in opposition to decriminalization, after talking to past and present judges in the area who approve of the law change.