

La Crosse mayor Matt Harter using his veto pen is nothing new. First time the mayor vetoed a council measure was two years ago this month. But this year, the mayor began to frustrate the city council with, what they complained were, surprise vetoes. With marijuana decriminalization legislation. On a measure to ban weapons from city hall. On the city's budget for the coming year. And then the latest; a surprise veto of a firefighter position approved by the city council and conceived by a committee on which the mayor sits. Which is really what got to councilman Bob Seaquist

The criticism over the mayor's so-called surprise vetoes became our newsroom's number seven story on our list of top ten local news stories for 2011.