

A Wauwatosa Alderman posted on Facebook during a meeting of the city council last month that he wanted to shoot a gun in the air during the meeting. Alderman Bobby Pantuso was making numerous Facebook posts during the meeting, often ridiculing the proceedings. His expressed desire to fire a gun during the meeting was one of those comments.

Pantuso posted in two separate Facebook threads the night of April 21. The Facebook time stamping indicates the posts were made during a meeting of the city council, a body Pantuso serves on.

In one of the Facebook chats with a group of people discussing health insurance, Pantuso jokes whether one of the Facebooker's Viagra prescription is covered and then cracks a joke about the man being the father of four children.

Pantuso also took part in a separate extended Facebook chat during the meeting and repeatedly said he wasn't paying attention to the proceedings. Here are some of Pantuso's quotes:

"I need a hip flask in my pocket."

(When asked what issue was being discussed) "At that particular time, I've since blacked out twice and keep fading in and out of consciousness."

"I'm not really sure what we are talking about right now."

"I may have just voted to order a pizza."

"If I had a gun I would fire it in the air right now."

"We are placing bets as to when the meeting will end."

"I might be having a mild stroke."

"None of us is as dumb as all of us."

"I think we may have just passed something."

"Head hurts."

"I see spots."

"Light is fading."

Pantuso also posted a screen shot of a martini. His posts were between 7:12 and 11:56 pm.

Pantuso told me in a phone interview that the post about shooting the gun was "immature and irresponsible." He said all of his posts were jokes. He said he was paying attention throughout the meeting and that the issue being discussed was state funding for UW-Milwaukee. Pantuso said he apologized to two fellow common council members, including one who he believes supplied me with the Facebook posts. I am not disclosing the source of this information.

Pantuso went on to say he will be leaving his phone at home when he goes to future council meetings. He said he has a "nervous habit" of constantly looking at his phone and is learning from his mistakes. He said the Facebook posts were "very wrong" and that "I learned my lesson."

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May 7, 2015