

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
Mayor Robert Mielke presiding.

Roll Call

2/25/2020 6:31:55 PM

Roll Call indicated 11 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Present</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Nutting, David E.	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Lawrence, Linda	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Thao, Mary	YES
11	Smith, Dennis	YES

Public Comment for Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda and other public comment

None.

Consent Agenda

2/25/2020 6:32:40 PM

Motion by Peckham, second by Gisselman to adopt all the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

20-0201 Minutes of the previous regular meeting. (2/11/20).

20-0207 Initial Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Vacating and discontinuing a portion of right-of-way at Curling Way near Townline Road

20-0105 Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Approving 2020 Alley Pavement Project and Authorization to Let Bids

20-0106 Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Approving 2020 Street Reconstruction Projects and Authorization to Let Bids

19-1104 Final Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee and the Plan Commission Vacating and discontinuing right-of-way at the intersection of West Thomas Street and South 15th Avenue

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

20-0203

2/25/2020 6:33:17 PM

Motion by Neal, second by Herbst to confirm the Mayor's Appointment to the Mayor's Welcoming & Inclusivity Committee Programs Contract with Boys and Girls Club of Wausau Area, Inc.

Yes Votes: 10 No Votes: 1 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASS

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Nutting, David E.	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Lawrence, Linda	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Thao, Mary	NO

16-0317

2/25/2020 6:40:34 PM

Motion by Gisselman, second by Rasmussen to adopt the Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Approving the WisDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to create a section of the Business Campus Trail

Eric Lindman explained the city's long range plan includes connections on the trail and this one is off of 72nd Avenue coming up past the interstate into the Business Campus. It is for use by people in the Business Campus for walking or biking, but the long range plan is for interconnectivity out to the west side, County O. The money comes out the Infrastructure Fund; it is one of the line items with the DOT projects - DOT contributes 80% and the city 20%.

Rasmussen stated in CISM Committee the discussion was based on the volume of large vehicle and truck traffic in the Business Campus and applying for the Transportation Alternative Funding in order to provide a safe place for pedestrians and bikes. It contributes to our Worker's Wellness Programs, as well as serves the residents who live in the nearby subdivisions for use of the trail system. She noted they will not reduce the city's road repair budget to fund this.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

20-0208

2/25/2020 6:47:27 PM

Motion by Gisselman, second by Neal to adopt the Ordinance of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Designating one 15-minute parking stall on the west side of the 600 block of 3rd Street

Nutting questioned if this space could be designated in the middle of the block as was requested, as opposed to having it at the south end of the block near Back When which has a large parking lot across the street. Rasmussen responded there was no one good solution that would satisfy the petitioner who has a need to utilize short term parking, sometimes five or six times a day for about five minutes, for the purpose of loading and unloading. The parking downtown has been recently changed to build consistency and on each of the blocks from the 300 block forward there are 15 minute stalls for quick service use, except for the 600 block. She noted on all the other blocks those stalls are positioned at one end and Lt. Buckner indicated it is not safe to load and unload a vehicle mid-block. The recommendation to CISM Committee was to allow it on either the north or south end for consistency and safety.

Thao commented the CISM Committee almost voted no to allow this at all. The first priority was to stay consistent and to standardize the downtown parking. She felt this was a win/win solution to establish this one 15-minute parking stall.

Nutting questioned how this would work with the no re-parking rule and if the petitioner would be ticketed by being there a couple of time a day. Rasmussen stated there was really no good fix for that at this point. There are no temporary parking permits for the purpose of loading and unloading.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

20-0209

2/25/2020 6:47:57 PM

Motion by Martens, second by Rasmussen to adopt the Resolution of the Economic Development Committee Approving sale of 1328 Torney Avenue

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

Suspend the Rules

2/25/2020 6:48:20 PM

Motion by Nutting, second by Neal to Suspend the Rules for items marked pending on the Agenda

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

20-0206

2/25/2020 7:00:20 PM

Motion by Nutting, second by Neal to adopt the Resolution of the Council Supporting our Hmong/Lao Community and Opposing Federal Deportation of Hmong/Lao residents to Laos

Rasmussen indicated Alderperson Thao authored a letter to the Secretary of State when events started to take place and has worked to obtain specimen resolutions from other communities. She asked Thao to speak to the issue.

Thao stated this is a collaborative effort and thanked Rasmussen for her support along with Anne Jacobson, City Attorney and the Mayor. She was concerned about potential residents who have final orders that would be deported back to Laos. She stated some of

of these Lao/Hmong residents are some of our neighbors and live in our communities. She commented these are our allies that fought in the Vietnam War with the United States during the Secret War and have fled persecution when the war ended. Laos is not their homeland or their country. She expressed concern over the families that would be broken apart and the fear they have had to live through the last few weeks. She indicated some of the language in the resolution was leveraged from Madison, Appleton and other cities across the country that have a strong presence of Lao/Hmong community members. She felt this was a human rights concern, not a partisan concern, and a way to say we care about the people in our community. They have built businesses here, made Wausau their home, and have children that attend our public schools, technical colleges and universities.

Smith questioned what the reason was for these people being deported, as it was his understanding it was for committing crimes; and also questioned whether there people in Wausau who are going to be deported. Thao stated she wasn't an expert on deportation policies, but there were five confirmed individuals who are living Marathon County that have final orders. She commented they may have committed some crimes when at the age of 18, but have served their time and have been rehabilitated. These are upstanding residents who have spent the last couple decades improving their lives.

Smith questioned why people that have been here for extended periods of time have not applied for citizenship. Thao could only speculate that cost and a lack of understanding on how to navigate the immigration law process, which can be complex and intimidating.

Lawrence questioned 85th Assembly District Representative, Pat Snyder, who was present, if there was any discussion/movement at the state level in terms of the economic value and community presence the Hmong and Laotian people have developed over the last few decades. Pat Snyder responded there was a resolution of support and Governor Evers has sent a letter to the Secretary of State Pompeo. Snyder indicated he had not received any contact at his office from anyone here in the 85th District regarding what kind of aid we can help with.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

20-0210

2/25/2020 7:00:51 PM

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Herbst to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Authorizing acquisition of 117 and 119 E. Chellis Street and related budget modification

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

08-0406

2/25/2020 7:01:27 PM

Motion by Nutting, second by Martens to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving alleged claim on excessive assessment - Walgreen, Co., 504 S 17th Avenue and related budget modification

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

12-1116

2/25/2020 7:02:10 PM

Motion by Herbst, second by Peckham to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving the Assessment Services Contract between the City of Wausau and the City of Schofield to provide assessment services to the City of Schofield for the assessment of real and personal property for contract years 2021-2025

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

Public Comment or Suggestions:

- 1) Pat Snyder, State Representative, stated in the last session before the new administration, the DOR made a mistake to Municipalities and in some cases sent out more money than what should have been received and Wausau was one of those. He stated they took action in the Assembly not to claw back any of the money
- 2) Christopher Withers, 119 E Chellis St, asked the Council to reconsider purchasing the house until after the tenants have moved out. The family has been there over 30 years and are having a difficult time finding a new home that is affordable.
- 3) Peckham stated the Community Development Authority received three proposals for the former Ponderosa Motel. He indicated they chose a proposal from Emmerich & Associates, which will include the demolition of the building and construction of an 8-unit apartment building.
- 4) Rasmussen stated for anyone interested in the utility projects, both the Drinking Water Treatment Plant Facility and the upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Facility, there will be a meeting at NTC tomorrow, February 26, 2020 at 5:30 pm. Questions will be answered by the consultants and the design plan will be there to view. Questions will be answered about the rates, costs, financing, flood plain, and the deadline for the DNR mandates coming in 2022. There will be a second meeting scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 5:00 pm, in the Council Chambers of City Hall, for those that can't make the meeting tomorrow.

Adjournment

2/25/2020 7:11:18 PM

Motion by Herbst, second by Thao to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Robert B. Mielke, Mayor
Leslie M. Kremer, City Clerk