OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call **02/25/2025**

Roll Call indicated 11 members present.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Public Comment: Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda and other public comment **02/25/2025**

1. Linda Michalski, 922 S. 16th Avenue – Spoke on the Mayor
2. Bryan Bailey, 1435 Sumner Street – Spoke in favor of 25-0202

Statement from the Mayor on Robert's Rules of Order **02/25/2025**

Mayor Doug Diny made a statement on Robert's Rules of Order.

Consent Agenda **02/25/2025**

Without objection, item 25-0206 was pulled from the consent agenda by the request of Neal.
Without objection, item 25-0214 was pulled from the consent agenda by the request of Watson.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Neal, to adopt all items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

25-0201 from the Common Council Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (02/11/2025).

25-0205 Joint Resolution from the Human Resources Committee and the Finance Committee Approving the Adjusted City of Wausau Part-Time, Temporary, and Seasonal Wage Rates.

25-0207 Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Approving Naming of the Amphitheater at Stewart Park in Honor of Madam Waltraud Karkar.

25-0208 Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Supporting of the Continuation of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

25-0209 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan and Amendment to the Employee Handbook Section 1.01 – Equal Employment Opportunity.

25-0210 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Authorizing Reclassification of Assistant City Planner Position From Grade 15 ($60,070.40 - $90,064.00) to Grade 16 ($58,572.80 - $81,952.00).

25-0211 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Creation of a No Payout Vacation Leave Only Bank and Revision of the Employee Handbook Section 8.04 – Vacation.

25-0215 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Accepting Easement with Wisconsin Public Service for Underground Utility Facilities at 1506 East Cherry Street.

23-1110 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Levying Special Assessments for the 2024 Street Construction Projects.

12-1116 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approval of 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 Property for Contract Years 2026-2030.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

24-0206 **02/25/2025**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Approving Naming of a Portion of River Edge Trail from Thomas Street to Adolph Street Peckham Way.

Neal stated the request to pull this item from consent was meant to give more context to the purpose of the resolution. Neal stated this was to honor former Alder Pat Packham for a constant gentlemanly manner and as a great alder.

Lukens echoed Neals comments and stated Packham was a wonderful mentor.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

24-0214 **02/25/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Expressing Opposition to Any Proposed Federal or State Cuts to Medicaid.

Watson stated the need in the community for supporting Medicaid to support city services and stated it was important the city stand unanimously to send a powerful message to the state and federal government.

McElhaney stated recusal from this item.

Gisselman stated Medicaid was on the chopping block for cuts in federal spending and stated representatives in the federal government should be made aware of the expression of the Common Council.

Rasmussen stated the inability for people to get the care needed comes back on the local government. It was further stated similar resolutions expressing the opinions on state and federal matters was a common practice.

Lukens echoed the comments of others and stated these programs are important to children in the community.

Gisselman requested the video recording of this meeting be sent to Rep. Tom Tiffany and state Rep. Pat Snyder so that both are given an understanding of how the Common Council feels at this time.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	ABSTAIN
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

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

25-0202 **02/25/2025**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to confirm the Mayor’s Appointments of Dylan Anderson to the Ethics Board.

Mayor Diny invited Dylan Anderson to speak to the Common Council.

Henke questioned the scheduling conflict that was mentioned as the reason for pulling the appointment at the previous meeting. It was stated the scheduling conflict was not in reference to the ability to attend Ethics Board meetings but to the ability to attend the previous Common Council meeting to speak on the appointment. Henke questioned if other people had applied for the appointment. It was stated several people had applied or stated interest in the appointment. Henke questioned if Anderson was the most qualified person of the applicants. It was stated Anderson was within the top two of applicants.

Watson questioned the timing of the appointment during an ethics complaint. It was further stated the Ethics Board was to show impartiality and having an appointment to the Ethics Board while the board is investigating the person making the appointment was questionable. Watson stated support for taking up the appointment after the ethics complaint was resolved.

Kilian stated there were no improprieties to the choosing of this appointment and understood the questioning of timing. It was further stated the Mayor has the responsibility to make this appointment and the complaint did not affect the ability to make the appointment.

Gisselman stated concerns to the timing of the appointment in regard to the open ethics complaint.

Larson stated public exhaustion with this process and stated concerns to an appointment to the Ethics Board while the board is investigating the person making the appointment.

Neal questioned the applicant's want to be involved in the Ethics Board and not any other citizen appointment. It was stated the appointment was sought because the position was open.

Tierney stated there was nothing nefarious with the appointment as the applicant was a good candidate for this position with the background listed.

Lukens stated constituents had stated concerns about any appointment to the Ethics Board while there is an open ethics complaint.

McElhaney stated constituents also stated concerns about any appointment to the Ethics Board while there is an open ethics complaint and questioned why the appointment was being sought now when the position was open for almost a year. It was stated an attempt was made to make an appointment to this position previously but the applicant was withdrawn and current events before the Ethics Board prompted people wanting to be involved.

Rasmussen stated constituents also stated concerns about the timing of any appointment to the Ethics Board. It was stated it does not instill confidence of making an appointment while there is an open ethics complaint.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Neal, to table item 25-0202 until the current ethics investigation is complete.

McElhaney questioned what would happen if a member of the Ethics Board were to recuse themselves from the open ethics complaint. It was stated three out of five members would make a quorum but four members would be needed to conduct a hearing of a complaint. McElhaney questioned if the motion made would preclude the appointment if a fourth member is required. It was stated the current motion would not include that.

Without objection, Henke amended the motion to table item 25-0202 until the current ethics investigation is complete or the need for a fourth member is required. Neal withdrew the second. Tierney made the second.

Lukens questions how tabling the appointment would impact other applicants received.

Henke stated the motion would be meant to table this particular appointment to be taken up when and if it becomes necessary.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	NO
5	Gisselman, Gary	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 8 No Votes: 3 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

Motion by Henke, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee and the Finance Committee Approving Downtown Parking Improvements Project on North 4th Street, Franklin Street and McIndoe Street.

Larson stated the parking is needed in this area and the additional parking would be beneficial not only to the Woodson YMCA but also to expanding parking opportunities in the downtown area.

Kilian stated constituents in the immediate neighborhood had concerns about the project and stated opposition due to those concerns. Kilian stated concerns with the unclear funding process.

Rasmussen stated the YMCA was partnering with the city to help fund the parking which will benefit both their organization and the wider public. Rasmussen stated support as this is a win for all parties involved.

Martens stated the parking is needed and this was a comparable solution. It was further stated the funding from the YMCA was great to see.

Tierney stated the parking was not needed and that this project is not a critical need for the city in terms of other projects approved to improve parking in the area.

Neal stated the parking is needed as the parking lot in the area is often full for people using the facilities at the YMCA. Neal questioned if the parking rules will be enforced. It was stated the parking restrictions had not yet been discussed but would come to the appropriate committee in the future.

Larson stated a park was not being taken away for building the additional parking. It was further stated the YMCA had been a partner in this endeavor and the city should continue that partnership.

Rasmussen stated it is incumbent for the city to be a good partner with organizations to find solutions to expand parking in the area.

> Motion by Martens, seconded by Larson, to place this item in the TID 3 project plan amendment. Martens withdrew the motion. Larson withdrew the second.

Without objection, the Chair allowed public comment on the item. *Objection made by Larson.*

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	NO
3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	NO

Yes Votes: 7 No Votes: 4 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

1. Jim Force, 515 Franklin Street – spoke on 25-0212.
2. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – spoke on 25-0212.

> Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to remove North 4^{th} St from the resolution.
>
> Rasmussen stated the parking on 4^{th} Street is part of a cohesive plan to provide a complete parking solution to replace a previously proposed parking plan. It was further stated the people who donated the land for the park on 4^{th} Street also provided land for the YMCA meeting the needs of the community as intended. Rasmussens stated this would create another problem of this portion of the plan is removed.
>
> Martens stated the proposed parking netted 9 additional parking spaces and did not have a big impact on the tree canopy. Martens stated opposition.

Henke stated without the parking on 4th Street, the issue of the previously proposed parking plan which would tear down a building to create parking would come forward. Henke stated opposition.

Gisselman stated the amendment was raised due to comments from the neighborhood which the YMCA needs to respect as good neighbors.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	NO
2	Martens, Michael	NO
3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	NO
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	NO
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	NO
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	NO

Yes Votes: 2 No Votes: 9 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: FAILED

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

97-0404 02/25/2025

Motion by Watson, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing Staff to Prepare a Project Plan Amendment for Tax Increment District Number Eight to Add Project Costs Including within the ½ Mile Boundary.

McElhaney questioned if the approval of the plan amendment meant the approval of the purchasing of the land for a project within the plan. It was stated the normal procurement policy will be carried out meaning the purchasing of land would still need approval of the Common Council.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

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

97-0404 02/25/2025

Motion by Henke, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing Staff to Prepare a Project Plan Amendment for Tax Increment District Number Seven to Share Surplus Increment with Tax Increment District Number Twelve for an Additional One-Year Period 2026.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

94-0907 **02/25/2025**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing Staff to Prepare a Project Plan Amendment for Tax Increment District Number Three to Add Project Costs Within the ½ Mile Boundary as amended.

Motion by Martens, seconded by Rasmussen, to amend 94-0907 to add after Parking Ramp Improvements 600,000 "Parking McIndoe St, Franklin St from 4th St to 5th St 238,000" in the nowthere be it resolved clause.

Henke stated adding this parking project in the plan would allow for the funding to be decided now as opposed to finding funding at a future Finance Committee.

Martens stated this parking project was removed from the plan in the Finance Committee but was now added as it had received approval by the Common Council at this meeting. It was further stated including the project in the plan would provide funding within the TID.

Rasmussen stated funding the project through TID is the best option to facilitate infrastructure.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 9	No Votes: 2	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 0	Result: PASSED

24-1109B **02/25/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting a 2025 Budget Modification for Wausau Downtown Airport Hangar #4 Door.

Yes Votes: 11	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 0	Result: PASSED

Suspend the Rules **02/25/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Tierney, to Suspend Rule 6(B) Filing and/or 12(A) Referral of Resolutions.

Yes Votes: 11	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 0	Result: PASSED

25-0213 **02/25/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving the hiring of special counsel and authorizing the City Attorney to hire and manage outside legal counsel engaged to represent Nathan Miller, in his capacity as former assistant city attorney in the matter of Marathon County Case No. 2025JD000001, In RE: 968.02(3) Complaint.

Yes Votes: 11	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 0	Result: PASSED

11-0505 **02/25/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Designating May 03, 2025 as World Migratory Bird Day.

Martens stated migratory birds are important to the ecosystem and this would show further support for the community through local art that focuses on birds.

Lukens stated the importance of migratory birds while birds are losing species due to loss of habitat.

Yes Votes: 11	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 0	Result: PASSED

Public Comment & Suggestions **02/25/2025**

1. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – Spoke on public comment.

Adjourn **02/25/2025**

Motion by Martens, second by Neal, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk