

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL

held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5:30 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Robert Mielke presiding.

Roll Call

Members Present: Pat Peckham, Michael Martens, David Nutting, Tom Neal, Gary Gisselman, Becky McElhaney, Lisa Rasmussen, Linda Lawrence, Dawn Herbst, and Dennis Smith.

Members Excused: Mary Thao

Suspend the Rules

Motion by Neal, second by Nutting to Suspend the Rules for items marked pending on the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

02-0432

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Herbst to adopt the Ordinance of the Common Council Amending Chapter 2.16 Standing Rules of the Common Council Rule 2 – Quorum Required and Rule 4 – Absence of Members.

Smith felt the pandemic was over-hyped by the media and indicated he could not support it. He felt they needed to continue to conduct the people's business in person and allow people to attend to give their input, if they so choose. He pointed out government bodies are exempted from the 10 person rule.

Rasmussen stated she requested these provisions and they are subject to voluntary use; no one is required to call in for a meeting and there is no restriction that states committee members cannot come in to this chamber if they are comfortable doing so. She explained this is a cautionary measure as we do not know if there will be members sick or quarantined. In the event that there could be quorum issues due to quarantines, this will allow members to participate; their presence would be recognized and their votes would be counted so that their districts remain represented. Citizens and committee members will be allowed to come in person to the meetings, but will need to maintain social distancing with big spacing in between each other. She pointed out as soon as the COVID-19 crisis is over these provisions automatically sunset.

Rasmussen stated the public will still be able to view the live stream and the public access video just like they always have. The audio from the callers will be able to be heard in this room (Council Chambers). She reiterated the public is not being excluded from the meetings, however, active participation by the public for comment will most likely have to be conducted by email or mail.

Gisselman commented this is an open meeting and the doors need to be open for citizens of Wausau to come in for any given committee or Council meeting. People can scatter inside the chambers and if they are ill they should stay home.

Attorney Jacobson stated to meet open meetings laws, the agendas should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for the items that appear thereon to make sure they can be presented in a way that keeps them reasonably accessible to the public.

Gerald Klein, IT Director, provided instructions to Council members on how to join a WebEx meeting and use the WebEx App. The public can call in using the phone number and password on the agenda to listen only, however, the public will be muted. He pointed out the public can also view the meetings live two different ways: 1) Go to the Public Access Television website and click on "Current Live Meeting" or 2) Watch on Charter Cable Channel 981.

Roll Call Vote (*2/3 vote is required*): Ayes: Peckham, Martens, Nutting, Neal, Gisselman, McElhaney, Rasmussen, and Lawrence. Noes: Herbst, Smith. Adopted 8-2

Adjournment

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Nutting to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.

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