

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Roll Call

3/22/2022

Roll Call indicated 10 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Present</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES (by WebEx)
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	NV
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	YES

Public Comment: Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda

- 1) Steve Frodl, 911 Jackson St, spoke about AmeriCorps and encouraged all to go to the website to learn more. He noted the focus area is education by tutoring and mentoring students.
- 2) Doug Diny, 708 Fulton St, stated the Marathon County Rules Review Committee just implemented a recommendation on public comment regarding what people can say during the public comment portion of board meetings and committee meetings.

Communications:

Organizational Excellence Award given out at the Governor's WEDA Conference to MCDEVCO

Tammy Stratz stated this award came from the Wisconsin Economic Development Association and thanked and congratulated MCDEVCO for all that they do.

Legacy Award through the Governor's Financial Literacy Awards to Pam Anderson

Mayor Rosenberg congratulated Pam Anderson for this lifetime award given to an organization, business, or individual whose purpose and heritage is ingrained and sustained financial literacy and capability.

Consent Agenda

3/22/2022

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

22-0301 Minutes of previous meeting (3/08/22)

22-0307 Joint Resolution of the Airport Committee and the Finance Committee Authorizing the execution of Airport Ground Lease – Keith Mathews

22-0308 Joint Resolution of the Airport Committee and the Finance Committee Authorizing the execution of Airport Ground Lease – MDB Ventures, LLC

22-0109 Final Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee and the Plan Commission Vacating and discontinuing an alley lying north of 410 North 6th Avenue between Oak Street, Cedar Street, N. 6th Avenue and N. 7th Avenue

98-1110 Resolution of the Finance Committee Modifying the Meal Allowance rate and the Employee Professional Development Policy.

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

14-0310

3/22/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Larson to adopt the Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Approving Application for an Urban Nonpoint Source (UNPS) and Stormwater Management Construction Grant.

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

Motion by Neal, second by Larson to adopt the Ordinance of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Creating Ordinance Section 12.44.070 Installation of Parklets.

Tom Kilian questioned if there was something that could be specified in the ordinance to preclude a situation where a wheelchair must travel against traffic to get to the entry area of the sidewalk, as it was last summer.

Lisa Rasmussen stated the owner of the parklet designed it such that there was a travel lane between the edge of the parklet which did not extend to the edge of the parking space. When they positioned the access isle and the handicapped parking stall next to the parklet there was a safe area of travel for wheelchair traffic that needed to access the ramp. They could travel alongside the parklet and then onto the parklet to get to the ramp. The parklet wasn't big enough to use the entire spot in order to create that area for safe travel.

Kilian disagreed that it created a safe lane of travel and did not feel it was acceptable or sufficient. He indicated he asked last summer that the spot be placed in the middle of the block so as not to create that situation.

Rasmussen stated there has been two meetings since the parklet season ended last summer to vet any stakeholder concerns and consider the permanent design in the event other business owners want one. She stated they were not aware there was an ongoing conflict between handicapped access and the parklet. There had been discussion when the parklet was originally planned about moving the curb cut for the access ramp to mid-block, if needed, or the parklet could be shifted and the access isle and handicapped parking stall could be moved. She noted the owner of the parklet was amenable to any of those options. She stated if adjustments need to be made before the parklet is put back out this spring, they can work that out when the permit is issued. Kilian stated the mid-point access is what will be required to alleviate that risky situation.

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 1 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	NV
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	NO

Motion by Watson, second by Herbst to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving the 2021 budget modification to fund Recycling Fund Deficit.

Lou Larson stated he did not have enough information from the minutes or in the packet to vote on this item. Maryanne Groat explained there are three activities that take place in the Recycling Fund: the curbside collection, the yard waste site operation, and the leaf pickup. She stated it is easy to budget for curbside collection because we have a contract with the hauler and the yard waste site is also a relatively easy computation. She indicated there are some difficulties in estimating the leaf pickup because it is done by city staff, and we budget for DPW salary in the General Fund for most operations, such as snow removal and street maintenance. The leaf pickup component takes place in the Recycling Fund, so DPW employees track their time when doing pickup to be charged to that fund. Depending on how quickly the leaves fall or how soon winter comes their hours vary from a lot to a little, so we can only estimate. If they are not being paid in the Recycling Fund then they are being paid out of the General Fund, so we have budgeted sufficient money for staff time, it is just in the wrong place. The estimate was for 200 hours for leaf pickup, and they used 220; the other 20 hours are still sitting in the General Fund, so this transfers it to the Recycling Fund to match where the expenses were incurred. Groat explained the reason leaf pickup was put in the Recycling Fund is that is an eligible activity for the Recycling Grant because it keeps the leaves out of the land fill.

Lisa Rasmussen pointed out this is not new spending, so whether you pay those same workers to remove snow, sweep streets, or pickup leaves they earn the same pay from the budget we've already approved. The transfer is for the sake of transparency where we move money between line items so that the expense is in the proper category.

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

21-1109

3/22/2022

Motion by Martens, second by Watson to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving the 2022 budget modification to fund the 2022 sidewalk project.

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

21-1109

3/22/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Herbst to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving renewal of leaf baling equipment contract with Baumann Lawn Care & Landscaping LLC and amendment of terms and sole source justification.

Lou Larson stated this may be a good time for the city to look at alternative more effective ways for leaf pickup. He commented the current leaf blowing process is very cumbersome and requires a lot of man hours and equipment and he felt that in his district it results in more of a mess than it is worth. The streetsweeper does not come through and the mess is safety hazard to bicycles and motorcycles. He wondered if this was a good time to look at a cleaner more effective way to do the job.

Lisa Rasmussen stated CISM looked at the method a couple of years ago when we switched over to the baling process. It allows the leaves to be sent away for compost which is environmentally friendly. She stated they it is supposed to be a two-step process where they come back a second time and any residual should be swept. Doing it this way the city does not have to own the equipment, which is more cost effective.

Larson indicated he would not support it because he believed with today's technology there has got to be a better way and because they don't come back through and clean up the mess.

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 1 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	NV
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Ryan, Debra	YES

Suspend the Rules

3/22/2022

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to Suspend Rule 6(B) Filing and 12(A) Referral of Resolutions.

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

07-0725

3/22/2022

Motion by Martens, second by Neal to adopt the Ordinance of the Common Council Amending Section 1.12.010 City wards, and amending Section 1.12.015, Aldermanic districts.

Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk, stated she was notified late last week that a Wisconsin Assembly District line cuts through the city's Ward 3 on the new legislative maps following redistricting from the 2020 Census. She explained state statutes provide that if a state map splits a local municipal district, a new ward needs to be created. This ordinance amendment would both create Ward 24 and update the census blocks and tracts. She noted an annexation also took place after redistricting was approved creating ward 23 that will be added to the code. Mayor Rosenberg pointed out this change will not affect the April election. Bernarde confirmed the statute requires that any ward adjustments must be done at least 30 days before an election, so this will go into effect after the April election, but this does need to be completed before April 10, 2022, which is why it is on tonight's agenda. She noted should the legislative and congressional maps get struck down in the courts we will have to amend the ordinance in the future.

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

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Larson to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving the Budget Modification for the Purchase of Seven Buses through the VW State of Wisconsin Grant Assistance Program and Transit Reserves.

Lisa Rasmussen explained this approves a purchase the Council previously approved in 2018, but between acquisition and the pandemic they did not get them all. This re-establishes the grant funding needed to continue those purchases for Metro Ride.

Lou Larson questioned after the purchase is complete will Metro be able to offer the ability to branch out the routes, such as out to Weston or even to Brockmeyer Park/Jojo's Jungle.

Becky McElhaney, Chair of Transit, explained per state law we cannot go outside the municipality unless the other municipality contributes funding. She stated we are doing a five-year Transit Development Plan (TDP) with consultants from out of state. A survey was out for the public that had a great response. She indicated they do have other municipalities at the table for discussion during the TDP: Rib Mountain, Weston, and Rothschild. She stated they understand there are plenty of gaps in service and are looking at that through the TDP. She pointed out Metro Ride is currently down eight bus drivers, which is a major problem. We can't increase any routes and may even have trouble keeping our current routes if we keep losing drivers.

Megan, Metro Ride, clarified this does not add vehicles to the fleet, it replaces them. The VW Grant settlement requires us to dispose of seven buses that are past their useful life in order to gain these seven new buses.

Pat Peckham pointed out the buses coming are standard and certain features will have to be added for local customization of the buses and that is what the additional funds are for.

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

03-0306

3/22/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Herbst to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Authorizing the write off of certain uncollectible delinquent personal property tax accounts from the City's accounting records.

Maryanne Groat explained this is something we do prior to April 1st annually, whereby state law allows us to take any delinquent personal property and charge it back to the school district, county, and technical college because they are getting paid for their full amount. It basically allows us to share that delinquency with them. She noted the City Attorney's Office has been sending out debt collection letters to these businesses and has collected approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 and will continue to attempt to collect.

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

Public Comment or Suggestions

None

Adjourn

3/22/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Larson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk