

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL

held on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mayor Robert Mielke presiding.

Mayor Mielke explained due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the meeting was also taking place via WebEx and teleconference, as well as live on Charter Cable TV or Public Access. Information on how to access the meeting is listed on Council Agenda.

Roll Call

03/24/2020

In person: Nutting, Gisselman, Lawrence and Smith. *By WebEx:* Peckham, Martens, Neal, McElhaney, Rasmussen, Herbst and Thao. 11 members present.

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

None

Consent Agenda

03/24/2020

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

Mayor Mielke indicated file numbers 20-0315, and 03-1007 were requested to be removed from Consent by Thao and Smith. Lawrence requested file number 20-0312 be removed from Consent.

20-0301 Minutes of the previous regular meeting (3/10/20)

20-0311 Joint Resolution of the Airport Committee and the Park & Recreation Committee Authorizing execution of lease for Alexander Airport Park and Airport Sports Park

20-0309 Resolution of the Capital Improvement & Street Maintenance Committee Accepting Easement with Wisconsin Public Service for grading and creating a ditch at Parcel ID 076-2907-282-0967.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

20-0312

03/24/2020

Motion by Lawrence, second by Nutting **to refer** the Ordinance of the Capital Improvement & Street Maintenance Committee Designating odd/even parking on North 10th Avenue between West Wausau Avenue and West Knox Street, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., no parking on West Wausau Avenue between North 9th Avenue and North 10th Avenue and on West Union Avenue between North 9th Avenue and North 10th Avenue, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. - **back to the CISM Committee.**

Lawrence stated a constituent who could not make it to the CISM Committee meeting due to work contacted her and requested a chance to appear before CISM regarding to speak in opposition to this change that was requested by one person.

Thao stated CISM Committee did not base the changes on accommodating just one resident who had inquired about off street parking. Others on the committee talked about the signs there today that are unclear and this ordinance fixes these items. Gisselman added there were staff from Police Department and DPW at CISM and it was very well vetted.

Rasmussen agreed they worked hard to find a compromise on this ordinance. She commented she is always reluctant to take things back to committee if we don't think the outcome will be any different

Vote on the motion to refer back to CISM:

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

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	NO
2	Martens, Michael	NO
3	Nutting, David E.	NO
4	Neal, Tom	NO
5	Gisselman, Gary	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	NO
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO

8	Lawrence, Linda	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	NO
10	Thao, Mary	NO
11	Smith, Dennis	YES

20-0312

Motion by Gisselman, second by Nutting to adopt the Ordinance of the Capital Improvement & Street Maintenance Committee Designating odd/even parking on North 10th Avenue between West Wausau Avenue and West Knox Street, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., no parking on West Wausau Avenue between North 9th Avenue and North 10th Avenue and on West Union Avenue between North 9th Avenue and North 10th Avenue, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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	NO
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

20-0315

03/24/2020

Motion by Peckham, second by Lawrence **to refer** the Resolution of the Economic Development Committee Authorizing the Mayor to approve payment deferrals on existing City-provided loans to commercial properties and businesses for up to one (1) year to assist small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic – **back to the Economic Development Committee.**

Thao appreciated the ED Committee bringing this forward, however, she felt some WEDC guidelines needed to be added to the resolution. She felt some criteria was missing, such as when a business has less than 20 employees and their annual generated revenue is up to and below \$2 million. These were some things she wanted them to think about that is missing from the resolution. She also questioned them being considered on a case-by-case basis. .

Rasmussen agreed there needs to be a consistent set of criteria and some evidence. She also felt ground lease payments she be a part of the resolution. Thao questioned why not defer the loan interest as well

Chris Schock explained some of the parameters the WEDC and other organizations are doing are creating new terms for new lending, but what we are talking about today is deferring payments on existing loans, not new lending. He indicated they were ready to defer payments on loans on a case-by-case basis for some of the different programs that don't require Council action. There is already a process for staff in normal situations to review loans with the primary lender and allow deferral of payments on interest and principal, although the interest would continue to accrue. The resolution is brought forward because we have some loans that are funded with TIF resources and that is a statutory pot of money. This is presented as an opportunity to defer those payments during this window of time up to a year. *Discussion followed.* .

Vote on the motion to refer back to ED Committee:

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

03-1007

03/24/2020

Motion by Gisselman, second by Peckham to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving the 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program Action Plan and the Community Development Block Grant Program 5 Year Consolidated Plan. Adopted 10-0.

Smith questioned the Bridge Community Gardens request of \$74,110 and why the Advisory Committee recommended giving them an additional \$40,000, and if the Finance Committee approved \$57,000.

Michelle Van Krey, Community Development Specialist, explained the changes in the allocation come from the change in our actual allocation versus what we had thought we were going to receive. She indicated the Citizens Advisory Committee originally recommended funding the Bridge Community Gardens at \$40,000 based on our estimate that we would receive \$580,000. The allocation actually came in at over \$630,000 so they were able to give more money to them for the garden project.

Smith questioned why Open Door did not receive anything. Van Krey explained Open Door did not submit their application on time which disqualified them from the process. She noted they are also only allowed to fund 15% of the total allocation received to public services. Smith questioned if the other organizations that did not receive funds were also late. Van Krey stated the rest that did not receive funding was based on the recommendation of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

McElhaney what programs received more due to the increased allotment. Van Krey responded the chart shows the administration portion received an increase because it was funded the full 20% allowed and the Parks Department received an increase, as well as Bridge Community Clinic. McElhaney questioned why the Hmong American Center Youth Program did not receive any funding.

Van Krey explained during the process the Citizens Advisory Committee goes through some concerns were brought up about the organization nature of the programs and their board. It was decided to not fund them this year to give them the opportunity to reorganize and reapply next year.

Rasmussen commented she feels we should make every effort to follow the Citizens Advisory Committee recommendation because the process they go through is painstaking and credible. She stated we have few processes for allocation of federal funds that are better than this one because we have an independent citizen panel that works to balance the funds they get with the needs of the community. They also try to eliminate entities trying to rely on that funding forever because they want them to become self-sufficient in order to be able to allocate to other things that have value in the community. She reiterated their process is in depth.

Peckham indicated he represented the Council on the Advisory Committee and echoed what Rasmussen said about the deliberations that go into these decisions. It is a complicated process that delves into the quality of the perceived management of an organization, their financial plan, and how many years they have received funds in the past. He noted the chair, Bruce Bohlken, allows a full conversation and examination of all the requests.

Nutting exited the meeting before the vote.

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

19-1109

03/24/2020

Motion by Neal, second by Lawrence to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Approving the 2020 budget modification for special event staffing – Wausau Police Department.

Smith questioned if the city could bill the organizers of events for the Police Department coverage. Chief Bliven responded this was discussed at the Finance Committee and it is an option for the Council to require organizers to pay for the staffing, but the committee did not want to discourage people from holding these events inside the city.

Lawrence commented she asked the Police Chief at Finance Committee to work with the Fair Board for future years, but in general most of the organizations receive money from Room Tax, so it would be like paying ourselves. The consensus was starting in the 2021 budget they would revamp some of the Room Tax funds to cover this because it is related to events, as opposed to coming from the General Fund.

Neal stated he supported this resolution because it is a public safety issue, but also pointed out anyone putting on an event will tell you that money is scarce with having to pay for the logistics and insurance. He agreed we don't want to discourage events in the city.

McElhaney questioned if this was just for this summer and what about the mentoring of the CSO's. Deputy Chief Matt Barnes clarified there is \$25,000 for an additional CSO budget that would allow us to go from our normal 12 CSOs that we primarily utilize during the summer months. The additional money would allow to extend that to 20 CSOs so we can staff special events and pay particular attention to the riverfront. \$35,000 is to hire part-time police officers, which we are hoping to be retirees, who would then serve as mentors to the CSOs. They would be sworn officers armed with arrest powers, but their role would be to work with the CSOs. This funding will get us through the summer month's events of 2020.

Rasmussen stated this is a plan for 2020 because we are already at the cusp of the event season, but we don't plan to do it this way every year. She explained we will plan for it in the 2021 budget process and consider allocating at least part of it with Room Tax funds.

Barnes stated he spoke with Wausau Events this week and they are considering canceling at least the first three Wednesday night concerts, which has an impact on this funding. He noted even if all events take place there may be small attendance realized due to the COVID -19 issue. It is possible these funds won't all be necessary and we are committed to tracking our staffing this year to come up with an exact cost.

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

95-0617

03/24/2020

Motion by Gisselman, second by Peckham to adopt the Resolution of the Plan Commission Adopting the updated Wausau River Edge Master Plan.

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

Suspend the Rules

03/24/2020

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

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

20-0310

03/24/2020

Motion by Smith, second by Lawrence to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Approving City of Wausau Policy for Employees with Symptoms or Exposure of Novel COVID-19 Flu (Coronavirus)

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

20-0317

03/24/2020

Motion by Lawrence, second by Gisselman to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Ratifying the Emergency Proclamation of the Chief Executive Officer pertaining to the Covid-19 Pandemic and Declaration of Emergency.

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

20-0316

03/24/2020

Motion by Gisselman, second by Rasmussen to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Approving Agreement for the Providing of Workforce Staffing between Wausau metro area municipalities.

Peckham questioned if there was a limit to the municipalities included in this agreement. Mayor Mielke stated he was referring the communities in the surrounding metro Wausau region.

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

20-0313

03/24/2020

Motion by Gisselman, second by Smith to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Approving Public Works Emergency Response Mutual Aid Agreement for use with other government entities.

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

20-0314

03/24/2020

Motion by Smith, second by Gisselman to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Approving Fire Department/DNR Memorandum of Understanding for Mutual Aid and Fire Suppression Services.

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

03-0306

03/24/2020

Motion by Lawrence, second by Neal 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.

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

Public Comment or Suggestions:

None

Adjournment

03/24/2020

Motion by Smith, second by Gisselman to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

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