OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:33 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call **04/23/2024**

Roll Call indicated 10 members present.

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

Proclamations **04/23/2024**

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:
Hmong Heritage Month (April 2024)
Bike Month (May 2024)

Consent Agenda **04/23/2024**

Without objection, item 24-0413 was pulled from the agenda for consideration by the request of Neal.

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

24-0401 from the Common Council to Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (04/09/2024 & 04/16/2024).

24-0414 Ordinance from the Human Resources Committee Amending Section 2.06.050 – Annual review of goals and objectives, Section 2.10.050 – Annual review of goals and objectives and Section 2.12.040 – Annual review of goals and objectives.

92-0623 Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing renewal of parking lot lease (3rd and McClellan Streets – Curly Kale LLC).

24-0415 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Third Amendment to Lease Agreement Between City of Wausau and Briq's Soft Serve LLC.

24-0416 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Second Amendment to Agreement Between the City of Wausau and the Wausau Cemetery Association regarding leave of a snow disposal site.

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

Without objection, item 24-0413 will be taken up after item 24-0318.

24-0402 **04/23/2024**

Motion by Larson, seconded by Neal, to hold a separate vote on the Appointment of Linda Lawrence to the Ethics Board.

Without objection, Mayor Diny withdrew that nomination.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Lukens, to confirm the Mayor's Appointments of Lisa Rasmussen as the Chairperson to the Capital Improvement Projects Committee; Becky McElaney as the Chairperson of the Transit Commission; Keri Anne Connaughty to the Administrative Review Board; Steve Gulliher to the Airport Board; Ben Gerhards, Veronica Hope, Chris Filtz, Susan Schmidt, and Jonathan Smith to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee; Pat Esselman to the Board of Review; David Burke and Arlene Kaatz to the Board of Zoning Appeals; James Wadinski and Carolyn Marohl to the Capital Improvement Projects Committee; Ingrid Clark Zavadoski and Andrew Dudley Shannon to the Citizens' Advisory Committee – Community Development Block Grant; Jesse Kearns to the Ethics Board; Tim VanDeYacht and Lindsey Lewitzke to the Room Tax Commission.

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

23-1109H **04/23/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving and Adopting the Budget Modification for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects – Asphalt Overlay.

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

23-1109I **04/23/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving and Adopting the Budget Modification for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects – Council Chamber Upgrades.

Martens stated that these upgrades have been bouncing around for some time and lacked the political will to move forward. It was stated that these upgrades were needed to make meetings more efficient and accurate as well as improving transparency to the general public to view when broadcasted.

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

23-1109J **04/23/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Lukens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving and Adopting the Budget Modification for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects – Community Outreach Coordinator.

Martens stated that recent guidance from the United States Department of the Treasury now allows municipalities to use ARPA funds for employee wages past the deadline to allocate funds. It was stated that allocating the funds for this position would give the city additional time to ease the funding into the annual budget.

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

23-1109K **04/23/2024**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving and Adopting the Budget Modification for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects – Alexander Park Pickelball Court project.

Kilian questioned where the additional funds of $25,000 for this project was coming from. It was stated that a local association provided those additional funds to stripe the courts for pickleball. Kilian further stated opposition as more urgent needs needed to be funded.

Neal stated that the popularity of pickleball brings a high value to this project and highlighted the need for this among older residents to get basic exercise.

Martens stated that the tennis court for this project has become unplayable and would have to be closed for the summer if it is not improved upon and stated that the popularity of pickleball has inspired the local association to provide monetary support. Martens also stated that ARPA funding should go towards outdoor activities as that was part of the original intent of the funding allocation. It was stated that very little of the funding from ARPA have been allocated to outdoor activities so far.

Rasmussen stated that an original core goal of ARPA funding was to encourage outdoor activities to mitigate the spread of coronavirus and further stated that this helps the city become more inclusive to seniors. It was stated that this was not allocated with ARPA funds sooner as other projects were more condition critical and Rasmussen stated support for the project.

Lukens stated this tennis court was in bad shape and a safety risk. It was stated that the residents of the neighborhood for which this project is in is very active and the park is well used. Lukens stated support.

Tierney questioned if the park was widely used and if there was a want for this project. It was further questioned if there were other pickleball courts within the city. It was stated that there are other pickleball parks in the city at Marathon Park and that this park is widely used. Tierney stated opposition as more urgent needs needed to be funded.

Watson stated that this project was within the strategic goals of the city to promote natural recreational opportunities and stated that the additional funds was not a grant but instead a donation from citizens who wanted more pickleball courts.

Lukens stated the project would be a health benefit for residents of all ages while seniors would use the courts more often. It was stated that this project would enhance the use of the park.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	EXCUSED
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: 8 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

23-1109L **04/23/2024**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving 2024 Budget Modification - Construction of Police Security Fencing.

Neal stated support for the project as the need was well documented in committee. Neal requested that staff preserve trees within the scope of the project.

Martens stated support for this project as it was using the preferred ornamental fencing within the neighborhood because it is more aesthetically pleasing to the residents that live around the police department. It was also stated that if any other type of fence would be used, it would require a zoning variance and that the city should play by the same rules.

Rasmussen stated that this was an officer safety issue as officers move from their personal vehicles to work at the police station. It was stated that homeowners are expected to uphold a zoning standard and that the city should also uphold that standard itself.

Tierney stated that a fence is a safety issue and needed at its location. It was stated that an ornamental fence made sense on the Grand Avenue side but supported a chain-linked fence on the other sides of the police station as many residents get zoning variances. Teirney further stated that the same goal of safety can be achieved with less expensive options.

Kilian stated that the ornamental fence did not do the job of providing adequate privacy of police officers. It was encouraged that the department explore other options to serve the purpose of providing safety and privacy while being less expensive. Kilian stated opposition for those outlined reasons.

Neal questioned the access and security needs of the police station and if a planned visitor to the station would have the ability to do so with the erection of the fence. It was stated that the current visitor parking would not be fenced in.

Larson questioned if the city had shopped around for fencing options and stated support for the simple aspect of safety for officers.

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

Yes Votes: 7 No Votes: 3 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

Suspend the Rules **04/23/2024**

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

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

24-0318 **04/23/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving Developer Agreement – Vistas at Greenwood Hills First Addition.

Motion by Neal, seconded by Martens, to table the Resolution from the Common Council Approving Developer Agreement – Vistas at Greenwood Hills First Addition to the May 14, 2024 Common Council meeting.

Rasmussen stated that the city attorney felt that these items were ready for action and that these are not in conflict with on going litigation with the developers.

Neal questioned if there was a sense of urgency to passing this resolution now or could it wait. It was stated that this is the developer's preferred timeline and that a future closed session meeting of the Common Council could happen to discuss the litigation further.

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

Yes Votes: 6 No Votes: 4 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

24-0413 **04/23/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee Approving ingress/egress easement with Green Acres at Greenwood Hills LLC – Vistas at Greenwood Hills First Addition.

Kilian stated support to table to get further clarification on legal matters pertaining to the contract.

Motion by Neal, seconded by Lukens, to table the Resolution from the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee Approving ingress/egress easement with Green Acres at Greenwood Hills LLC – Vistas at Greenwood Hills First Addition to the May 14, 2024 Common Council meeting.

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

02-0434 **04/23/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Designating Official City Newspaper.

Larson stated that the reason an exploration of other options was requested was to circulate notices more widely, but not at an increase of cost to taxpayers.

Rasmussen requested that staff work with more widely circulated outlets to get information out and explore posting options.

Neal stated agreement with more widely circulating information to more outlets.

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

24-0417 **04/23/2024**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving budget modification for the purchase of a Compaction Roller and Paver Base Kit.

Larson stated support as this is much needed equipment to invest in overlay projects and that it will save money in the long run as the city will not have to contract this out at a higher cost.

Lukens stated support as street maintenance is a priority of almost all members of the Common Council.

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

Public Comment & Suggestions **04/23/2024**

1) Bernie DeLonay and Barbara Fraser-Herrera, PO BOX 2125 – Spoke on access to more programing on the public access channel.

Adjourn **04/23/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Watson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk