

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL

held on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

04/29/2025

Roll Call indicated 10 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
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	EXCUSED

Proclamations

04/29/2025

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:

Arbor Day (April 24, 2025)

Workers Memorial Day (April 28, 2025)

National Day of Prayer (May 1, 2025)

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

04/29/2025

1. Carrie Marohl, 1025 Everest Blvd. – Spoke on the Mayor

Committee Report: Board of Public Works Insurance Claims

04/29/2025

Report placed on file.

Consent Agenda

04/29/2025

Without objection, item 25-0424 was pulled from the consent agenda by the request of the Mayor.

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

25-0401 from the Common Council Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (04/08/2025).

25-0421 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant Homeowner Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Funds (RLF) into the Acquisition Activity to Assist Adaptive Communities with the Purchase of 607 Washington Street.

03-1006 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Construction of Hangar at Downtown Municipal Airport (Kocourek Holdings, LLC).

25-0427 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Storm Sewer and Watermain Declaration of Easement by City of Wausau at 700 Grand Avenue.

25-0311 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Amendment to Special Events Policy Relating to Public Safety Fee for Ticketed Events.

24-0307 Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Approving First Amendment to Athletic Park Use Agreement with Wausau College Softball.

02-0423 Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee Approving Third Amendment to Athletic Park Use Agreement with Wausau College Baseball.

25-0429 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Creation of the Water Treatment Operations Supervisor Position with Pay Grade of 16 (\$62,108.80 - \$81,952.00).

25-0430 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving Revisions to the Policy on Wireless Telecommunication Devices and Services.

25-0432 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Hiring of One Police Officer to Fill a One-Year Vacancy Created by Military Deployment.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
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	EXCUSED

Yes Votes: 8 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

25-0424 **04/29/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorization to Enter into Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Wausau and Marathon County Health Department for Implementation of the Lead Hazard Reduction Capacity Building Grant through the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

25-0402 **04/29/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Larson, to confirm the Mayor's Appointment to the Airport Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Development Authority, Ethics Board, and Wausau Water Commission.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to amend to confirm the Mayor's Appointment to the Airport Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Development Authority, and Wausau Water Works Commission.

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

Rasmussen stated that the Common Council had recently held off on an appointment to the Ethics Board during an open ethics complaint and stated it would not be fair to that applicant to appoint others to the same position. It was also stated there are legal liabilities of impartiality should these appointments be confirmed as an applicant had made public comments disparaging city staff and made campaign contributions.

Neal stated the appointments are for positions on the Ethics Board who have not resigned while an open ethics complaint is before the board. Neal stated concerns about appointing replacements during an open ethics complaint.

Kilian stated needing more to be known about legal liabilities of confirming these appointments before confirmation.

Lukens stated a preference in taking the advice of the attorney representing the city in taking caution to making the appointments given the known legal liabilities. Lukens stated opposition.

Larson stated opposition to appointing replacements during an open ethics complaint. It was further stated that the information provided to the Common Council was not provided in a timely manner.

Rasmussen stated objective citizens who have not made significant political contributions should be appointed to the Ethics Board. Rasmussen stated opposition.

McElhaney cited a fiduciary responsibility to the city to not put the organization in legal jeopardy and stated this was not about the people themselves but about how to best protect the city. McElhaney stated opposition.

Motion by Lukens to call the question. Motion was withdrawn.

Tierney stated this was not the appropriate time for the appointments as there is an open ethics complaint.

Motion by Neal, seconded by Kilian, to confirm the Mayor's Appointments to the Ethics Board.

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

25-0402

04/29/2025

Motion by Watson, seconded by Tierney, to confirm the Mayor's Appointment to the Position of Human Resources Director.

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

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

25-0423

04/29/2025

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Ordinance from the Public Health & Safety Committee Amending Section 9.20.050 Personal Conduct and Nuisance and Creating Section 9.20.055 Intoxicants in Public Parks.

McElhaney stated opposition as the plan was to have city staff serve alcohol in public parks with concerns over the optics and the liability. It was further stated the ordinance change would be done without first addressing the details of the plan.

Watson stated initial support due to opening a revenue stream but stated opposition at this time as the parks department was already overstretched in its capacity and that the department should focus on delivering the services it already provides.

Tierney stated the liability of having city staff serve alcohol prompted opposition.

Rasmussen questioned if the revenue generated would outweigh the optics and liability of the city staff being responsible for serving alcohol and stated opposition as it does not outweigh the risk.

Larson stated city employees have enough to worry about other than serving alcohol and stated opposition.

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

25-0425

04/29/2025

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Alleged Claim for Recovery of Unlawful Tax – Green Acres at Greenwood Hills, LLC (3029 Townline Road, 3115 Townline Road and Private Road at Green Acres).

Rasmussen stated this is one step in a defined process and the denial is governed by statute.

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

24-1109D**04/29/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for Purchasing Axon AI Redaction Assistant Tool, as Add-on to the Police Department's Existing Axon Enterprise, Inc. Services Contract.

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

24-1109E**04/29/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modifications for 4th of July Fireworks Display.

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

24-1109F**04/29/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Tierney, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modifications for Public Safety Chiller Replacement.

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

24-1109G**04/29/2025**

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for the Purchase of Two Paratransit Vans, One Paratransit Shuttle Bus and Two Non-Revenue Vehicles with CARES Funds.

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

24-1109H**04/29/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving the Allocation of \$600,000 of 2024C Proceeds to Fund the Water Portion of Dot 69999-09-72 Stewart Avenue S 72nd Avenue to S 48th Avenue.

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

25-0431**04/29/2025**

Motion by Neal, seconded by Tierney, to adopt the Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving the Hiring of Part Time Officers.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
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	EXCUSED

Yes Votes: 8 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

Suspend the Rules**04/29/2025**

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

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

25-0428

04/29/2025

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving Access Agreement with Wausau Chemical Corporation for Access to City Property at 2001 N. River Drive.

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

25-0426

04/29/2025

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee and the Plan Commission Accepting Dedication of Right-of-Way at 700 Grand Avenue.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
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	EXCUSED

Yes Votes: 8

No Votes: 2

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

Public Comment & Suggestions

04/29/2025

1. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas St. – Spoke on appointments
2. Matt Barnes, Chief of Police of the Wausau Police Department – Spoke on the homeless shelter opening

Adjourn

04/29/2025

Motion by Larson, second by Martens, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor

Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk