OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL

held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025, in Council Chambers, beginning at 7:05 p.m., Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call **07/08/2025**

Roll Call indicated 11 members present.

District	Alderperson	Vote
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	YES

Public Comment: Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda and other public comment. **06/24/2025**

1. Jay Kronenwetter, 117 Sturgeon Eddy Road – spoke in opposition of 25-0704.
2. Kristi Shidell, 319 N. 11th Street – spoke in opposition of 25-0704.
3. Vicki Harness, 1240 S. 9th Street – spoke in opposition of 25-0704.
4. Sandra Kelch, 802 Augusta Avenue – spoke in opposition of 25-0704.
5. Nancy Stencil, 233 Azalea Road, Wausau – spoke in opposition of 25-0704.

Consent Agenda **07/08/2025**

Without objection, item 25-0701 was pulled from consideration by the request of the Mayor.

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

81-1241 Ordinance from the Finance Committee Amending Sections 3.25.040 Permit-Requirements, 3.25.080 Failure to File, 3.25.090 Interest and 3.25.100 Penalty Assessment.

94-0611 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Consent to Transfer Waiver of Right of First Refusal, Termination of Deed Restrictions and Approval of New Deed Restrictions for 840 S. 66th Avenue.

25-0108 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving or Denying Various Licenses as Indicated.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

24-1109L **07/08/2025**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for City Attorney Legal Fees.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

24-1109M **07/08/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for Airport Capital Projects Terminal Renovation Furnishings and Apron Project.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

25-0703 **07/08/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Human Resources Committee and Finance Committee

Authorizing the Reclassification of City Assessor and Deputy City Assessor, with the Reclassification and Name of the Property Appraiser to Property Appraiser I and the Creation of Property Appraiser II Position.

District	Alderperson	Vote
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	YES

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

19-0921 **07/08/2025**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Tierney, to adopt the Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Second Amendment to Development Agreement with Foundry on 3rd Ph 1, LLC.

Neal stated the project enhanced the downtown experience and will alter the area for the better. Neal stated support.

Lukens stated support to support people and businesses downtown.

Kilian stated support, after previously opposing amendments to the agreement, as the project has progressed along and as opposition for a project that is so close to completion would not be practical.

District	Alderperson	Vote
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	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

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

Suspend the Rules **07/08/2025**

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

District	Alderperson	Vote
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	YES

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

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Finance Committee and Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Contract for Emergency Shelter Services with Bridge Street Mission, Inc.

Lukens stated numerous people had reached out to alders asking for more time to be given to the consideration of the contract concerning indoctrination requirements of volunteers and staff, and the size of the building itself housing the contracted services. Lukens stated people that had experienced religion-based trauma may not feel comfortable seeking services from this religion-based organization. It was stated the length of the contract caused concerns as well. Lukens stated opposition due to the concerns outlined.

Kilian stated the contract had been received hours before the meeting which caused concern. It was also stated that this was a matter of the government agreeing to enter a contract with an organization that openly discriminates against sexual orientation. Kilian stated that the city is required to only contract with organizations that adhere to non-discrimination laws. Kilian stated the consideration of the contract should be delayed to give the opportunity for stricter enforcement of non-discrimination laws within the contract.

Neal stated concerns with what would happen to the unhoused population if they would not be able to seek shelter in extreme weather if the contract was not approved. Neal stated opposition to discrimination in staffing from the organization and stated the services sought through the contract could not require people seeking their services to participate in religious-based activities. Neal stated support for the contract as the need is dire for shelter.

Rasmussen stated the city was contracting for a service as opposed to a specific mission, which had been vetted for legality and through the Wausau Police Department which have been leading such efforts. It was stated there was support from the public because the contract allowed for the service to be self-sufficient from public funding after a number of years. Rasmussen stated support as this matter needed to be addressed in a timely manner to provide shelter services before winter approaches.

Tierney stated the contract provided a non-discrimination clause to ensure participants of the service did not face such discrimination. It was stated no other organization came forward to provide the services outlined in the request for proposal and that the services were needed for unhoused people to ensure their safety and dignity.

Larson stated the services provided currently by the WMC Shelter were provided to people from people regardless of any outward expression of religious or sexual orientation and that under the contract that would continue. Larson stated support to ensure unhoused people were provided needed shelter services.

Lukens questioned what would happen if the approval of the contract was delayed to allow for additional consideration. It was stated a delay in approval would put into jeopardy of opening the shelter in a reasonable time due to multiple moving parts from the organization.

Rasmussen stated the contract and verbal agreements provided the city with the opportunity to review the service metrics of the organization specifically for the services offered under the contract and that delaying further would run out time, money, and the ability to rezone the proposed shelter in time to open for the winter.

Watson stated support for sending the contract back to the Finance Committee for consideration of funding and to provide more opportunity for the contract to be vetted by the Common Council and members of the public.

> Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to postpone consideration of item 25-0704 to the August Common Council meeting and after the Finance Committee and Public Health & Safety Committee considered the contract again.
>
> The Chair invited the Chief of Police to speak to how a delay would impact the organizations' ability to provide the services prior to the second on the motion to postpone.
>
> *Point of Order raised by* Henke that the motion was being discussed before it had been seconded. *Point of Order was well taken by the Chair.* The motion received a second.
>
> Rasmussen stated that two standing committees of the Common Council had already considered the contract and opposed further delays.

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	NO

3	Kilian, Terry	YES
4	Neal, Tom	NO
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	NO

Yes Votes: 5 No Votes: 6 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: FAILED

District	Alderperson	Vote
1	Lukens, Carol	NO
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
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	YES

Yes Votes: 8 No Votes: 3 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

22-1104 **07/08/2025**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving Quit Claim Deed for releasing a portion of reserved easement rights at 700 Grand Avenue – 700 Grand Apartments, LLC.

District	Alderperson	Vote
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	NO
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 8 No Votes: 3 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

Public Comment & Suggestion **06/10/2025**

1. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – spoke in opposition to 25-0704.

Adjourn **07/08/2025**

Motion by Tierney, second by Gisselman, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk