

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:33 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

08/26/2025

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	VACANT	-
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Proclamation

08/26/2025

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:
National Health Center Week (August 4-8, 2025)
Peckham Way

Gary Gisselman Commendation

08/26/2025

Mayor Doug Diny gave a commendation to honor the life of Gary Gisselman.

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

08/26/2025

1. Gary Veltus, Regional Director for Catholic Charities Diocese of La Crosse – spoke on shelter partnership development.
2. Maggie Cronin, 311 Summit Drive – spoke in opposition of 25-0112.
3. Paula Meadows, 1302 Madison Street – spoke in opposition of the closed session item, in opposition of 25-0112, on 18-0915, and in opposition of 25-0805.
4. Jack Hoogendyk, 4508 Hilltop Road – spoke in opposition of 25-0112.
5. Debra Chapman-Mar, 724 Franklin Street – spoke in opposition of 25-0112.
6. Orlando Alfonso, 1015 Brown Street – spoke in opposition of 25-0112.

Communications and Recommendations from the Mayor

08/26/2025

Mayor Doug Diny made a statement.

Lead Service Line Replacement Program and Proposed Funding for 2026 from Community Infrastructure Partners

08/26/2025

Representatives from the EquiFlow Lead-Free Program spoke on the remaining lead service line replacement program projections.
Discussion was held. No action taken.

Consent Agenda

08/26/2025

Without objection, item 25-0801 was pulled from the consent agenda by the request of the Mayor.

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

25-0803 Ordinance from the Plan Commission Rezoning 809 South 62nd Avenue from Medium Industrial (MI) Zoning District to Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoning District.

25-0804 Ordinance from the Plan Commission Rezoning 903/907 South 60th Avenue from Medium Industrial (MI) Zoning District to Heavy Industrial (HI) Zoning District.

25-0805 Ordinance from the Plan Commission Rezoning 1427 Lake Street from Single-Family Residential - 5 (SR-5) Zoning District and 1601, 1607, 1611 Chellis Street from Single-Family Residential – 2 (SR-2) Zoning District to Townhome Residential -12 (TRD-12) Zoning District.

25-0806 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Agreement for the Management and Maintenance of a Stormwater Facility (700 Grand Apartments LLC – 700 Grand Avenue).

25-0807 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Agreement for the Management and Maintenance of a Stormwater Facility (Newman Catholic Schools, Inc. – 1130 West Bridge Street).

25-0523 Joint Final Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee and Plan Commission Vacating and Discontinuing Pine Ridge Boulevard from North 28th Avenue to Westhill Drive.

03-0716 Initial Resolution Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Setting a Public Hearing Regarding Vacating and Discontinuing a Portion of the 28th Avenue Corridor Right-of-Way.

25-0808 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Quit Claim Deed – Wisconsin Central Ltd. – 15 Fulton St./920 N. 1st St.

25-0809 Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the Acceptance of the Housing Counseling Capacity Building Grant through the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority.

25-0810 Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the Continuous Acceptance of the Wisconsin Lead-Safe Homes Program (LSHP) Funds through the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health Services.

25-0811 Resolution from the Human Resources Committee Approving Amendment to the Employee Handbook Section 4.03 – Changing Language to Community Development Authority, and Section 3.04 and Adding Compensation Oversight for Human Resources Director.

25-0813 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Development Proposal and Sale of City Owned Property at 1609 E Bos Creek Drive to Habitat for Humanity.

25-0814 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Development Proposal for 1019 Bridge Street with Solutions for Affordable Homes and to Sell to an Income Qualified Buyer.

25-0815 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Transfer of Ownership from City to Marathon County by Quit Claim Deed for Parcel of Land in the Southwest Corner of Marathon Park.

13-0519 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Second Amendment to Development Agreement between City of Wausau and Wisconsin College Baseball, LLC (Wausau Woodchucks – Athletic Park Phase Iv Renovations).

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

Motion carried.

25-0801 **08/26/2025**
Motion by Neal, seconded by Henke, to Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (06/10/2025) (07/08/2025) with the supplement to the 06/10/2025 meeting.

Without objection, Neal withdrew the motion.

Motion by Neal to postpone consideration of item 25-0801 to the next meeting. Motion was not seconded.

Without objection, item 25-0801 was pulled from consideration by the request of the Mayor.

25-0802 **08/26/2025**
Motion by Neal, seconded by Larson, to confirm the Mayor's Appointments to the Sustainability, Energy, & Environment Committee.

Rasmussen clarified that the appointments resolution listed appointments of alders to standing committees which is not regular order and asked that those appointments to standing committees be made as a communication to the Common Council and not as an appointment for confirmation.

Without objection, Neal amended the motion to only include the applicable citizen appointments.

Motion carried.

25-0812

08/26/2025

Motion by Martens, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$14,960,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025A.

Motion carried 8-2, with Kilian and Teirney opposed.

24-1109P

08/26/2025

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for the Funding Shortfall of the 2024 Lead Service Line Project.

Motion carried.

24-1109Q

08/26/2025

Motion by Neal, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for the Athletic Parking Construction.

Motion carried.

24-1109N

08/26/2025

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Lukens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for Hanger 4 Door Bracing at the Wausau Downtown Airport.

Motion carried.

24-1109O

08/26/2025

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for the Public Safety Building Chiller Project.

Larson stated many projects coming in from the Engineering Department regularly come in overbudget and stated opposition as projects should be accurately accounted when first proposed.

Motion carried, 9-1, with Larson opposed.

Suspend the Rules

08/26/2025

Without objection, item 99-0916 was pulled from consideration by the request of the Mayor.

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

Motion carried.

18-0915

08/26/2025

Motion by Henke, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Accepting the VW Settlement Grant from the State of Wisconsin and Adopting 2025 Budget Modification for Purchase of 10 Buses for Wausau MetroRide.

Motion carried.

25-0112

08/26/2025

Motion by Larson, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving Continued Engagement of CVMIC Appointed Legal Counsel to Represent the City and Unelected City Staff in the Matter Currently Pending before the City's Ethics Board Pertaining to the Citizen Complaint Filed against Mayor Diny and Related Actions.

Rasmussen stated concerns with allowing funding to be authorized without a limit as is akin to a blank check. It was stated staff must have counsel to allow for the complaint to move forward under the Ethics Board process. Rasmussen suggested a cap on the funding authorization to allow for the process to conclude.

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Larson, to amend 25-0112 to limit legal counsel fees not to exceed the amount of \$15,000 as amended.

Neal stated support of counsel provided to staff in this matter and shared concerns with an expenditure for preparation of a hearing and then an additional expenditure for the hearing itself. It was suggested that both preparation and the hearing expenditures be capped separately.

Rasmussen suggested reserving \$5,000 for the preparation of the hearing itself with the remainder of the expenditure for preparation of a hearing.

Without objection by the second, Rasmussen offered an amendment to the motion to amend to limit legal counsel fees not to exceed the amount of \$15,000 with \$10,000 authorized for hearing preparations and \$5,000 authorized for the hearing.

Larson stated concerns with the funding authorization but stated that the Ethics Board process must be completed with accountability.

Tierney stated confusion with moving forward with additional funding if going forward engages in similar counsel as provided previously. Tierney stated opposition of funding authorization without additional information provided.

Neal questioned if there was an itemized list of services along with the corresponding fees to ensure that only the amount of funding needed to be authorized is provided.

Kilian stated concerns with funding authorization as citizens had shared objections with further legal fees and suggested reviewing an itemized list of services along with the corresponding fees.

Lukens suggested tabling this item to allow for the review of an itemized list of services along with the corresponding fees in closed session.

McElhaney stated opposition without additional information provided in closed session.

Call the question raised by Lukens, seconded by Henke.

Point of order raised by Henke that the call the question must be voted on. Point of order was well taken by the Chair and the vote was taken to call the question. Motion carried.

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

Yes Votes: 5

No Votes: 6

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: FAILED

The Chair voted
NO to break the tie.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Tierney, to postpone consideration of 25-0112 to a closed session a meeting.

Motion carried.

Closed Session

08/26/2025

Motion by Neal, seconded by Tierney, to go into closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, in regards to purposes of purchasing property at 201 N 1st Avenue and 901 & 1021 Cherry Street in the City of Wausau.

<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	VACANT	-
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: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

CONVENED into Closed Session.

RECONVENED into Open Session to take action, if necessary, on Closed Session items.

Public Comment & Suggestion

08/26/2025

1. Paula Meadows, 1302 Madison Street – spoke in opposition to 25-0112 and in opposition of the closed session item.
2. Mary Bychinski, 708 Fulton Street – spoke on the Common Council and the Mayor.

Adjourn

08/26/2025

Motion by Watson, second by Neal, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk