

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Roll Call

11/9/2021 6:31:12 PM

Roll Call Indicated 11 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Present</u>
1	Peckham, Patrick	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	YES

Presentation: Additional Firefighter/Paramedic Staff (Chief Barteck) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IWGplGORUk>

Fire Chief Robert Barteck presented a PowerPoint on the critical need for nine additional firefighter/paramedics for the department. *Highlights:* Staffing Increase Vs. Call Volume increase: 1970 – 60 FTE Staff with 2,138 calls for service; 2020 – 62 FTE Staff with 6,138 calls for service = 3.3% increase in staff over 50 years; 200.3% increase in calls for service over 50 years. Total for Nine Firefighters (2022) = \$907,044.78. (View full presentation on YouTube via the link above.)

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

- 1) Terry Kilian, 133 E. Thomas St, spoke in opposition to applying for the Neighborhood Investment Program Grant for the pedestrian bridge proposed by WOZ for the redevelopment of the mall area.

Consent Agenda

11/09/2021 7:15:14 PM

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Herbst to adopt all the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

21-1010 Minutes of the previous meeting (10/26/21)

21-0104 Final Resolution of the Capital Improvements & Street Maintenance Committee Levying Special Assessments for 2021 Street Construction Project 3rd Avenue from Randolph Street to Bos Creek Drive.

20-1011 Resolution of the Economic Development Committee Approving Appointment of Dawn Anderson as the first Poet Laureate of the City.

21-1104 Resolution of the Public Health & Safety Committee Adopting the Flood Emergency Action Plan for the Hollow Neighborhood.

21-0108 Resolution of the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving or Denying Various Licenses as Indicated.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed 2022 City of Wausau Budget

11/9/2021

Maryanne Groat, Finance Director, summarized the budget process to date. She noted a large portion of the budget is going to personnel costs due to a larger increase of 8.8% in the health insurance premiums; a 2% cost of living increase to salaries for non-represented employees; agreed upon contracts with Police, Fire, and Transit unions; the final implementation of the non-represented salary study, Option 3; implementation of faster progression through the step increases for non-reps; retirement rate increases from WRS; and investment in cyber security and prevention detection for CCITC. Groat stated a hard stance was taken on other operating areas in order to keep the budget affordable and after considering departmental Supplemental Requests, only necessary or mandatory costs due to contract obligations were added. She explained the equalized value process and the decrease of 2%, as well as the increases to the TID's because of the one-year correction of \$93 million.

Groat stated even though there is an approximate \$2 million levy increase and the city assessed tax rate is proposed just under 50 cents, taxpayers will still actually see a decrease in their tax bills this year because of the shift in our overall equalized value. She indicated she expected the overall tax rate to go down for both the Wausau School District area and the D.C. Everest School District.

Groat stated the Capital Plan is larger than usual this year, with the main areas of increase being the new ERP software and preparing for the new DPW facility. The ERP is in the budget and \$1.1 million for the DPW facility, in addition to the street projects and others.

Mayor Katie Rosenberg opened the public hearing for comments from the public. She asked three times for testimony, there being none, she closed the public hearing. *Council discussion followed.*

15-0613

11/9/2021 7:46:25 PM

Motion by Neal, second by Rasmussen to adopt the Resolution of the Economic Development Committee Approving Fourth Amendment to Blenker River East Brownstones Development Agreement Phase III

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	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	NO

20-1109

11/9/2021 7:47:05 PM

Motion by Kilian, second by Martens to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Authorizing the 2021 budget modification for Public Works Sign Shop

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	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Wadinski, Jim	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	NO

21-1105 Question of Order

11/9/2021 8:07:21 PM

Mayor Rosenberg called for a vote to decide if Council wished to discuss the item on the agenda regarding the Neighborhood Investment Fund Program.

Mayor Rosenberg explained the agenda has a request to Suspend Rule 6(B) in order to consider a Resolution of the Finance Committee approving a slate of projects for which a grant application will be made to the State of Wisconsin Neighborhood Investment Fund Program; however, there was no motion made at Finance Committee.

Attorney Anne Jacobson, Parliamentarian, stated this item is somewhat moot and Rule 6(B) does not apply in this situation. She explained she originally asked for this item to be added to the Council agenda in the event the Finance Committee did take some action because the grant application is due in two days. She felt the decision to further discuss this item belonged to the Council. She stated

they could take a vote on the matter and vote yes if they want discussion or vote no if they did not. Mayor Rosenberg clarified they are only voting to have discussion on the application.

Lisa Rasmussen agreed the lack of action at Finance Committee rendered this moot. She explained historically the practice has been when a grant request is identified by staff that increases our revenue, reduces our costs, and does not contain a requirement for local matching funds from the city the staff has the authority to go forward with the applications. After the vetting process takes place and a grant is awarded, the Council then votes to accept the funds. She reiterated there is no local match on the grant and therefore the Finance Committee did not take action on it.

Becky McElhaney asked the Parliamentarian for clarification because there was no definitive action at committee, but the Council agenda says “resolution approving.” She did not have a problem with having discussion but wanted to make sure that voting on discussion did not also automatically push a resolution to a vote.

Jacobson explained her issue was with the Finance agenda wording of the item because it stated discussion *and possible action* rather than just discussion. She was trying to anticipate what might be needed on the Council agenda with enough specificity to meet the Open Meetings Law in the event action was taken. She noted typically Council does not take up discussion or take action on things if they are not recommended or advanced by a standing committee, however, they could vote to discuss the topic if the majority of the body choose to do that.

Rasmussen explained this item originally came through Economic Development Committee as an update and was not slated for action because there was no local match. She indicated there was a volume of complaints made to the Council President that people wanted more discussion and more clarity on what the program was and there was a call for a Committee of the Whole, however, there wasn’t enough time. Rasmussen stated she proposed to the Council President that it be added to the Finance Committee agenda in order to have another public facing discussion on the program. The “discussion and possible action language” on the agenda was not sought to create action by the committee.

Tom Kilian stated he was that made the request to the City Attorney to place this on the Council Agenda because he wanted it to be discussed. Tom Neal called the question and there being not opposition the vote was taken.

Vote on having discussion.

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 7 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	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Neal, Tom	NO
5	Wadinski, Jim	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	NO
9	Herbst, Dawn	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Ryan, Debra	YES

Public Comment or Suggestions

None

Adjourn

11/9/2021

Motion by Kilian, second by Neal to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Mary Goede, Deputy Clerk