

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

11/12/2024

Roll Call indicated 9 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	EXCUSED
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

11/12/2024

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:

Never Forgotten Week in Wausau (October 27 - November 2, 2024)
Crash Responder Safety Week (November 18 - 22, 2024)
Hmong New Year (November 9 - 10, 2024)
Homelessness Awareness Month (November 2024)
Veterans Day (November 11, 2024)
Lung Cancer Awareness Month (November 2024)

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

11/12/2024

1. Jan Brown, address not provided – Spoke in support of Mayor’s Appointments.
2. Ronald Raquin, 3311 W. Wausau Avenue – Spoke on the Mayor.

Point of Order raised by Lukens. The point of order was not recognized by the Chair.

3. Jay Coldwell, 3422 Horseshoe Spring Road – Spoke on reconsideration of Mayor’s Appointments.
4. Sandra Kelch, 802 Augusta Avenue – Spoke on the unhoused population.
5. Vylius Leskys, address not provided – Spoke on the reconsideration of Mayor’s Appointments.

Point of Order raised by Lukens. The point of order was not recognized by the Chair.

Presentation: Lead Service Line Replacement Project Presentation from Community Infrastructure Partners (CIP)**11/12/2024**

Shawn Kerachsky, President and CEO of Community Infrastructure Partners, and other representatives from Community Infrastructure Partners spoke on the lead line replacement project. Discussion held. No action taken.

Consent Agenda

11/12/2024

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

24-1101 from the Common Council Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (10/22/2024).

24-1103 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Revision to State/Municipal Agreement for Grand Avenue, Kent Street to East Thomas Street.

24-1104 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Establishing Assessment Rates for 2025 New Street Construction Projects.

23-0905 Ordinance from the Public Health & Safety Committee Amending Section 5 of Ordinance No. 61-5950 striking the sunset provision of December 31, 2024 on WMC 9.20.020(t) making consumption of alcohol in parks under certain conditions a municipal offense.

15-0918 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Waiver of Right of First Refusal, Termination of Deed Restrictions and approval of new deed restrictions for 8220 Enterprise Drive.

20-0809 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving contract for commercial inspection services with the Village of Rib Mountain.

24-1105 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Level B Hazardous Materials Response Agreement with Marathon County.

01-0251 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Emergency Management Services Agreement with Marathon County.

24-1106 Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the Mayor to sign the FHWA/WISDOT Subrecipient LPA Title VI/Nondiscrimination Assurances for receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

24-0108 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Various Licenses as Indicated.

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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

Yes Votes: 8

No Votes: 1

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

24-1109

11/12/2024

Public Hearing: Proposed 2025 City of Wausau Budget

1. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – Spoke on spending funds on necessities and against developer agreements.

24-0902

11/12/2024

Motion by Henke, seconded by McElhaney, to approve the Mayor's Appointments Reconsideration of the Mayor's Appointment to the Police & Fire Commission.

Rasmussen stated the original application for the appointment lacked information. It was stated it was meaningful to hear from the applicant seeking this appointment and that the applicant had met with the Police and Fire Chief.

Kilian stated decisions are based on information provided in the packet, and that information and the applicant's public comment should inform the decision.

Tierney stated the reconsideration was due to being informed of the applicant's record and the previous application lacked information prompting the previous no vote.

Watson stated there was curiosity surrounding the vote. Watson stated moving forward, party affiliation should be on the record for the makeup of the Police & Fire Commission to better be in compliance. It was stated the Mayor had taken accountability for lack of the information in the previous application and the application is now complete.

McElhaney stated Mayor's had historically been given broad discretion with appointments. There were concerns raised on the level of responsibility the Common Council would take in vetting appointments in terms of calling references and interviewing applicants. McElhaney stated a need to work collaboratively for the betterment of the city.

Point of order raised by Lukens on following the rules of decorum. *Point of order well taken by the Chair* and members of the audience were asked to refrain from clapping.

Watson stated vetting was needed for appointments to a commission that oversaw 54% of the city's budget and supported an update to the participation form to better inform that Common Council.

Tierney stated citizens' volunteer for these appointments and the application process should not be prohibitive to that participation.

Kilian stated reaffirmation that the application process should not be so difficult as to inhibit people from applying.

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

23-1109AB **11/12/2024**

Motion by Larson, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving and Adopting the Budget for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects – Two Tri-Axle Dump Trucks.

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

23-1109AC **11/12/2024**

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting a 2024 Budget Modification for the Airport Roof Replacement Project.

Henke questioned if contractors had an opportunity to review when this project went to bid. It was stated the decking was finished on the inside causing it to be unknown that the deck was not to code as it will be built to with this additional allocation.

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

24-1109 **11/12/2024**

Motion by Larson, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Adopting the 2025 City of Wausau Budget and General Property Tax to Support Same.

Martens stated the budget increased levy by 2.47% underneath the Mayor's 2.5% goal and was the lowest levy increase in over a decade without cutting vital services. It was stated budget increases were not due to out of control spending but due to increase in inflationary costs and wages. It was stated that public service fees were implemented to help level the cost of those services. Martens stated support for the budget.

Watson questioned the process for implementing the public safety fee for special events for extra revenue. It was stated ticket events would be assessed a special fee for the public safety services provided for the events. The Public Health & Safety Committee will work out that policy in implementation.

Rasmussen stated the goal was to get to a reasonable levy to get the facilities and services to fund the things needed and protect the things that hold value in exchange for tax dollars. It was stated this allowed growth in infrastructure as past budgets had neglected infrastructure causing a backlog. Rasmussen stated support for the public safety fee for special events to ensure safety at these events.

McElhaney stated the public safety fee was meant to limit the exposure of the funds to cover special events. It was stated that the Finance Committee was not trying to balance the budget on the back of special events as it was a discussion about events that are attended by people who live outside of the city when city residents pay for the services to hold those events.

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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

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

24-1109

11/12/2024

Motion by Henke, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the modification of fees to the City of Wausau Fees and Licenses Schedule adopted pursuant to Wausau Municipal Code §3.40.010(a) (2025 Comprehensive Fee Schedule).

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

24-1110

11/12/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Preliminary Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Levying Special Assessments for 2025 Street Construction Projects.

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

24-1111

11/12/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Preliminary Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Levying Special Assessments for 2025 Alley Paving Project.

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

Adjourn

11/12/2024

Motion by Watson, second by Henke, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor

Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk