

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Roll Call

11/22/2022

Roll Call indicated 10 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Present</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Diny, Doug	NV (<i>entered late</i>)
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Public Comment: Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda

None

Consent Agenda

11/22/2022

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

22-1101 Minutes of previous meetings (11/09/22)

03-0511 Resolution of the Parks & Recreation Committee Adopting the Updated Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2023-2027

22-1113 Ordinance of the Parks & Recreation Committee Amending Sections 9.20.010 Vehicle regulation, 9.20.020 Regulation of persons, 12.56.040 Damage to trees and shrubs, 12.56.080 Permit to plant, remove, maintain and protect trees and shrubs, 12.56.090 Power to plant, remove, maintain and protect trees and shrubs and 12.56.150 Arboricultural specifications and standards, and creating Section 12.56.165 Emerald ash borer.

Yes Votes: 10 No Votes: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

22-1003

11/22/2022

Motion by Lukens, second by Watson to confirm the Mayor's Appointments of Carolyn Marohl to the CIP Committee and Tim VanDeYacht to the Room Tax Commission.

Yes Votes: 10 No Votes: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

(Doug Diny *entered the meeting.*)

22-1109 Budget Discussion

11/22/2022

Doug Diny questioned if there was a statutory deadline to adopt the budget. Attorney Nathan Miller responded there was no statutory deadline, however, the city needs to inform citizens of the mill rate/levy rate and send them their tax bill since it is due the end of January. The city also needs to be able to have the revenue to pay for the operations and expenses.

Lisa Rasmussen explained the reason the public hearing is historically held the first meeting in November followed by adoption at the end of November is so the tax bills can be mailed and arrive in residents' mailboxes by the second Saturday of December. Some people wish to pay their tax bill before the end of 2022 to receive an income tax deduction. She commented there was a year the bills went out late and there was a massive amount of backlash and complaints from citizens.

Diny felt this might be a good time to start thinking about next year's budget and the process which should be all year long. He was concerned with the debt service and the amount of debt, especially the utility debt service and the personnel added via grants and ARPA that will come due two or three years down the road.

Maryanne Groat stated there was budget session discussion regarding the 12 added firefighter positions, 3 that were added from ARPA and 9 that are funded from the SAFER Grant, as well as the Outreach Coordinator in the Police Department that will eventually come onto the levy. She noted the timing is going to be relatively convenient because of the closure of TID #6 and #7 happening about the same time those grants close. She explained we then won't have to allocate increment to those districts which leaves a space open for the funding of these positions. A referendum is another tool for feedback from the taxpayer to question if they are willing to increase the tax rate for those positions.

Rasmussen pointed out in the 2023 Budget there are a couple things that are intended specifically to stem new borrowing in the utility. ARPA funding was ranked and approved for the capital projects for the Water & Sewer Utility for 2023, which impacts the water rate payer in a positive way. She noted since there are more water users than there are property taxpayers the ARPA dollars used for the utility projects benefits a larger cross section of the public. Also in the budget is an agreement to forgive \$500,000 of the pilot payment the Water & Sewer Utility normally makes to the city. That payment was inflated to contemplate new growth and our budget did not necessarily need that growth or contemplate that higher number. Just tonight the Finance Committee approved applying ARPA funds to offset the borrowing for 2022 capital projects that are already complete at the utility and reduce the pilot payment for 2022.

Tom Kilian commented that the closure of TID #7 was mentioned, however TID #12 is essentially being fed by TID #7 because there is not a lot going on there with revenue. He also commented Moody's opinion came in several weeks after discussion of the T. Wall Development. He stated knowing about the negative outlook and some of the challenges that occurred with the bonds described by Ehler's, we had been informed that the reverse TID with the T. Wall Development was primarily done for risk reduction for the city and the taxpayer. He questioned if it would have been realistic or a good idea to go to bonds for that anyway or if we were even in a position to do it. He stated in his opinion we were leveraged and that the reverse TID was not just about risk reduction, but also appears that because we are paying that after the increment is generated, it really doesn't present the same challenges that go into bonds initially. He questioned if the Finance Director agreed with that opinion.

Groat responded it has been a strategic change of Council to not borrow money for private developments the last couple years. She agreed this is a better strategy because it reduces risk and reduces our borrowing, but it does increase the cost of the project due to higher borrowing rates for the private sector. She noted we can prepay those developer payments given any extra capacity the district has to mitigate the increased interest costs. Kilian commented in terms of the interest he was perplexed at the time why the city would want to pay \$4.8 million in interest over a 20 year period if paying it off sooner would have reduced the interest substantially.

22-1109 Budget Amendment

11/22/2022

Motion by Diny, second by Gisselman to Amend the 2023 City of Wausau Budget Resolution - that the Council will not consider any budget modifications in the first half of the year.

Diny felt there were too many budget modifications in the first part of the year and if they were not allowed it would force the budget process to work as it is intended.

Rasmussen felt they should be cautious about hamstringing the city's ability to modify the budget because there are causes that you must modify the budget for that are not only added new spending or increases, but also for reclassifying a job; processing carryover for unfinished work; added defense costs for a lawsuit; intergovernmental agreements that require funds; or unanticipated snowfall. She stated the Council can vote down any modifications it does not like, but we need the ability to function.

Diny commented he did not want to stand in the way of an emergency modification, but his intent was just to slow the roll of the number and frequency in the early onset of taking a budget that we've had seven sessions to put together to have a budget modification right away in January. He just wanted to give some validity to the budget. Nathan Miller pointed out a budget modification takes a super majority (2/3 vote) to pass.

Yes Votes: 1

No Votes: 10

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: FAIL

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	NO
2	Martens, Michael	NO
3	Kilian, Tom	NO
4	Diny, Doug	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	NO
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	NO
9	Herbst, Dawn	NO

10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	NO

Diny put a motion on the floor to add a City Administrator position beginning July 1st at a total cost of \$129,000 funded by 2022 surplus. Motion died for lack of a second.

22-1109 Budget Adoption 11/22/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Watson to adopt the Resolution of the Finance Committee Adopting the 2023 City of Wausau Budget and General Property Tax to Support Same as presented.

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

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

22-1110 11/22/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Larson to adopt the Preliminary Resolution of the Capital Improvement & Street Maintenance Committee Levying Special Assessments for 2023 Street Construction Projects.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

Suspend the Rules 11/22/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens to Suspend Rule 6(B) Filing of Resolutions.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

22-1111 11/22/2022

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to adopt the Joint Resolution of the Human Resources and Finance Committees Reclassifying the Payroll Coordinator to Accountant (Payroll).

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

22-1112 11/22/2022

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to adopt the Joint Resolution of the Human Resources and Finance Committees Authorizing reclassification of Wastewater Plant Operations Supervisor.

Diny requested clarification regarding the budget neutral statement on the resolution and questioned if the reclass was costing more or costing less. Becky McElhaney indicated it was budget neutral and the current position was being reclassified due to a requirement for more supervisory experience. Eric Lindman explained this is a replacement for the individual who is retiring and that some responsibilities were added to the job classification so the paygrade range will be increased by one pay grade. McElhaney clarified it remains budget neutral because the new person will be starting at a lower step than the person who is retiring from the top of the pay scale.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

Adjournment 11/22/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Lukens to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk