

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:33 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

12/10/2024

Roll Call indicated 10 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	EXCUSED
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

Presentation: Update from the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc (ECDC)

12/10/2024

Janice Watson, Executive Director of the ECDC Multicultural Community Center, spoke on the organization's programming.
Discussion was held. No action was taken.

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

12/10/2024

1. Sandra Kelch, 802 Augusta Avenue – Spoke on the homeless community.
2. Kailey Wood, 745 Imm Street – Spoke on the homeless community.
3. Vicki Harness, 1240 S. 9th Avenue - Spoke on the homeless community.
4. Mathew Barnes, Police Chief of the Wausau Police Department – Spoke on the homeless community.
5. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – Spoke on the homeless community.

Consent Agenda

12/10/2024

Without objection, items 24-1203, 24-1204, and 24-1210 were pulled from the consent agenda by the request of the Mayor.

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

24-1201 from the Common Council Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (11/26/2024).

16-1110 Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the Wausau Police Department to accept a Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) 2025 Beat Patrol Grant of \$121,434.

24-1205 Ordinance from the Public Health & Safety Committee Amending Section Wausau Municipal Code 2.18.090 - Case schedule regarding night court.

24-1206 Ordinance from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Amending Section 10.20.080(a) designating no parking on the south side of Oak Street beginning at the intersection of North 5th Avenue and extending 12 feet west.

24-1207 Ordinance from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Amending Section 10.20.080(a) designating no parking on the east side of North 6th Avenue beginning at the intersection of Quaw Street and extending 12 feet south.

24-1208 Ordinance from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Amending Section 10.20.080(a) designating no parking on the west side of North 7th Street beginning at the intersection of Washington Street and extending 15 feet north and south.

07-0919 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Waiver of Right of First Refusal, Termination of Deed Restrictions and approval of new deed restrictions for 400 N. 72nd Avenue.

94-0443 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving Waiver of Right of First Refusal, Termination of Deed Restrictions and approval of new deed restrictions for 8500 Highland Drive.

04-1212 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Amendments to Emergency Medical Services Contracts to provide emergency ambulance services to surrounding municipalities.

12-1118 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Production Agreement between Marathon County and City of Wausau.

24-1211 Ordinance from the Plan Commission Amending Wausau Municipal Code § 23.10.31 – Zoning map amendment.

24-1213 Joint Ordinance from the Plan Commission and Historical Preservation Commission Amending Section 2.82.055 of the Wausau Municipal Code to include the designation of the Marathon County Home and Hospital, 1200 Lake View Drive, as a Local Historic Landmark.

24-1214 Joint Resolution from the Parks & Recreation Committee, Plan Commission, and Arts Commission Approving Boy with the Boot sculpture at 3rd and Jackson Streets.

24-1215 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving Developer’s Agreement with Green Tree Construction, Inc. for Green Tree Meadows Subdivision.

24-1216 Joint Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee and Plan Commission Approving Final Plat – Green Tree Meadows.

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

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

24-1203

12/10/2024

Motion by Henke, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse Expenditures from the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Program for the BIL SFY25 LSL Program in Year 2025.

Rasmussen stated this program has not only met the stated goal but has exceeded the goal in addition to positive experiences from residents. It was also stated the funding will remain in place longer then expected into the next year. Rasmussen stated support.

Tierney questioned the debt incurred for this project in the past year. It was stated last year’s amount was \$2.2 million with \$6.1 million in the next year. Tierney further questioned the future funding. It was stated there would be further options and funding avenues for the debt service to continue this program to be presented to the Common Council in the coming months.

Kilian questioned if the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources had approved the contract yet. It was stated the department wanted more details on the contractor and subcontractors with the final approval pending. Kilian questioned which forgivable loans are available and stated the increased debt caused concerns.

Gisselman stated concerns with the increased debt for the program and future budget constraints.

Tierney stated a specific plan needs to be in place to service the increased debt before moving forward. It was also stated this is a separate issue of funding from the need for the program to replace lead lines.

Rasmussen stated much of this project needs to be completed while the funding is available from the federal government for these projects while forgivable loans are on the table. It was stated economically disadvantaged neighborhoods are most impacted by lead lines which exemplifies the need.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	EXCUSED
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	NO
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 6 No Votes: 4 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

24-1204**12/10/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorization to execute a purchase order with CCITC to complete the ERP project in the amount of \$163,875 and execute contracts for services on behalf of the city as amended.

Motion by Martens, seconded by Rasmussen, to amend 24-1204 to substitute in the now therefore be it resolved clause “Mayor and authorized representatives are directed to issue a purchase order to” with “proper city officials are hereby authorized to enter into a contract with.”

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

Martens stated the resolution was meant to over-encumber ARPA funding so it can be spent in time to spend down left-over funding so nothing is left on the table.

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

24-1210**12/10/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving the North Riverfront Development Guide.

Kilian stated support in that this does not promote any action or request for proposals.

Rasmussen questioned if the guide would be in place until a plan is in place. It was stated this is a stopgap in the meantime until a plan is developed.

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

23-1109AD**12/10/2024**

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, 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 – Motor Pool Rolling Stock Purchases.

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 1

Result: PASSED

24-1212**12/10/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Ordinance from the Plan Commission Rezone 700, 804/806, 810, 814, 816 Grand Ave from Urban Mixed Use (UMU) Zoning District to Planned Unit Development (PUD) Zoning District and to approve the General Development Plan (GDP) for a 50-unit apartment building.

Larson stated support for affordable housing in the city but stated opposition to the project based on the location on a busy intersection and concerns on the impact of traffic during the construction phase of the project.

Rasmussen stated the zoning change was a general concept plan and future approval would be required which could provide opportunities to refine. It was stated voting this down would delay much needed affordable housing.

Kilian stated affordable housing was needed but opposed the project due to safety concerns at the intersection.

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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: 7	No Votes: 3	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 1	Result: PASSED

23-1121 **12/10/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Establishing the 2025 Property Tax Equivalent for Wausau Water Works.

Kilian questioned when the payment in lieu of taxes can be decreased. It was stated after this year, the utility would reevaluate the payment based on a fiscal review of the full operation and a resolution would come before the Common Council each year until this payment goes back to the regular formula.

Martens stated the payment in lieu of taxes is the same as last year and in exchange funded the replacement of outdated water meters to allow the utility to accurately charge for rates to be financially self-sufficient. Martens stated support.

Yes Votes: 10	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 1	Result: PASSED
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Suspend the Rules **12/10/2024**

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

Yes Votes: 10	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 1	Result: PASSED
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03-0717 **12/10/2024**

Motion by Henke, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Purchase of Animal Impoundment Services Agreement for the impoundment, care, treatment and/or humane disposal of non-dog strays taken into custody by law enforcement or humane officers, between the Humane Society of Marathon County, Inc. and the City of Wausau, from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Yes Votes: 10	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 1	Result: PASSED
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02-1217 **12/10/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee Approve bargaining agreement between the City of Wausau and Wausau Firefighter Association Local 415, IAFF, AFL-CIO and CLE for January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

Yes Votes: 10	No Votes: 0	Abstain: 0	Not Voting: 1	Result: PASSED
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24-1209 **12/10/2024**

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee and Human Resources Committee Proposal to Change Hiring Process and Minimum Requirements for Wausau Fire Department Applicants.

Rasmussen stated excitement for this program as all fire departments are competing for talent as retirement outpaces recruitment.

Martens stated this will support recruits as they get their training to get their paramedic certification which means better trained firefighters and paramedics.

Larson questioned if this would be budget neutral. It was stated this would be a net-zero fiscal impact due to adjustments in salary and hiring practices. Larson questioned if there was a retainment clause to ensure the department was not utilized as just a training department. It was stated the early engagement benefit was designed to retain recruits.

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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

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 1 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASSED

92-1135 **12/10/2024**

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing Joint Powers Agreement with Marathon County regarding E911/NG-911 system.

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

23-1109 **12/10/2024**

Without objection, item 23-1109 was tabled by the request of the Mayor.

CLOSED SESSION **12/10/2024**

Motion by Martens, seconded by Watson, to go into closed session pursuant to 19.85(1)(e) of the Wisconsin Statutes for deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: relating to approval of purchasing properties taken by Marathon County due to foreclosure of tax liens.

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

CONVENED into Closed Session.

RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION to take action on closed session items, if necessary.

Adjourn **12/10/2024**

Motion by Neal, second by Larson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk