

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Thursday, December 26, 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 5:15 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

12/26/2024

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

Proclamations

12/26/2024

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:

Kara, Ella, and Anna Weiland “Jingle Ball Day” (December 22, 2024)

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

12/26/2024

1. Ron Alexander, 15420 Brandenburg Avenue, Merrill, WI – Spoke on 23-1109AE
2. Nancy Stencil, 223281 Azalea Road, Wausau, WI – Spoke on 23-1109AE

Suspend the Rules

12/26/2024

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

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

23-1109AE

12/26/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council to execute an interagency agreement with the Wausau Police Department in the amount not to exceed \$400,000 to purchase services and incur expenses for day shelter, night shelter, transportation, case management and other programs or services for people experiencing homelessness and related budget modification for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects as amended.

Rasmussen stated impacting homelessness was a stated priority for members of the Common Council at the council retreat at the beginning of the year. It was stated the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act needed to be spent before the end of the year and this helps meet the need to support the homelessness population with a menu of options.

Tierney stated concerns that this would give a blank check to the Police Department without a concrete plan for how those funds would be definitively spent. It was stated there should be no additional staff funded to support these efforts.

Gisselman stated a preference for action to have begun sooner to guide a strategy for the unhoused community. It was questioned as to why Catholic Charities discounted day shelter services which was the original intention of this funding. It was stated the organization did not have adequate staffing for the limited term contract to provide services through the spring. Gisselman stated a need for oversight of how these funds would be definitively spent after it is allocated.

Kilian stated this matter could have been handled more expeditiously. It was stated that funding efforts should include public participation processes to determine the funding direction.

Motion by Kilian, seconded by Tierney, to amend 23-1109AE to add a be it further resolved clause with "Be it further resolved that prior to agreement for service, a public participation process will occur, for which efforts will be specifically made to invite meaningful engagement from those actually experiencing homelessness and those participating in care of the homeless, should they choose to participate."

Watson questioned if the amendment would include how the public would participate in the funding process either through the standing committees or another process. It was stated the public participation process should be in line with the federal guidelines for ARPA allocation.

Without objection, the amendment was amended to add before the word should in the second be it further resolved clause “and those participating in care of the homeless.”

Gisselman stated support for participation from members of the homeless community to engage on this matter.

Lukens stated support for unhoused individuals participating in public engagement on this matter and reiterated that a number of committees give reports on this matter on a regular basis.

Rasmussen stated the Public Health & Safety Committee includes a report provided by the Community Outreach Coordinator which includes public participation.

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

Lukens questioned if these funds could be allocated to a Joint Marathon County and City of Wausau Homelessness Task Force or through Social Services. It was stated the task force does not receive funding allocation as it is not a department of either government entities and that the discussion of providing services through the Social Services Department of Marathon County was something the task force may be considering.

Watson questioned the funding allocation amounts. It was stated there were allocations that were over encumbered spending that was meant to go to motor pool funding and the remainder of the contracted funds from the Catholic Charities would go towards this allocation. Watson further questioned if a request for proposal would go through the Finance Committee and the Common Council to decide the final direction for funding for these services. It was stated the funding decisions would be part of the regular allocation process.

Larson questioned if this action was in the guidelines for allocation for ARPA funding. It was stated that the over encumbrance of funds and the allocation for services was within the guidelines for allocation. Larson stated the whole thing seems to be a mess.

Martens stated over encumbering funding would have built in flexibility in order to allocate that money before the allocation deadline and spend it before the spending deadline to ensure funds would not need to be returned to the federal government. Martens stated this allocation is in the spirit of the ranked funding preferences for ARPA allocation.

Kilian stated concerns that this allocation would disincentivize the county government from helping to alleviate the issue of homelessness.

Gisselman questioned how the planning for resources to the homelessness population would be conducted. It was stated this would involve community organizations and city staff to ensure there is 365 day and night shelter request for proposal.

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Martens, to call the question on 23-1009AE.

<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	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	EXCUSED
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 7

No Votes: 2

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
-----------------	---------------------	-------------

1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	EXCUSED
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	EXCUSED
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 7

No Votes: 2

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: FAILED

23-1109AF

12/26/2024

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving and Adopting the Budget Modification for Skateboard Park and Pickle Ball Courts.

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 2

Result: PASSED

Adjourn

12/26/2024

Motion by Larson, second by Lukens, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor

Kody Hart, Deputy City Clerk