

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

held on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,

Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Certification of Election was provided, and the Alderpersons were sworn in with the Oath of Office by City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde.

Roll Call

4/19/2022

Council Members 2022 - 2024

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Present</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
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

Suspend the Rules

4/19/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Larson to Suspend the Rules.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Result: PASS

02-0432 Amendment

4/19/2022

Motion by Diny, second by Kilian to amend the Council Rules - to state that an alderperson may not chair more than one Standing Committee.

Lou Larson commented there are 11 members of Council, 8 with experience, and 6 standing committees so there is no reason one person should have the burden of chairing two or three committees.

Lisa Rasmussen stated as one of the people who has had that multiple committee burden, she agreed the workload should be spread around, but it can be done without a rule change. She explained the current rules allow each committee to select their own chairperson and felt changing this rule will hamstring these committees if no one is willing to serve as chair.

Doug Diny did not feel only the experienced alderpersons should be chairing because he believed they were all fully qualified and perhaps this would force the issue to grow diversity of leadership.

Tom Kilian felt this amendment was more important than a simple committee election process because it would be a safeguard against undue influence on city policy. The committee can elect a chair within the context of this new rule. He believed they needed to look at how resolutions and ordinances end up before the Council and realize there is great importance of having diversity of chairs since the chair sets the agenda.

Rasmussen stated she did not know what undue influence a chair would on policy. The chair approves an agenda that is largely proposed by city staff and professionals for items they are working on and are ready for action and runs the meeting to maintain decorum. She stated there is no other influence or power that comes with a chairmanship or with being Council President, it is just more work. She reiterated this change limits the choices available to the committees. She felt if we don't like the outcome, we can go back to letting the mayor choose the chair, but that was changed to the committee because of a fear of the mayor having too much power.

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 7 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	YES

4	Diny, Doug	YES
5	Gissleman, Gary	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	NO
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	NO
9	Herbst, Dawn	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

02-0432 Amendment

4/19/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Diny to amend Council Rule 13(C) to add - two alderpersons may call for a Committee of the Whole and their request shall be placed on the agenda of the next regular meeting of the Council for consideration.

Tom Kilian moved that if a resolution/ordinance requires action from two standing committees, that it go instead to a Committee of the Whole because it excludes a couple of Council members. He felt this would result in increased efficiency and is a matter of inclusion. Seconded by Diny.

Rasmussen stated the purpose of a Committee of the Whole (COW) is for group training or for discussion of a matter of wide public interest where it does not fit another committee's mission. It is for learning, gathering information or conducting listening sessions. Each standing committee has a work list, but their work is rendered pointless if every time there is crossover, we have a COW. All items that are vetted in committee end up on the Council floor. She believed this would result in a host of unnecessary total group meetings.

Gisselman exited the meeting for County Board.

Rasmussen pointed out any member that does not sit on a particular committee but is interested or wishes to offer input on a decision is welcome to attend those meetings and speak. She stated the committee process is usurped by Committee of the Whole. Alderpersons that sit on committees gain experience and understanding on a deeper level through them.

Becky McElhaney commented in the case of HR Committee, almost everything that has budget implications also goes to Finance Committee. She stated if they take everything that goes to two committees, we will have COW meetings every week. She did not see that as an efficiency and everyone else is going to have to catch up quick on things they don't get packets for. This is a big change because a lot of things go through two committees.

Kilian gave examples of the Thomas Street environmental issues and 1300 Cleveland Avenue, in which he felt got stuck for months in an abortive committee process and ultimately had to go to a Committee of the Whole.

Discussion on the committee process continued.

Watson suggested changing the rule stating only the Coordinating Committee the Mayor or Council President may call a COW to allow more options for alderpersons to request one. If an alderperson wished to convene a COW for a specific issue that request could be brought to Council and voted on. Kilian and Diny agreed to withdraw their motion on the floor

Vote on Amendment

Yes Votes: 7 No Votes: 3 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: PASS

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

02-0432

4/19/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Diny to adopt Ch. 2.16 Council Rules for 2022-2024 term, as amended on Council floor.

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

02-0433 Council Elections

4/19/2022

Council President

Lou Larson nominated Becky McElhaney

Dawn Herbst nominated Michael Martens

Nominations were closed and a vote was taken by secret ballot.

Becky McElhaney was elected as Council President on a vote of 7-3 for the 2022-2024 term.

Plan Commission (2/3 vote required)

Becky McElhaney nominated Sarah Watson. There were no other nominations, and a unanimous ballot was cast for Sarah Watson to the Plan Commission.

Wausau Water Works Commission (Simple majority)

Lisa Rasmussen nominated Dawn Herbst

Lou Larson nominated Doug Diny

Dawn Herbst was elected to the Wausau Water Works Commission on a vote of 6-4.

Mayor Rosenberg's welcoming comments to the new Council.

22-0403

4/19/2022

Communication: Mayor's Appointments to Standing Committees for 2022 – 2024

All Appointments can be viewed in the online packet

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Council/Council/2022/COUN_20220419_Packet.pdf

22-0403

4/19/2022

Motion by Rasmussen, second by Larson to confirm the Mayor's Appointments of Alderpersons to Non-Standing Committees.

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

All Appointments can be viewed in the online packet

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Council/Council/2022/COUN_20220419_Packet.pdf

22-0434

4/19/2022

Motion by Henke, second by Herbst adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Designating the Official Newspaper.

Doug Diny acknowledged the Daily Herald was their only legal option, but suggested they continue to look at other options for next term through an RFP.

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

22-0435

4/19/2022

Motion by Watson, second by Herbst to adopt the Resolution of the Common Council Designating Public Depositories.

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

Adjournment

Motion by Watson second by Herbst to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor

Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk