

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 5:15 p.m., Council Chambers

Members Present: Michael Martens (C), Gary Gisselman (VC), Chad Henke, Vicki Tierney

Members Absent: Becky McElhaney

Others Present: Maryanne Groat, John Chimel, Lisa Nowak, Anne Jacobson, Jerney Kopp, Matthew Barnes

Noting the presence of a quorum Chairperson Martens called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m.

Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (05/27/2025, 06/10/2025).

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Henke, to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding budget modification for Wausau Downtown Airport Projects - Airport Terminal Furnishings and Airport Apron Project.

Tierney stated favoritism against borrowing in relation to the timeline of other airport construction projects.

Martens stated that between the current funding and the funding expected from state and federal funding, borrowing should not be needed.

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Tierney, to approve funding of \$80,666.40 from the 13/31 runway reconstruction and BOA funds for the furnishings and apron work. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action to approve the reclassification of selected jobs in the City of Wausau Assessment Department.

Tierney stated concerns with the comparison of salary ranges from other communities in the southern part of the state that have a higher cost of living. It was stated that future comparisons should consider communities similar to the size and location of the City of Wausau. Tierney stated that future reclassifications in which there is a relationship between the Human Resources Department Director and the head of a department should be handled by an outside party instead of internally. Tierney stated support.

Gisselman stated opposition citing the relationship between the Human Resources Director and the City Assessor, as siblings, and the fact that this was one of the first endeavors of the Human Resources Director after recently being hired.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to approve. Motion carried 3-1, with Gisselman opposed.

Discussion and possible action regarding budget modification for legal services for the City Attorney's Department.

Motion by Gisselman seconded by Tierney, to approve. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action approving sale of Wausau Fire Department Ladder Truck 2.

Without objection, this item was taken out of order from the agenda.

Martens questioned if this would close the sale. It was stated this would close the sale at the end of the week if approved by the Common Council.

Henke questioned if the sale of this equipment fell through then the purchasing of the new equipment also would not move forward. It was stated the intent is for the sale to be contingent on the purchase of the new equipment as if one falls through the other does as well.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Gisselman, to approve of the sale of the fire truck contingent of the closing of the sale. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding sole source purchase request and budget modification for the purchase of the Ladder 2 for the Wausau Fire Department.

Without objection, this item was taken out of order from the agenda.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to approve the purchase of this truck contingent on the sale of Truck 2. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action accepting response from Bridge Street Mission to operate a year round emergency shelter at 325 N. 1st Ave.

Without objection, public comment was provided.

1. Sandi Kelch, address not provided – Spoke in opposition of the proposal.

Tierney questioned if any other community partner had responded to the request for proposals. It was stated there was one proposal for transitional shelter but not emergency shelter, so it was not accepted, and then this proposal from Bridge Street Mission that is before the committee. Tierney stated concerns on the beliefs of this organization but stated that only religious organizations with similar beliefs have stepped up to take on shelter services. It was stated that the contract language would require shelter services to all individuals regardless of sexual or gender orientation.

Henke stated that the shelter services should be accessible to everyone and that the proposal included inclusive aspects.

Martens stated concerns of the treatment of vulnerable populations so shelter services are open and available to all.

Gisselman questioned if all would be welcome to volunteer regardless of sexual or gender identity and religious affiliations. Gisselman stated opposition if this organization limited volunteers for shelter services based on these identities. It was further questioned what the negotiables would be discussed in closed session. It was stated budget and expectations of the contract itself would be negotiated in closed session.

Tierney questioned the tiered volunteer system of the organization. It was stated like-minded volunteers are sought for tasks that involve a higher level of contact with clients and less like-minded volunteers are sought for tasks that involve a lower level of contact with clients.

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 negotiating a contract with Bridge Street Mission upon recommended acceptance of their proposal.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to convene into Closed Session.

Roll Call Vote - Yes: Tierney, Henke, Gisselman, Martens; No: None. Motion carried 4-0.

CONVENED into Closed Session.

RECONVENED into Open Session.

Motion by Henke, seconded by Tierney, to accept the proposal from Bridge Street Mission and direct staff to move forward with a contract that addresses the items discussed in open session to have it ready for approval by the next Finance Committee meeting on July 8, 2025. Motion carried 3-1, with Gisselman opposed.

Adjourn

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Henke, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

For full meeting video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMac95TvoMk> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87OQwPBy3Lc>