

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date and Time: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 5:00 pm., Council Chambers

Members Present: Rasmussen (C), Martens, Herbst, Watson, and Ryan (*WebEx*)

Others Present: Groat, Goede, Barteck, Bliven, Graham, Fitzgerald, Jacobson, Lenz, Lindman, Rubow, Rosenberg, McElhaney, Neal, Peckham, Larson, Kilian

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Lisa Rasmussen.

Mall Redevelopment Presentation – WOZ

Chuck Ghidorzi presented and can be viewed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vge9v6A-lqg>

Presentation materials are also in the packet online along with public comment submitted to the Clerk:

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Finance%20Committee/2020/FINC_20201013_Packet.pdf

PUBLIC HEARING: Feedback opportunity for residents relative to the conceptual plan for Wausau Center Mall Redevelopment Presented by WOZ Group and related request for public-private partnership to fund demolition, site restoration and related infrastructure

Rasmussen opened the hearing for in person public testimony.

Spoke in support:

- 1) Jim McIntyre, CEO & President of the Greenheck Group, speaking as Chair of Greater Wausau Prosperity Partnership (GWPP).
- 2) Tom Radenz, 23481 N 96th Ave, REI Engineering
- 3) Matt Rowe, 1709 Tall Oaks Dr, Vice Chair of GWPP, and employed at Ruder Ware Law Firm.
- 4) Kevin Porter, 131 Wisteria Ln, representing young professionals.
- 5) Dave Eckmann, 1000 River Dr, President and CEO of the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce.
- 6) Dennis Smith, 3516 Polzer Dr, former Alderperson, supported but wanted more information on the total investment by the city.
- 7) Mark Craig, Compass Properties, and former manager of Wausau Center Mall.

Correspondence by email or mail:

Stakeholder Businesses – Merle Norman Cosmetics, The Ugly Mug, Jalapeno's, Tundra Land, Polito's Pizza, Cheryl's Framing & Gallery, H.T. Cobblery, The Lamplighter, Isaac's Fine Apparel, Compass Properties, Ciao, and Lemongrass; Young Professionals Cohort containing 82 signatures; Chad Kane, Wood Trust Bank and the YMCA Foundation Board; Bryan Bailey, Executive Director of the YMCA; Tom Frank, Greenheck; Carrie Ann Canaughty; River District – Marathon Public Library, Evolutions & Design, Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art Marathon County Literacy Council, Amaximmo Realty, Shepherd & Schaller, Riverlife Wausau Apartments LLC, McCartney's Photography Studio, La Prima LLC, The Local, CPR Cell Phone Repair, and Prehn Dental.

Rasmussen read into the record an extensive list of individual letters of support received, as well.

Spoke in Opposition

- 1) Michael Staub, 1227 Plumer St, resident of Wausau and former employee of the Wausau Mall.
- 2) Sara Eten, 121 Eau Claire Blvd, resident and store Manager of Famous Footwear in the Mall and representing other mall employees.

Correspondence by email or mail:

Erin & Fred Heider, 1306 Spruce St; Lon Groth, 1038 S 7th Ave; Thomas Bloch, 3928 Riverview Dr.

Rasmussen noted hard copies support and opposition can be viewed in the online Finance Packet for this meeting:

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Standing%20Committees/Finance%20Committee/2020/FINC_20201013_Packet.pdf

Tom Kilian, Alderperson District 3, expressed concerns about the process to date and felt meaningful public input arrived at a late hour. He indicated feedback from constituents at his Neighborhood Group public input session indicated although many felt positively about the vision presented, they overwhelmingly opposed the nature and level of public funding associated with this vision. He did not believe it was supported by the community and indicated he intended to represent that by not supporting this project.

Discussion and possible action on Joint Powers Agreement with Marathon County regarding E911/NG-911 System

Attorney Jacobson explained it is joint powers agreement with the county, brought to her attention by Marathon County Sheriff Deputy Billeb. It is an agreement that we are already entered into but which should be renewed annually automatically. She indicated she reached out to Corporation Counsel, Scott Corbett, and they added wording in paragraph 2 that states this agreement is intended to reaffirm the intent of the parties to annually enter into this agreement.

Jacobson explained it basically provides that if an emergency service vehicle is dispatched in response to a 911 call, such vehicle will render services to that person regardless of whether it is outside of the jurisdictional boundary. She stated the agreement was approved by Council and effective in 1993 and another version was passed without Council approval in 2008. This is a recommitment to the agreement due to the staff turnover.

Motion by Watson, second by Martens to approve the Joint Powers agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action on lease agreement with Wausau Avenue Winter Farmers Market, LLC for property at 180 E. Wausau Avenue

Rasmussen explained the Winter Farmers Market was looking for a larger home and the city currently owns the property.

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to approve the lease agreement. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action authorizing the Wausau Police Department accept a Victims of Crime Act grant of \$300,000 per year for 4 years (an amount not to exceed \$1.2 million) to continue the Victim Response Unit

Motion by Watson, second by Ryan to accept the VOCA grant. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding budget modification and \$15,000 funding request Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter

Mayor Rosenberg stated the last few months we've been searching for a new space for the warming center in order to provide enough space for people to socially distance. She indicated the Methodist Church has offered space, but there will need to be a shower installed and hookups for laundry.

Tracey, Catholic Charities, stated the warming center is currently located at 540 S 3rd Avenue, which is approximately 900 square feet to house 25 homeless individuals per night, which is not sustainable with the current pandemic. The First United Methodist Church has offered their basement from November 1st to April 30th, housing up to 40 individuals and room for isolation if someone should become symptomatic. She indicated they will also utilize space for the free clinic to provide health care for the homeless. Along with installing a shower, there is a need to increase security cameras and washer & dryer space, additional lighting and fire exits.

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to approve the budget modification of \$15,000 for Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter. Motion carried 5-0.-

Discussion and possible action on Budget Modification Emergency Management Planning

Mayor Rosenberg stated there is a County Emergency Management office that does a lot of planning around specific types of incidents and can help the city with that planning. She explained the budget modification is for \$10,000 to support a more robust planning operation. She indicated she met with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, and DPW Director and put together a large list sent over to the county of things we want to accomplish as far as emergency management planning and preparedness. It is for an extra level of support and collaboration with the county.

Motion by Martens, second by Herbst to approve the budget modification. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn

Motion by Herbst, second by Watson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.