



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department
Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal
Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

Meeting: SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE
Members: John Kroll (C), Paul Kage, Tom Kilian, Mary Kluz, Ashley Lange, Leah
Van De Loo, Paul Zouski
Location: Board Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.
Date/Time: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Public comment
3. Approve minutes of September 22, 2021 and October 28, 2021 meetings
4. Work session: Greenhouse gas emissions, past City resolutions, and future direction for SEEC activities
5. Work session: Letter of recommendation from SEEC members regarding 1300 Cleveland Avenue
6. Adjourn

It is likely that members of, and a quorum of the Council and/or members of other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau will be in attendance at the abovementioned meeting to gather information. **No action will be taken by any such groups.**

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Planning Office @ (715) 261-6760.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 11/15/2021

This meeting is being held in person and/or via teleconference (all public participants' phones will be muted during the meeting) by calling 1-408-418-9388.

The Access Code is: 2490 962 2521 The Password is: 74YayHP8bYS

Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail samuel.wessel@ci.wausau.wi.us with "SEEC Public Comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the chair.

Other Distribution: Media, Alderpersons, Mayor, City Departments

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, September 23, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall and virtually via WebEx

Members Present: John Kroll (C), Tom Kilian, Ashley Lange, Paul Zouski, Mary Kluz

Members Absent: Paul Kage, Leah Van De Loo

Others Present: Sam Wessel, Brad Lenz, Liz Brodek, Dan Barth (WebEx), Joel Lewis (WebEx)

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kroll called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

M/S Kilian/Lange to approve the May 26th, 2021 meeting minutes including small revisions by Kilian; unanimous

M/S Lange/Zouski to approve the August 8th, 2021 meeting minutes; unanimous

4. Discussion and possible action for Green House Gas Emission Reduction Resolution

Kroll switched agenda items 3 and 4 on the agenda to facilitate public comment from remote meeting participants.

Joel Lewis, 807 Turner Street, encouraged the City to adopt a Climate Action Plan and supports a Green House Gas Resolution, which typically leads to a plan.

Dan Barth mentioned the Renew Wisconsin program which is under review as Senate Bill SB-490 and Assembly Bill AB-527 and could provide funding for solar at 1300 S Cleveland Ave if passed. Barth also supports a Climate Action Plan.

Kroll started discussion by describing approaches SEEC could take: should the resolution stand by itself or be part of a strategic plan? Lange supports tying it to a plan and cited Eau Claire and Menomonie's Climate Action Plans, which contain good "whereas" connections between resolutions and a plan. Eau Claire's resolution is much more thorough, Menomonie's is vague. Kroll said a standalone resolution could be a backup if a climate action plan and/or green house gas resolution don't make it into the City's strategic plan. Kroll asked about process. Lenz said that a resolution would have to go through probably the Economic Development Committee and then council. Wessel mentioned that a report should accompany a resolution, and this is where details can go if the resolution gets too long. Kilian agreed on the process. Lenz said work sessions should take place first to get the resolution drafted, and a recommendation for a climate action plan could be in the resolution.

Kluz joined at 5:19 p.m.

Kroll mentioned that things like target dates, percent reduction by a target date, and data tracking methods should be included in the research, and that SEEC members should look at other cities and sources to find ideas.

3. Discussion and possible recommendation for 1300 S Cleveland Ave (Environmental Justice / Land Use)

Kroll asked what SEEC can and cannot recommend. Kilian said that he hoped to see a letter reflecting SEEC's recommendations but there seems to be some hesitancy. He cited SEEC's duties and mentioned that perhaps more clarity is needed for other committees. Lenz recommends that City staff sticks to zoning/land use for now, and that typically another committee should direct SEEC to make a recommendation before working on one. Kilian asked if SEEC could draft a letter without staff. Lenz said staff can help get it into the meeting packet, but it could be seen as a conflict of interest if staff is perceived to be taking a stance on the issue. Kilian proposed that SEEC draft an advisory letter and would like to include a statement recommending against burning biomass based on neighborhood feedback. Lange would like to include what the community does and does not want to see on the site.

Kroll recommended compiling a list of concerns and ideas from past discussions and then bringing it to SEEC for review. Lenz said that once that list is finalized, staff can help SEEC get the list through the process. Kilian referred to the last council meeting involving DPW's feasibility study for 1300 S Cleveland Ave and that funding to study the site was pulled because of concern over unknown Phase 2 test results. Lenz pointed out that this meeting packet has links to the Committee of the Whole meeting and Environmental Justice Resolution that is on its way to council. Kroll directed SEEC members to bring a list of recommendations for next month's discussion. Staff is able to put all the lists together in the packet. Kluz asked if rationale/narratives should also be included with the recommendations, and SEEC members agreed. Brodek asked if input has already been generated or if it is to be conducted. Zouski said it would reference past meetings and Lange said it would include past feedback from Kilian's constituents.

5. Discussion on SEEC involvement with the City's strategic plan

Lenz had anticipated more information about the strategic plan when including this in the agenda but there isn't much to update SEEC about at this time. The greenhouse gas resolution would be a good project to include in that plan. Kroll asked about the strategic plan's public input and timeline. Brodek said there would be input. Lenz is unsure of the latest project timeline but ideally it will be complete before next budget. Kroll asked if there were any thoughts on items for the strategic plan. Kluz found out that years ago, Wausau declared itself an eco-municipality, but this needs to be reviewed and updated to see what that means today. What has changed since then? Lenz thinks it was around 2010 when that was adopted. Kilian said that perhaps a climate resolution can inform the strategic plan. Kluz thinks it was about carbon pricing back then. Kroll said that modifying the TIF application is a good idea. Lange said that UW-Stevens Point has a resource toolkit for local governments in Central Wisconsin that are sustainable communities, and will send the link out (Center for Land Use Education).

6. Discussion on possible City Newsletter content

Kluz was pleased with no-mow May and is wondering if SEEC could sponsor something in the newsletter that shows what impact a community can have. It would be good to also have pieces that educate the public on why greenhouse gasses are an important topic. Kluz isn't sure who should write it but SEEC can check the UWSP toolkit for ideas. Kroll would like to see a way for people to give SEEC feedback on things like a greenhouse gas resolution with a link or contact information. Lenz cautioned to not get too technical but put into layperson terms what the impacts of greenhouse gasses are. Lange said that regarding the climate action plan, the main discussion is how much, by whom, and how to reduce greenhouse gasses, similar to Lewi's public comment, which could be useful for feedback. Kluz asked what procedures typically are for public comment at meetings, and Lenz said it varies by group. Kluz said it would be good to let people suggest SEEC agenda item ideas via public comment. Kroll said that comments can be before agenda, during the agenda item, or at the end when SEEC discusses future agenda items, for flexibility. Kilian affirmed the chair can make the call who speaks when.

7. Future items for consideration and future meeting date

Kroll said that for next time, SEEC will discuss the greenhouse gas resolution, 1300 S Cleveland Ave with the compiled list of notes and recommendations, and the strategic plan. Kluz would like to review the UWSP toolkit next time also and include the City's former resolutions to discuss.

Wessel mentioned Jay Dishnow, who works with WESCO Corporation, is interested in if the City would like an energy audit program that is paid for by funding sources. Kluz asked if he was selling anything, and Wessel said he hasn't gotten many details. Kroll works in the same field so he requested contact information for Dishnow, so he can talk to him before he makes a SEEC appearance. Some corporations don't always do thorough work. Wessel will pass on Dishnow's contact information to Kroll.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 27th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m..

8. Adjourn

M/S Kilian/Lange to adjourn at 5:58 p.m.

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, October 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall and virtually via WebEx

Members Present: John Kroll (C), Tom Kilian, Ashley Lange, Mary Kluz

Members Absent: Paul Kage, Leah Van De Loo, Paul Zouski,

Others Present: Sam Wessel, Brad Lenz, Mayor Katie Rosenberg, Mike Kubowski- Focus on Energy (WebEx), additional unnamed participant joined by phone

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kroll called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

The incorrect meeting minutes date was listed on the agenda so no minutes were approved. Minutes for this meeting and the 9-22-2021 meeting will be reviewed at the next SEEC meeting.

3. Discussion of UWSP Sustainability for Local Government

Wessel mentioned that the toolkit was useful yet broad, and the variety of topics is helpful to consider when creating a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) resolution or climate action plan, but it didn't have calculations or goals, nor is it a template for creating a plan. Kroll agreed it was like the Green Tier Legacy Community scorecard but without scores. Kluz pointed out that it's useful and Volume 1 is internal, and Volume 2 is external, and it seems like internally SEEC runs into a lot of walls and there is room for improvement. For example, everyone forgot about the eco-municipality resolution even though it was important when it was passed. Kroll asked if any documents reference the toolkit, Wessel mentioned that the toolkit is good at listing cities where things have been tried and we can contact them. Kluz is interested in contacting La Crosse since they hired a sustainability director. Kroll said it would be nice to have standards to reference, and Kluz said it's a good document for giving us a "lens" to look at everything through, training people to think about the environment in all areas. Usually cost is a lens everyone looks through, but this lens allows you to see costs down the road that pollution creates. Rosenberg mentioned that a decision was made in the past to buy diesel buses instead of electric, and policy decisions like that could be influenced by SEEC.

4. Discussion regarding past City resolutions

Kilian brought up the environmental justice resolution and how that could be tied to policy decisions by including a sustainability score for everything. Kluz pointed out the American Planning Association's (APA) 4 strategies for planning for sustainability in the toolkit, and asked where APA stands on these issues now. Kluz also mentioned that there isn't a clear path for where SEEC should take its recommendations. Kluz would like to have Council revisit the eco-municipality resolution and consider what that means for the future. Lenz explained different approaches that could be taken and pointed out APA's strategies in the toolkit made it into the 2009 resolution. Kroll asked how SEEC can summarize questions and references and Rosenberg suggested getting on a Council agenda for SEEC to present and get feedback. Kluz would also like Council feedback on greenhouse gasses. Lange supports starting with a framework to show Council where SEEC is coming from. Lenz recommended going to

Council prior to putting a resolution together, which Kroll agreed with. Wessel suggested working sessions to create products from SEEC conversations.

5. 1300 S Cleveland Ave Discussion (Environmental Justice and Land Use)

Kilian showed in the code where SEEC is advisory to City Council and can bring recommendations to them. Kroll affirmed that SEEC will work on what to present to council and give recommendations instead of action items.

6. Green House Gas Emission Reduction Resolution Discussion

Kilian and Kluz agreed that whatever resolutions SEEC comes up with should be original to Wausau and not borrowed from elsewhere. Lenz suggested starting with existing resolutions when talking to Council rather than going straight to them with a final draft, but SEEC could decide what to ask when in front of Council, for example, is it a climate action plan or just a simple document that guides City decisions? Kilian says a presentation to council allows SEEC to gauge each individual council members' opinions which could provide clearer next steps. Brad mentioned that when Eau Claire began its climate action plan, they went to Council by highlighting the benefits of the plan not necessarily related to the environment, such as cost and energy savings.

7. Discussion on SEEC involvement with the City's strategic plan

Mayor Rosenberg explained that the City is working with a consultant who should interview SEEC so the committee can bring up sustainability as part of the strategic plan and mention past resolutions. Mayor Rosenberg also mentioned that the consultant can conduct interviews individually or as a group. The group agreed that individual interviews get more information since there isn't anyone influencing others' thoughts, and that information can be summarized. The plan process is starting now and interviews will be in the next month or two.

8. Update on energy efficiency pilot program

Kroll spoke with consultant Jay Dishnow about an energy efficiency pilot program, where he connects municipalities to WESCO corporation who does free audits and gives quotes on energy efficiency upgrades. Kroll thinks this should be done at some point, but probably after baseline GHG data is collected, and it would probably have to be a request for proposal process. WESCO's costs depend on scope of work. Kroll would prefer to hear more about Wisconsin local businesses and programs rather than corporations from out of state.

9. Discussion on possible City Newsletter content

Kluz asked if we could do a "sustainability corner" where topics are covered, like the goats eating invasive plants. Wessel said salt application in winter is another good topic. Lange asked if they did a survey of species on the island before and after the goats, if we had data, it would be nice to report. Lenz recommended asking the City Forester. Kilian said that what goats are an alternative to should be discussed.

10. Future items for consideration and future meeting date

The group discussed how and when to meet to have meetings and work sessions to cover all that was discussed. Wessel will send out a doodle poll to check SEEC member availability. In addition to work sessions for 1300 Cleveland letter of recommendation and GHG resolutions, future agenda items include Michelle Goetsch from Betterbin presenting to SEEC next month, including an agenda item for educational topics for discussion, and a public feedback section at the beginning of the agenda for comments and emails. Lange also would like to discuss micro remediation using fungus at solid waste management and potential compost bins that could be a part of No-Mow May.

11. Adjourn

M/S Kluz/Kilian to adjourn at 6:35 p.m.

1300 Cleveland Avenue Discussion Links

Public Participation Feedback:

Public Comment (Committee of the Whole 2-23-2021). See Packets 2 and 3:

<https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Home/Calendar/tabid/95/ModuleID/459/ItemID/5274/mctl/EventDetails/Default.aspx>

Public Comment (Common Council 4-13-2021) starting p. 76:

https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Portals/0/Departments/Council/Archives/Council/Council/2021/COUN_20210413_Packet.pdf

Background information/references:

Prior topic discussion at SEEC meeting 8/2/2021:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6JtA0ARax9o>

City Council Meeting 9/14/2021:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EqmV0a_0MI

RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Recognizing the City of Wausau as an Eco-Municipality that Promotes and Utilizes Sustainable Practices.

Committee Action: Approved 4-0

Fiscal Impact: None

File Number: 09-0810

Date Introduced: August 11, 2009

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau acknowledges that the people of Wausau desire a stable, sustainable future, and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau acknowledges that a clean and healthy environment determines the quality of life, where the environment can support and sustain the community, and where citizens are committed to local and regional cooperation and a personal philosophy of stewardship and

WHEREAS, the willingness of the City of Wausau to move in the direction of eco-municipality designation can serve as a model for our citizens, encouraging economic development and industrial initiatives while protecting the ecosystem in which they raise their families, and

WHEREAS, by endorsing sustainable community development, the City of Wausau is joining an international network of eco-municipalities, and taking the initiatives to become one of the eco-municipalities in central Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, by endorsing sustainable community development, the City of Wausau is pledging to educate itself further about sustainable activities and to develop initiatives to support of sustainable practices, and

WHEREAS, the Commission for a Greener Tomorrow will continue to partner with the City of Wausau concerning water management, transportation, energy management, neighborhood development, and green building, waste management, and

WHEREAS, the Commission for a Greener Tomorrow has unanimously recommended that the City of Wausau become a eco-municipality community, and

WHEREAS, the following four guidelines were developed by the American Planning Association to help communities implement sustainable practices:

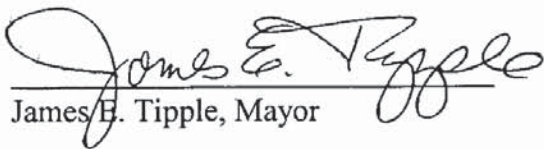
1. Reduce dependence upon fossil fuels, and extracted underground metals and minerals.
2. Reduce dependence upon harmful chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in Nature.
3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems.
4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Wausau endorse the principles of sustainability as outlined above and apply these principles in its decision making, planning, policy making and municipal practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Wausau partner with Commission for a Greener Tomorrow to research and advise the Mayor and Common Council on implementation of sustainable practices, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Wausau contact neighboring municipalities and invite them to participate in following sustainable practices.

Approved:


James E. Tipple, Mayor