



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), Carol Lukens, Scott Charette, Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz,
Ashley Lange, Jesse Kearns
Location: Board Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.
Date/Time: Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Public comment
3. Approve minutes of September 22, 2022 meeting
4. Recap: Good News Project Tour
5. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) presentation recap
6. Discussion and Possible Action: Discussion and drafting of GHG resolution
7. Discussion and Possible Action: resolution to join Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition
8. Next meeting date
9. 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 11/22/2022

Any person wishing to offer public comment may email City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at clerk@ci.wausau.wi.us with "SEEC 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 Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: John Kroll (C), Jay Coldwell, Carol Lukens, Mary Kluz
Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Brad Lenz, Dan Ebert, Kaysee Beckstrom

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 5:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

Lukens/Coldwell made a motion/second to approve the minutes of August 25, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Presentation by Dan Ebert – Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

The WLGCC is a group focused on climate change and making sure local governments are heard. They have provided comments on state legislative proceedings and wish to engage more local governments. The group has targeted funding identified to support their mission and assist local governments in the transition to clean energy. They have a national partner (ICLEI) that will lend technology and support and may even be able to help Wausau develop a Carbon Action Plan. There is no cost to the city to join. Just pass a resolution.

The committee expressed their optimism that this partnership would help provide some of the data and technical expertise needed to move the GHG reduction goals forward.

5. Discuss possible resolution and presentation on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Kroll discussed having secured a speaking time at the 2nd October City Council meeting. He has continued to tweek the presentation but feels it is ready. Discussion then focused on editing and enhancing the resolution while allowing for alderperson feedback after the presentation. Kluz and Coldwell agreed to meet with city staff on Oct 7th to work on the draft resolution.

8. Next meeting date

The members drafting the GHG resolution will meet on Oct 7th with staff. Next meeting of the full committee TBD.

9. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Coldwell/Lukens. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

RESOLUTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Supporting Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

Committee Action:

Fiscal Impact: Undetermined

File Number:

Date Introduced:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the city's Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee (SEEC) was created to act as an advisory body to the Common Council in the development of policies, programs, and decisions that affect the relationship between the City and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the city of Wausau desires to be among the communities leading on critical environmental and societal issues, having approved a Resolution in support of environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the city of Wausau has embraced Energy Independence, evidenced by the passing of an energy independence resolution in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City declared itself an eco-municipality in 2009, and among the guidelines for sustainable practices are reducing dependence upon fossil fuels and reducing dependence upon harmful chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau's Mission Statement includes promoting and enhancing our living environment, as well as encouraging positive growth; and,

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) shows continued warming, increases in rain and snow, and more frequent extreme rainfall events; and,

WHEREAS, the WICCI report recommends a decrease in carbon emissions and promotion of environmental and climate justice by investing in solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the city of Wausau joined other communities in leading a healthier future as a Green Tier Legacy Community through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and,

WHEREAS, the Green Tier Legacy Community scorecard encourages member communities to commit to achieving a science-based, community-wide Green House Gas reduction goal; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City commits to achieving 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2050; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City commits to establishing a greenhouse gas inventory baseline so that reduction goals can be established and worked towards.

Approved:

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor

Whereas:

The Federal legislation known the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, have created historic opportunities for communities and individuals to transition to sustainable practices and cleaner energy sources.

Future availability and price of fossil fuels for energy production may be volatile due to circumstances beyond the control of the City of Wausau.

The City Commits to:

Determine the level of energy use and emissions in government operations to better measure future progress and impact.

Move government operations to a more cost-effective, resilient, and greenhouse gas free energy profile.

Provide resources to residents so they may enjoy similar benefits and follow the example of city government.

Do this in a long-term cost-neutral or cost-positive manner that will reduce the burden of government operations on the tax levy.

Resolution Joining the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC)

Whereas, the City of Wausau has cause for concern regarding the negative impacts of climate change on greater society and within our own community. Climate change increases the risk of certain natural disasters, adverse health impacts, public infrastructure damage, economic loss, and impact on municipal finances; and

Whereas, addressing and mitigating the major contributing factors such as the burning of fossil fuels is imperative to slow climate change and protect the public welfare; and

Whereas, the State of Wisconsin has a goal of 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2050 and local governments are important actors to help implement the State's goal and Clean Energy Plan;

Whereas, *the City of Wausau has adopted [add climate or clean energy goals, climate or sustainability plans that speak to this] to demonstrate the need for local and collective action; and*

Whereas, the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC) is a group of local governments who work together to seek low-carbon and clean energy solutions. Members recognize that climate change poses severe risks to our communities and that we cannot avoid the worst effects of climate change without effective State policy; and

Whereas, the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition supports: increased state and federal funding for energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of transportation and buildings, and advanced technology and research development solutions; state policies and laws that enable local governments and others to implement such actions to grow the clean energy workforce; state plan to retire coal plants no later than 2045; choices and universal access to clean energy to reduce cost and participation barriers; and smart growth development policies and funding to reduce vehicle miles traveled, preserve natural resources, including agricultural, forestry, and recreational lands; and

Whereas, there is no cost to becoming a WLGCC member and the technical assistance provided to the City can result in additional savings and grant opportunities; and

Whereas, the City of Wausau shares the goals of the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition;

Now therefore be it Resolved, by the Common Council of the City of Wausau that the City of Wausau officially joins the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition in their efforts.