



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, Leah Van De Loo, Paul Zouski
Location:	Board Room, 2 nd Floor of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.
Date/Time:	Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Discussion and possible action on the Environmental Justice Resolution Policy – 10 minutes
3. Discussion and possible action on the Sustainability Award program – 15 minutes
4. Discussion on sustainability strategy – 30 minutes
5. Future items for consideration and future meeting date – 5 minutes
6. Adjourn

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 February 22, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being held in person and via teleconference. Members of the media and the public may attend in person, subject to the social distancing rules of maintaining at least 6 feet apart from other individuals, or by calling **1-408-418-9388**. The Access Code is **146 502 2440** and password is **wausau**. Individuals appearing in person will either be seated in the **Board Room** or an overflow room, subject to the social distancing rules. Space available will be on a first come, first served basis. All public participants' phones will be muted during the meeting. Members of the public who do not wish to appear in person may call in using the information above. Any person wishing to offer public comment who does not appear in person to do so, may e-mail Bradley.sippel@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.

It is possible that members of, and possibly a quorum of members of, other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau may be in attendance at the above-mentioned meeting to gather information. No action will be taken by any such group(s) at the above-mentioned meeting other than the committee specifically referred to in this notice.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6590 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

**A RESOLUTION
To Support Environmental Justice**

WHEREAS, for decades, working class neighborhoods and people of color in the City of Wausau have disproportionately experienced environmental injustice, and need an environmental justice policy implemented in the City to address such issues that currently exist and may arise in the future; and

WHEREAS, in order for the City of Wausau to fully embrace the change necessary to move our community forward, it is necessary to recognize, and acknowledge its own history of environmental injustice; to recognize the disproportionate and negative impacts of industrial, municipal, and commercial pollution in certain Wausau neighborhoods which created an unequal distribution of environmental assets, environmental hazards and health risk; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau recognizes that Environmental Justice (EJ) is concerned with the equity and empowerment of all community members such that every resident experiences equitable access to environmental assets, protection from environmental hazards and health risks; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau aspires to mitigate negative environmental consequences and health risks resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations in all of its neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wausau seeks to support the delivery of an equitable share of environmental benefits and community assets in all neighborhoods and wards that enhance the quality of life, such as parks and open spaces, trees, natural areas, community gardens, and the riverfront, as well as equal access to the City's environmental and infrastructure investments that support health, well-being and a sense of community; and

WHEREAS, The City of Wausau seeks to foster equity, community engagement, environmental sustainability, community cohesion, and transparent decision-making. The City of Wausau aspires to engage all Wausau residents equally regardless of income, race, ethnicity, language, age, gender, sexual orientation, ability, immigration status, and address for equal access to information about, and opportunities for meaningful involvement in, local decision-making that affects their quality of life; and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WAUSAU, MARATHON COUNTY, WISCONSIN, THAT:

SECTION 1: For purposes of this Resolution, the following definitions apply:

Environmental Justice (Wausau): Environmental Justice (EJ) is when every resident experiences the same degree of access to environmental assets, protection from environmental hazards and health risks, and an opportunity to play an

effective role in making decisions that affect the quality of life in this community.

Public Engagement: Public engagement is any process that meaningfully, inclusively, and equally engages residents and stakeholders in taking an action or making a decision and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision.

SECTION 2: This Resolution establishes the City of Wausau's policy for environmental justice and puts in motion the development of ordinances to ensure active consideration of environmental justice and meaningful public participation in City policies, practices, procedures, and other decision-making.

SECTION 3: The City of Wausau is committed to meaningful and inclusive public engagement that provides the foundation for making better decisions around environmental justice issues. Decision-makers will have more complete information to understand any potential impact a project or program may have on an underserved community, decisions are more implementable and sustainable, decisions are perceived as more legitimate, and decision-makers become better communicators particularly in regard to residents and communities whose voices are underrepresented in public processes.

SECTION 4: The City of Wausau will incorporate environmental justice into City of Wausau ordinances, codes, policies, and processes, which could include review of existing codes which will be conducted with appropriate revisions to bolster and improve environmental justice outcomes. This work will be done in consultation with relevant City committees and departments, and community organizations.

SECTION 5: The City of Wausau is committed to developing a policy that specifies clear goals for meaningful public engagement, policies and decision-making processes. These engagements are intended to ensure that all decisions with the potential to affect the quality of life for residents and entire neighborhoods in Wausau are supported by public engagement that is pursuant to the City's policy on meaningful, timely, inclusive, accessible and compliant public comment as well as responsiveness to public comment. The public engagement policy shall be developed in consultation with the relevant City departments and committees, along with the involvement, input and concurrence of community stakeholders.

SECTION 6: The City will develop and maintain an active GIS-based inventory of environmental justice areas in Wausau. Environmental justice areas are geographic regions in which there are likely to be disparities in access to environmental assets or exposure to hazards. That inventory will be made public through online mapping platforms. Once completed, this tool will help identify existing burdens, needed infrastructure improvements, and investments that can be considered by City Departments through their planning process.

SECTION 7: This Resolution will be in full force and effect from and after the date of its passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
• Improvements to bike facility accessibility/reach • 2018 Places for Bikes award • Bronze Bike Friendly rating • Completed energy audit for City Hall that showed few improvements needed? • Strong community interest in sustainability	• Incompatible land uses adjacent to each other (heavy industrial and residential). • Components of WI building codes related to energy efficiency. • Committee is currently more reactionary than proactive about guests and requests. • No sustainability coordinator currently.	• Setting an example with public buildings/projects or public-private partnerships. Ex. Public land sold for private development must meet energy efficiency guidelines or sustainability practices • UBI experiment (socio-environmental linkages) • Environmental Justice improvements • City could adopt more robust building codes than the State to improve energy efficiency of new construction • Public education to demonstrate effectiveness of current programs/policies? • Energy audits could give us more information about municipal energy use/building efficiency • Requirements for energy audits for homes – consumer protection/information • Sustainability coordinator could really advance sustainable initiatives in City • Partnership with Freedom and Liberation Committee •	• Expansion of incompatible land uses. • Perception of government inefficiency/ineffectiveness

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