



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Public Health & Safety Committee
DATE/TIME: Monday, January 19, 2026 at 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Lisa Rasmussen (C) Lou Larson (VC)
Becky McElhaney Sarah Watson
Carol Lukens

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Lou Larson, Becky McElhaney , Sarah Watson
Members Not Present: Carol Lukens
Members Excused:
Present 4, Not Present 1, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 05:15 PM.

1 Public comment on agenda items and reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement.

Rasmussen read the public comment statement.

1. Debra Ryan, 702 Elm Street - spoke on unhoused seniors.

2 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).

Motion by Watson, seconded by Larson, to approve all items outlined below. Motion Passed, 4-0.

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3 Discussion and possible action.

- a. Approval or denial of various license applications.

Rasmussen stated Yvonne L. Thomas, applicant for Public Transport Driver New License, did not appear to appeal the denial recommendation.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to accept or deny license as recommended by staff.
Motion Passed 4-0.

- b. Reduce the number of members of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Rasmussen stated that, given the fact that there have been struggles to get a quorum to conduct a meeting, and the constrained deadlines of matters before the committee, the reduction would be appropriate. It was further stated that the advisory committee should continue to be composed of citizens and that those citizens have been diligent in making tough choices that come before them.

Larson stated support to make it easier for the committee to meet quorum regularly.

Watson stated that a larger number of members was to ensure a diverse group of citizens made up that body. It was stated that the reduction was recommended to move to 10 to ensure no current members were asked to leave the committee before their term had ended.

Motion by Watson, seconded by McElhaney, to change the number of citizens members to 10 with one alder member. Motion Passed 4-0.

- c. Consider request granting a 90 day extension to open for business for good cause for Truly's Eatery and Bar located at 1810 Merrill Avenue, Truly's Eatery and Bar LLC, agent Hli Xyooj.

Rasmussen stated that since there is forward motion and progress on the establishment opening, there was a preference in granting an extension.

Larson stated support in helping a local business which intends to open to have the time needed for construction on the building.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to grant the extension. Motion Passed 4-0.

- d. Compliance issues at Whiskey River Bar & Grill located at 5512 Stewart Avenue.

Rasmussen stated the property owner stated an intention to sell the property, prompting a concern that the granting of the extension would not reopen the business. It was further stated that the owner had intended to reopen within 30 days. Rasmussen stated it was not the goal to close a business, but the owner can not sit on the license for an extended period of time.

Watson questioned if the owner could get into compliance in 30 days in order to reopen.

Motion by Watson, seconded by McElhaney, to grant a 30-day extension. Motion Passed 4-0.

4 Discussion.

- a. Municipal Ordinance 10.10.012 (Use of hand-held mobile phone / electronic device)

Rasmussen stated this item would come back to the committee for discussion and action once an ordinance has been drafted with the consideration of the committee.

- b. Police Department 4th Quarter Report

Report placed on file.

- c. Tavern Activities Report from December 2025.

Without objection, this item was postponed for consideration till the next meeting as the report was not included in the packet.

- d. Community Outreach Update.

Rasmussen stated there had been challenges on Sundays when the Wausau Marathon County Shelter closes early to accommodate worship services in the same location. It was further stated that a number of community members and organizations had stepped up to meet the gap caused by the early closure.

Report placed on file.

5 Adjournment.

Motion by Larson, seconded by McElhaney, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 05:53 PM.

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on
YouTube [@CityofWausauMeetings](#)



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