



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Police & Fire Commission
DATE/TIME: Monday, December 15, 2025 at 7:30 AM
LOCATION: Public Safety Building, 515 Grand Ave
Community Room

MEMBERS:
Kathy Strasser Thomas Garver
Cheryl Bahr Vylius Lyskys
Katie Rosenberg

Members Present: Thomas Garver, Katie Rosenberg, Vylius Leskys, Kathy Strasser, Cheryl Bahr
Members Not Present:
Members Excused:
Present 5, Not Present 0, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 07:31 AM.

1. Call to order by the presiding officer.

Commission President Strasser invited public comment. Citizen Mary Kluz expressed ongoing concern regarding the presence and operational conduct of Federal Agents within the community. She requested that the Police Department remain vigilant and attentive to such occurrences. Ms. Kluz also provided each commissioner with a copy of a constitutional booklet for reference.

2. Roll call.

Roll Call indicated 5 members present.
Members present: Commission Member Thomas Garver, Commission Member Katie Rosenberg, Commission Member Vylius Leskys, Commission Member Kathy Strasser, Commission Member Cheryl Bah

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

Minutes of November 17, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Leskys to approve minutes from November 17, 2025 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bahr.

4. Closed Session.

Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes, the committee will convene in closed session for the purpose of reviewing the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Chief of Police, with discussion and input regarding projected goals for 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to go into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of reviewing the Annual Performance Evaluation of the Chief of Police, with discussion and input on projected goals for 2026, second by Commissioner Leskys.

Roll call vote 5-0.

The Police & Fire Commission convened into Closed Session at 7:33 AM

5. Reconvene into Open Session.

Motion by Commissioner Rosenberg to reconvene meeting into Open Session, second by Commissioner Bahr.

Roll call vote 5-0

The Police & Fire Commission reconvened into Open Session at 8:09 AM

6. Discussion and possible action.

- I. Potential addition of Section *5.04-Performance Appraisal Review of Chiefs* to Article V of the PFC Manual.

*Motion by Commissioner Leskys to approve the addition of Section 5.04 to Article V of the PFC Manual, second by Commissioner Rosenberg.
Roll call vote 5-0*

- II. Approving final amendments to the Police and Fire Commission Manual as follows:

Article III Citizen Complaint Procedure

3.01 – Complaint

3.02 – Investigation

Article V Appointment Process for the Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments

5.04 (addition)- Commission Evaluation of Police Chief and Fire Chief

Article VI Police Department Entry Level hiring and Eligibility Lists

6.12 – Physical Examination

6.13 – Psychological Examination

6.14 (addition) – Part-time Officers

Article VIII – Fire Department Entry Level hiring and Eligibility Lists

8.10 – Physical Examinations

*Motion by Commissioner Garver to approve red-lined amendments to the noted sections in Article III, Article VI, and Article VIII, second by Commissioner Leskys
Roll call vote 5-0*

- III. Discussion on the memorandum re-agendized from the October 29 meeting.

7. Presentations.

- I. Monthly Fire Department Operations Update:

- Presentation of current Fire Department activities and updates
- Discussion on seniority-based promotions and succession planning considerations

Chief Kopp addressed the upcoming retirement of one Battalion Chief and noted the possibility of an additional retirement within the upcoming year.

In regard to succession planning and seniority-based promotions, Chief Kopp emphasized his continued diligence and commitment to supporting leadership development within the department. He encouraged proactive planning to ensure continuity and stability in departmental leadership.

- II. Monthly Police Department Operations Update:

- Presentation of current Police Department activities and updates

Chief Barnes reported several upcoming retirements within both the Records Department and among Patrol Officers. He highlighted ongoing efforts to invest in succession planning and maintain stability in departmental leadership during this transitional period.

He addressed the ongoing challenge of encouraging officers to moderate their response speed during emergency situations. He underscored the importance of balancing the urgency inherent in emergent calls with the need to prioritize officer safety and safeguard departmental equipment. Emphasizing the department's commitment to continuous improvement, Chief Barnes highlighted ongoing training and awareness initiatives designed to support safe, effective, and responsible emergency response practices.

Chief Barnes also proudly announced the graduation of Captain Benjamin Graham from the FBI National Academy, recognizing this achievement as a significant milestone for both Captain Graham and the department.

8. Adjournment.

Next meeting: January 26, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to adjourn second by Commissioner Garver.
Roll call vote 5-0
Meeting adjourned at 08:44 AM.



City of Wausau
(715) 261-6500 | clerk@wausauwi.gov
wausauwi.gov

