



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Finance Committee
DATE/TIME: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 5:15 PM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall – Council Chambers
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Michael Martens (C) Vicki Tierney (VC)
Becky McElhaney Aaron Griner
Sarah Watson

Members Present: Michael Martens, Vicki Tierney, Becky McElhaney , Sarah Watson, Aaron Griner
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 05:16 PM.

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

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

Motion by Watson, seconded by Tierney, to approve all items outlined below. Motion Passed, 5-0.

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3 Discussion and possible action.

a. Approving the termination of Tax Increment District Number 7.

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Griner, to set a termination date for TID 7 closure. Motion Passed 4-1, with Watson opposed.

b. Approving an April 7, 2026 referendum to increase property taxes on an ongoing basis to retain 12 firefighter/paramedic positions and offset expiring federal grants.

Martens stated that if the position number is included in the referendum question, it would commit the city to funding that number of positions should the referendum pass. It was further questioned if the full amount of funding for the positions should be brought forward or should the reduced amount with TID closure funding be brought forward.

McElhaney stated support for the full amount of funding as moving forward with the reduced amount with TID closure would cause confusion due to future budgetary constraints.

Martens stated the reduced amount would be more palatable but that going with the lesser amount could cause budgetary issues in the future.

Tierney stated being stuck between a rock and a hard place as going for the lesser amount could result in difficult budget constraints which could cause a reduction in services versus an increase in property taxes.

Martens stated it would be better to provide more wiggle room than it is to cut as finely as you can when it comes to including the TID closure as part of the referendum ask. It was further stated that the public should have the financial number of how much it costs to fully fund the firefighter positions.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Tierney, to approve the resolution to approve the \$1.45 million dollar referendum ask. Motion Passed 5-0.

- c. Approving Primary Towing Services Agreement with Joe Rader Towing LLC and Secondary Towing Services Agreement with Lightning Express Towing.

Martens stated the towing contract had previously worked out with these service providers.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Griner, to approve the towing services agreement for primary towing services with Joe Rader Towing LLC and secondary towing services with Lightning Express Towing. Motion Passed 5-0.

- d. Approving Second Amendment to Fixed Base Operation Agreement regarding lease agreement between Wausau Flying Service, Inc. and Phillips 66 Company for lease of a Jet A refueler truck.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Griner, to approve the second amendment to the Fixed Base Operation Agreement regarding lease agreement between Wausau Flying Service, Inc. and Phillips 66 Company for lease of a Jet A refueler truck. Motion Passed 5-0.

- e. Approving Sole Source Request for the purchase of services for an onsite physical therapist or athletic trainer through Advanced Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine for the Wausau Police Department and Wausau Fire Department.

Motion by Griner, seconded by Watson, to approve. Motion Passed 5-0.

- f. Approving Sole Source Request for the purchase of professional services for help in updating the City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan through North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWPRC) for the Wausau Community Development Department.

Motion by Griner, seconded by Tierney, to approve the Sole Source Request for the purchase of professional services for help in updating the City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan through North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWPRC) for the Wausau Community Development Department. Motion Passed 5-0.

- g. Approving Sole Source Request for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras and compatible charging docks through the Macqueen Group for the Wausau Fire Department.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Tierney, to approve the Sole Source Request for the purchase of thermal imaging cameras. Motion 5-0.

- h. Approving reprogramming of returned \$25,000 of 2024 CDBG Allocation from Granite House public service activity to acquisition activity.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Griner, to approve. Motion Passed 5-0.

4 Discussion.

- a. Improving public understanding and transparency around Tax Increment Districts.

Watson stated a need to provide more information to the public in more approachable terms to better explain TIDs.

Griner stated information should be provided in the city newsletter to explain the facts about TIDs to dispel misinformation and help the public better understand the abilities and inabilities of TIDs.

Tierney stated there should be more information on the ramifications of TIDs failing to close on time as it is a common practice and has real implications for taxpayers.

Martens stated that when a TID goes underwater the impact and what can be done to improve those TID's financial footings should be disseminated to the public.

5 Adjournment.

Motion by Watson, seconded by Tierney, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 06:02 PM.

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



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