



OFFICIAL MINUTE PROCEEDINGS
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Common Council
DATE/TIME: Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM
LOCATION: Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Carol Lukens Lisa Rasmussen
Micheal Martens Sarah Watson
Terry Kilian Vicki Tierney
Tom Neal Lou Larson
Aaron Griner Chad Henke
Becky McElhaney

1 Call to order by the presiding officer.

2 Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call and Proclamations.

Mayor Doug Diny presided.
The meeting was called to order at 06:32 PM.

Roll Call indicated 11 members present.
Members Present - Carol Lukens, Michael Martens, Terry Kilian, Tom Neal, Aaron Griner, Becky McElhaney, Lisa Rasmussen, Sarah Watson, Vicki Tierney, Lou Larson, Chad Henke
Members Absent -
Members Excused -
Present 11, Absent 0, Excused 0

3 Presentations.

Presentation by the Wausau Police Department for the Medal of Valor Award.

Matthew Barnes, Police Chief for the City of Wausau, presented the Medal of Valor Award to Officer Wade Schnowske and spoke on the passing of Major Frank Schuelke.

4 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting, approval of the minutes if correct, and correction of mistakes if any.

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Lukens, to approve all items outlined below.
Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0
MOTION PASSED.

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5 Reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement.

Mayor Diny read the public comment statement.

6 Comments and suggestions from preregistered citizens.

1. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street - spoke in opposition to #26-0205.
2. Tony Gonzalez, 219 N. 4th Avenue - spoke in opposition to #24-0704.

7 Consent agenda.

Without objection, item 24-0704 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by the Chair.

Motion by Alderperson Neal, seconded by Alderperson Kilian, to approve all items outlined below.
Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0
MOTION PASSED.

Without objection, item 26-0205 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Kilian.

26-0108 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving or Denying

Various Licenses as Indicated.

01-0115 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Relocating Wards 17, 18, 19, 20 (District 7 & 8) to a Marathon Park East Gate Hall in 2026.

23-0214 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Amendment to Professional Service Contract with EPLEX, LLC.

26-0206 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving Amendment to the City of Wausau Comprehensive Fee Schedule Regarding Commercial Building and Plumbing Plan Reviews.

8 Ordinances and resolutions.

26-0205 Ordinance from the Plan Commission Amending Sections 23.02.30 (SR-2) Single Family Residential-2 Zoning District, 23.02.31 (SR-3) Single Family Residential-3 Zoning District, 23.02.32 (SR-5) Single Family Residential-5 Zoning District, 23.02.34 (MH-7) Mobile Home Residential-7 Zoning District, 23.02.40 (DR-8) Duplex Residential-8 Zoning District, 23.02.41 (TF-10) Two Flat Residential-10 Zoning District, 23.02.61 (MI) Medium Industrial Zoning District, Section 23.02.62 (HI) Heavy Industrial Zoning District, 23.02.70 (IOS) Intensive Outdoor Storage Zoning District, 23.03.30 Temporary uses, 23.06.06 Off-street parking and traffic circulation, 23.06.20 Exterior lighting standards, 23.06.40 Fencing standards and 23.09.27 Sign permits-Application, enforcement, and revocation.

Kilian stated the conditional use items raised concerns and stated those items should be considered at another time for the public to understand the full impact of the changes made.

Rasmussen stated this ordinance was meant as a clerical language clean-up and not a policy change which should come forward as a separate issue. It was further stated that if this was an effort to make policy changes over certain land uses that alders may not like during the process of cleaning-up code numbers, it was inappropriate. Rasmussen stated opposition to the amendment as it is not the intent of the ordinance change.

Lukens stated support for the clerical language clean-up and taking the ordinance as a whole, and then having a policy discussion over conditional uses at another time.

Kilian stated the Common Council was being asked to approve the ordinance as is and stated opposition to accepting the conditional use language as is.

Motion by Alderperson Kilian, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to amend Ordinance 26-0205 to remove the changes in Section 7. (3) and 8. (3).

Yes - Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson McElhaney, Alderperson Tierney

No - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Griner, Alderperson Rasmussen, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Larson, Alderperson Henke

Abstained - None

Yes 4, No 7, Abstained 0

MOTION FAILED.

Rasmussen stated support of the ordinance to correct the clerical error and then pursue changes to conditional uses separately.

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Tierney, to approve.

Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Griner, Alderperson McElhaney, Alderperson Rasmussen, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Larson, Alderperson Henke

No - Alderperson Kilian

Abstained - None

Yes 10, No 1, Abstained 0

MOTION PASSED.

24-0704 Resolution from the Finance Committee authorizing entering into Memorandum of Understanding with both Healthy Opportunities for Latin Americans (HOLA) and New Beginnings Inc. through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Lead Hazard Reduction Capacity Building Grant.

Kilian stated concerns with the timing of the release of this Request for Proposal and other concerns over federal money guidelines. It was further stated that the item should be postponed and that the RFP should be re-released to give more time for other interested parties to apply.

Point of order raised by Alderperson Neal that was a parliamentary inquiry into whether a motion to re-release the RFP was in order. *Point of order was not well taken* by the Chair.

Kilian stated an intention to withdraw the motion to table if the RFP could be re-released. It was stated that the resolution would have to be voted on or referred back to committee to re-release the RFP.

Motion by Alderperson Kilian, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to table 24-0704 until it is reconsidered. Neal withdrew the second to the motion. Kilian withdrew the motion.

Rasmussen stated that the idea of re-releasing the RFP would be unfair to the applicants that had applied and that it was likely that those same applicants would apply and be recommended again. It was further stated that if the intention is to re-release, it should be referred back to the committee to give that directive.

Neal stated opposition due to questions about the awardee and the process for which the RFP was released.

Lukens stated opposition to the motion to refer the resolution back to committee for the purpose of re-releasing the RFP. It was further stated the item had been vetted by staff and that that course of action should not change based on one public comment and new information that had not been vetted.

Tierney questioned the timing of the RFP and asked if another applicant received the proposal request. It was stated that, due to the holiday, the communication was received but not read by the other applicant until a number of weeks later. Tierney stated that a number of weeks was a long period of time for a business owner to not check emails to respond.

Larson stated it would not be fair to the applicants if an RFP was re-released.

Kilian stated concerns of if the appropriate United States Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines would be met for this program.

Neal stated there were a number of issues brought up and that the item should be referred back to committee to further hash out those concerns.

Motion by Alderperson Neal, seconded by Alderperson Kilian, to refer item 24-0704 back to committee.

Yes - Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Griner

No - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson McElhaney, Alderperson Rasmussen, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Larson,

Alderperson Henke

Abstained - None

Yes 3, No 8, Abstained 0

MOTION PASSED.

Neal stated opposition to the resolution as many questions remain.

Rasmussen stated support for this program to engage in bilingual communication to abate lead hazards in homes.

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Larson, to approve.

Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Griner, Alderperson McElhanev , Alderperson Rasmussen, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Larson, Alderperson Henke
No - Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal
Abstained - None
Yes 9, No 2, Abstained 0
MOTION PASSED.

26-0202 Confirming Appointments of the Mayor of the City of Wausau to the Business Improvement District Board.

Motion by Alderperson Lukens, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to approve.
Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0
MOTION PASSED.

11 Announcement from Mayor and Alderpersons.

Alderperson Tierney - Announced that a listening session on the referendum would be Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 5:30pm at Wausau Fire Station 2.
Alderperson Martens - Announced that the Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting would be Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:30pm at the Wausau Public Safety Building and that the neighborhood meeting will be discussing the referendum.

12 Comments and suggestions from citizens present during Public Comment occurring both before and after the business meeting.

1. Mariana Savela, Board President of HOLA (Healthy Opportunities for Latin Americans) - spoke on the organization.

9 Closed Session.

Adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute § 19.85(1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations to discuss an investigation into allegations against a City of Wausau official.

Motion by Alderperson Lukens, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute § 19.85(1)(f) to consider financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations to discuss an investigation into allegations against a City of Wausau official.
Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0
MOTION PASSED.

The Common Council convened into Closed Session.

The Common Council did not reconvene into Open Session.

10 Reconvene into Open Session, if necessary, to take action on Closed Session items.

13 Adjournment.

Motion by Alderperson Neal, seconded by Alderperson Henke, to adjourn. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 09:00 PM.

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



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