



**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
REGULAR MEETING

**MEETING:** Public Health & Safety Committee  
**DATE/TIME:** Monday, February 16, 2026 at 5:15 PM  
**LOCATION:** Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers  
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

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

Members Present: Lisa Rasmussen, Lou Larson, Becky McElhaney , Sarah Watson, Carol Lukens  
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 05:15 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 Lukens, to approve all items outlined below. Motion Passed, 5-0.

**January 19, 2026** Regular Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting

**February 10, 2026** Special Public Health & Safety Committee Meeting

**3 Discussion and possible action.**

**a.** Approval or denial of various license applications.

Rasmussen stated Mitchell Schmelzter, Dwaine Hammons II, Terry French, Brandon Weix, and Donald Alsteen applicant for New Bartender/Operator New License, Renewal Public Transport Driver License, and New Public Transport Driver License respectively, did not appear to appeal the denial recommendation.

Rasmussen stated Theodore Davis and Johanna Gregory, applicants for New Bartender/Operator New License, appeared to appeal the denial recommendation.

Rasmussen stated the applicant that appeared to appeal the denial recommendations could communicate with the City Clerk to submit evidence of rehabilitation to distribute to the Chief of Police and the committee to have the recommendation overturned. It was stated that a recommendation based on that communication would come at the next committee meeting.

Larson stated concerns with the parklet application from Westside Diner & Lounge due to the positioning of the request on Quaw Street and how busy traffic is coming off 3rd Avenue.

Watson stated that both sides of Quaw Street has existing parking concerns and adding a parklet could introduce more issues with parking in that area.

Rasmussen stated a preference for allowing the owner to come before the committee to discuss the concerns of the committee further prior to denying the license outright. Rasmussen requested the City Clerk reach out to the owners to invite the applicant to the committee.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to approve or deny license as recommended by staff with the exception of Theodore Davis, Johanna Gregory, and the parklet request for Westside Diner & Lounge. Motion Passed 5-0.

- b. Relocating Wards 17, 18, 19, 20 (District 7 & 8) to a New Polling Site in 2026.

Watson questioned if this was due to construction occurring at the previous polling location. It was stated this was due to the construction at the previous location, but the Clerk is looking into other locations for the poll site of these districts. Watson stated people should come forward with ideas of possible poll site locations.

Lukens questioned if the previous Northcentral Technical College Alternative High School was a possible consideration for a poll site.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to approve movement of the polling site. Motion Passed 5-0.

- c. Consider request granting a 90-day extension to open for business for good cause for Vendao Craft Beer located at 209 Grant Street, Onora Hotels LLC., agent Juan Casarrubias

Motion by Larson, seconded by Watson, to approve the extension. Motion Passed 5-0.

#### 4 Discussion.

- a. Wausau Fire Department Quarter 4 2025 Report.

*Report placed on file.*

- b. Tavern Activities Report from December 2025.

*Report placed on file.*

- c. Tavern Activities Report from January 2026.

*Report placed on file.*

- d. Community Outreach Update.

Watson requested data from Catholic Charities or for a representative from that organization to appear before the committee to give a better picture of the entire situation in the city. It was further requested if a representative from Bridge Street Mission should come to the next committee meeting to discuss the transition of people from the Wausau/Marathon County Shelter into the Bridge Street Mission shelter once it opens.

*Report placed on file.*

#### 5 Adjournment.

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, 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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