

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Thursday, December 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall

Members Present: John Kroll (C), Jay Coldwell, Carol Lukens, Mary Kluz, Ashley Lange, Jesse Kearns

Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Brad Lenz

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kroll called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

Coldwell/Kluz made a motion/second to approve the minutes of September 22, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Recap: Good News Project Tour

Kroll shared information about the tour of the Good News facility on November 18. The organization does large scale electronics recycling to support their other projects such as inexpensive medical devices and mission building trips. Committee members were impressed with the facility and organization that has 400 volunteers. The GNP does have vouchers available for their e-recycling service to offset the 45 cents/pound cost and would like the committee's help in publicizing this. The committee will consider this at future meetings. A nomination for the Sustainability Award was also mentioned.

5. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) presentation recap

Kroll discussed his GHG presentation at the October City Council meeting. Despite some technical issues, the presentation went well and Kroll felt there was good support in the public present at the meeting. In general, the Council seemed supportive. There was a question regarding the scope of the resolution, whether it was for the whole City or just government operations. Committee felt this was a positive step.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Discussion and drafting of GHG resolution

The committee discussed the draft version in the packet and offered changes. There were some small word changes suggested. The committee suggested inserting the history of sustainability actions the city has already taken and add the opportunities from the federal legislation. Kroll posed the question of the commitment of having 50% clean energy by 2030 and 100% by 2050 and the group debated this for some time. It was decided to revisit this point at the next meeting after members had time to research. Coldwell suggested inserting the word 'secure' into the commitment about energy profile due to the remarks the mayor had made at the previous council meeting. It was decided that staff will take the committee comments and prepare a clean copy of the resolution. Then it would be sent to the Attorney's office and the Mayor to advise on the best path forward. It was unknown if this could go directly to Council or through a committee.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Resolution to join the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

Lynch discussed the purpose of joining the WLGCC and all that was required was a resolution from the City. Joining the WLGCC would provide the City input on state legislative and regulatory actions, provide technical assistance, and assist with finding grants. Regarding the draft resolution, the committee suggested inserting the history of sustainability actions the city has already taken and insert a mention of the BIL and IRA legislation, but otherwise it was fine.

Motion: Recommend to City Council to adopt resolution, with discussed edits, to join the WLGCC.

Kluz/Kearns. Motion and Second. Motion passes unanimously.

8. Next meeting date

January 5th at 5pm

9. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Lukens/Kearns. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.