

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Members Present: John Kroll, Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Ashley Lange

Others Present: Brad Lenz, Andrew Lynch

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

2. Public Comment

Public comment was received from Joel Lewis 807 Turner St Wausau via email.

3. Approve minutes of December 01, 2022 meeting

Coldwell/Lukens made a motion/second to approve the minutes of December 1, 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Update on Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition (WLGCC) membership

Lynch shared that the City was now a member of the WLGCC and listed as such on their website. While there had been some questions at the Public Health and Safety Committee and City Council about the nature of the group, staff was able to provide adequate answers and it passed City Council unanimously. On the third of February, Lenz and Lynch have an onboarding call with WLGCC and hope to get a better idea of what kind of technical assistance will be available and when.

5. Discussion: Nomination for Sustainability Award

The nomination form was updated for 2023 and posted to the website. Kroll discussed nominating the Good News Project and Lange offered to contact them and assist with the application. The group discussed taking the deadline off the application and just fielding nominations year-round. Lynch will send out a link to members for the form on the website.

6. Discussion: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) timeline and allowable activities

This item was moved up in the order by Chair Kroll. Lenz and Lynch discussed the grant options. Dept of Energy has set up a voucher system for smaller communities like Wausau that will require less paperwork and oversight. This voucher will allow communities to receive technical assistance or purchase particular items. Staff will return at subsequent meetings with more information as it is posted by the Dept of Energy.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Greenhouse Gas Resolution

Lynch stated that after compiling the draft from the discussion at the last meeting there were some changes to the wording of the 'Be It Resolved' section that he wanted the committee to look at it again. In particular, the goal of 100% clean energy profile by 2050. Until the City can learn what their baseline energy use is currently, it is difficult to assign a more ambitious goal. However, it is felt that this goal in the resolution is very wide and given the time, likely attainable. Coldwell suggested pursuing a more ambitious goal of 40% by 2030 which would be in line with Federal standards. Lynch noted that the goal may eventually be adopted as that but as of now he would be unable to say how the City could attain 40% by 2030. Kluz also noted that greenhouse gases were not explicitly called out in this section. She suggested amending the first bullet point to read "...and greenhouse gas emissions in City government....". Kroll suggested removing the word 'profile' from the second bullet point. This would make the goal more ambitious in that it would incorporate all of the City energy use and not just the profile of energy from the power utility. These two edits were agreed upon by the committee.

Motion by Kluz. Second by Lange. Approve of the Greenhouse Gas Resolution with discussed edits and send to the Public Health and Safety Committee.
Approved unanimously.

8. Discussion: Food Systems Resilience and the Municipal Role

Kluz started the discussion by noting her work with farmers and how the pandemic stressed the food systems in this country. She and other committee members have an interest on this topic. Kluz found a document published by Johns Hopkins that defined and explored food systems resilience and how to support it. Lange noted that it could be tied into the Environmental Justice resolution and work at the local and state level. Kroll noted this was the beginning of the discussion and there are some local resources we can bring in to educate the committee. Lynch will reach out to the Marathon County Health Department to see if anyone on staff is still working on this issue. Kluz will reach out to someone at USDA for more information.

9. Next meeting date:

March 2 at 5pm

10. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Kluz/Coldwell. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7pm.