



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Police & Fire Commission
DATE/TIME: Monday, March 23, 2026 at 7:30 AM
LOCATION: Public Safety Building — Community Room
515 Grand Avenue, Wausau WI, 54403

MEMBERS:
Kathy Strasser (P) Thomas Garver
Cheryl Bahr Vylius Lyskys
Katie Rosenberg

Members Present: Thomas Garver, Katie Rosenberg, Vylius Leskys, Cheryl Bahr

Members Not Present: Kathy Strasser

Members Excused:

Present 4, Not Present 1, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 07:31 AM.

1 Call to order by the presiding officer.

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner T. Garver, serving as chair in President Strasser's absence.

Roll call

Commission Members:

Thomas Garver, Katie Rosenberg, Vylius Leskys, Cheryl Bahr

Also Present:

Mayor Diny, Chief Kopp, Deputy Chief Baeten, Captain Pauls,

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

February 23, 2026 Regular Police and Fire Commission Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Rosenberg to approve minutes from February 23, 2026 meeting.

Second by Commissioner Leskys

Motion Caries 4-0

3 Closed Session.

- I.** Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purpose of interviewing one candidate for promotion to Lieutenant with Wausau Fire Department.

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purpose of interviewing one candidate for promotion to Lieutenant with Wausau Fire Department.

- II.** Closed Session pursuant to 19.85(1)(f) for for the investigation of charges against specific persons, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such complaint, for consideration and deliberation related to two Citizen Complaints of J.C.V. and A.T.

as well as pursuant to 19.85(1)(f) for the investigation of charges against specific persons, which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the

reputation of any person referred to in such complaint, for consideration and deliberation related to two Citizen Complaints of J.C.V and A.T.
Second by Katie Rosenberg
Motion carried 4-0

The Police & Fire Commission convened into Closed Session at 7:37 AM

4 Open Session.

Reconvene meeting into Open Session for purpose of potential action upon consideration of Closed Session Items.

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to reconvene meeting into Open session.
Second by Commissioner Leskys
Motion carried 4-0

The Police & Fire Commission reconvened into Open Session at 8:00 AM

Motion by Commissioner Garver to promote Adam Rahn to Lieutenant with the Wausau Fire Department
Second by Commissioner Rosenberg
Motion carried 4-0

5 Discussion and possible action.

I. Action on Citizen Complaint

Discussion.

Action on the citizen complaints will be re-agendized for April.

6 Presentations.

I. Monthly Fire Department Operations Update:

- Presentation of current Fire Department activities
- 2025 Annual Report

Chief Kopp began by discussing the Fire Department's ISO rating. He noted that in 2024, the Department underwent an audit and was downgraded from an ISO rating of 2 to a 3. He was pleased to report that as of Friday, March 20, 2026, the Department has been restored to an ISO rating of 2.

He then reviewed the 2025 Annual Report and invited questions or comments regarding its contents.

Chief Kopp gave an update on the training tower, noting that the Department continues to work with NTC and is in the process of identifying a suitable property to purchase. He stated that, in light of recent events, progress on the tower has been placed on the back burner, but it remains an ongoing priority for the Department.

He concluded with announcing the final resolution of the case involving the former EMS Division Chief. He stated that he plans to address the actions taken by the Wausau Fire Department to prevent similar incidents from occurring at the next PFC meeting.

II. Monthly Police Department Operations Update:

- Presentation of current Police Department activities
- General updates

Deputy Chief Baeten began by discussing the individual staff meetings conducted by himself and the Police Chief. He reported that they are about halfway through the interviews and, although time-consuming, the meetings have proven to be extremely insightful. Succession planning has been a major focus during these discussions.

He also noted that the department recently completed its in-service training, which included participation from state and federal partners. This year's training incorporated a financial wellness clinic, as well as reviews of Use of Force and pursuit procedures.

Deputy Chief Baeten then highlighted a presentation by Lieutenant Chittum regarding the CRO Unit and its work with the Central Wisconsin Narcotics Task Force. This presentation will hopefully be placed on the April PFC agenda.

Captain Pauls concluded by announcing that the Department recently completed its third accreditation process and has received approval for re-accreditation.

7 Adjournment.

Next Meeting: **April 27, 2026**

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to adjourn.

Second by Commissioner Leskys

Motion carried 4-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 AM

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



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