

MINUTES

March 23, 2026

Members Present: Jonathan Smith (Chair), Alder Tom Neal, Alder Terry Kilian, Chris Filtz, Veronica Hope, and Ben Gerhards

Others Present: Makayla Galecki (Wausau MPO), Eric Lindman, TJ Nicksich, and Carrie Edmondson

Location: Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street, Council Chambers

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. Call to Order

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment

No public comment was received.

3. Consideration of the February 23, 2026, meeting minutes.

Alder Kilian noted that Grant Avenue should be Grand Avenue.

Motion/second by Filtz/Neal to approve with modification. Passed unanimously. 6-0

4. Discussion and possible action

a. Approving 2026-2027 sidewalk snow removal policy.

Carrie noted that previous committee concerns included safety, accessibility, excessive delay for snow removal, repeat offenders, and the lengthy code violation process. The code violation process was outlined, and staff proposed a change for repeat offenders when upon the first inspection, if the property is in violation, there would be immediate abatement.

Alder Neal stated that this falls short of what is necessary. He stated that people who live here are familiar with snow removal standards. Ben asked what REVI charges, Eric stated \$120-\$150 is an approximate average, but the bill can be higher. Eric noted that we need to ensure that we are connecting with the property owner and rental properties can present a challenge. Alder Kilian stated that people are well aware that sidewalks need to be cleared within 24 hours. She stated clearing the sidewalks shows care for others and there should be consequences when not done. Jonathan Smith asked if this could be shifted to the Police Department. Eric said the ordinance does not reference citations. The scope of REVI's work for the City is tens of thousands of dollars.

Alder Kilian stated that because this involves the safety and welfare of many people, she thinks the 24 hour window is sufficient unless there are extenuating circumstances. Major snow events and exceptions were discussed. Eric stated that the ordinance is well written

and gives us broad discretion. Alder Kilian stated that we have excellent communication tools in cases of special circumstances, this policy would be for day-to-day shoveling.

Alder Neal made a motion that upon first inspection, if a property is found to be in violation, it will be abated. This policy would apply for the 2026-2027 and would include communication beforehand to make people aware of the new policy. He asked that the policy be brought back to BPAC prior to advancing to the standing committee.

Alder Neal amended the motion to include a timeline to be added that if 48 hours has passed since the end of snowfall, the property would be immediately abated.

Ben asked if the policy could include an appeal clause and suggested an amendment, the amendment was withdrawn. Eric stated that the appeal process exists through the City Attorney's office.

Eric stated that larger communities tend to have stricter abatement protocols, smaller communities vary. Staff time will be reduced will no notices mailed and no reinspection.

Motion/second by Neal/Kilian to incorporate comments and bring a draft forward. Passed, 5-1.

b. Approving City bike rack request form.

Carrie proposed a bike rack request form. Veronica provided an overview of a bike rack style and said that the welding students do have the ability to create more bike racks. She said it fits into course competencies very well. The racks could be produced for about \$80 per rack. Dimensions are 30 inches high by 26 inches long. They enable side by side parking for two bikes. April/May or October are ideal timelines for fabrication.

Carrie was considering a rolling fee of \$80 to pay for new bike rack production.

Motion/second Neal/Filtz. Passed unanimously 6-0.

c. Approving May National Bike Month events

Bike to Work with the Mayor is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, at 7:00 a.m. A press release will go out. Jonathan Smith has scheduled a social ride for Friday, March 15. It may be good to have a new bike rack at the end of the Bike to Work with the Mayor ride. We will need graphics.

5. Discussion

a. Discussion on potential opportunities to provide youth safety flags and/or lights.

The Wisconsin Bike Fed issued a statement saying there is not documented safety with safety flags, but there is with safety lights. Aspirus is coordinating a helmet fitting and will be handing out 500 free bike lights. Alder Neal would like to coordinate with the Wausau School District for the 2026-2027 school year. He stated that he would like to formulate a program, where these items would be made available to students. This could be funded through sponsorship from the private sector. Alder Neal volunteered to approach the school board. He would like staff to identify the why, cost, and method of distribution (likely through the schools).

b. MPO Bike/Ped Subcommittee update

The MPO Bike/Ped Subcommittee is looking at updating their MPO Bike/Ped plan including better prioritization of projects. The Attorney's Office is working through the e-bike ordinance. They are working on a bike map update, the Bicycle Friendly Community application is being updated, and the Healthy Communities Summit is upcoming.

c. City of Schofield Trail concepts

Schofield is looking at two concepts and is open to any feedback from the City of Wausau.

6. Update on City projects.

a. Bikeshare expansion – City staff has received limited response.

b. RRFB installation 6th Avenue/Bridge Street and 1st Avenue/Callon Street
No update.

c. River Edge Parkway – The OCR petition is moving along. River Edge Parkway on-street signs are ready and a logo stencil for on-street painting has been created.

7. Items for future agendas.

E-bike ordinance, snow removal policy, and bike flags will all be on upcoming agendas. Jonathan stated that due to time constraints, next month will be his last month on the committee and as chair.

8. Adjournment

Motion/second by Neal/Filtz to approve. Passed unanimously. 6-0 The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.