



**OFFICIAL MINUTE PROCEEDINGS**  
REGULAR MEETING

**MEETING:** Common Council  
**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 6:30 PM  
**LOCATION:** Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers  
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

**MEMBERS:**  
Carol Lukens                      Matt Hoenecke  
Michael Martens                Sarah Watson  
Terry Kilian                      Vicki Tierney  
Tom Neal                         Lou Larson  
Andrew Wiskowski             Bruce Trueblood  
Kristin Slonski

**1 Call to order by the presiding officer.**

**2 Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call and Proclamations.**

Arbor Day Proclamation

Week of the Young Child Proclamation

National Preservation Month Proclamation

Workers Memorial Day Proclamation

**3 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting, approval of the minutes if correct, and correction of mistakes if any.**

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to approve all items outlined below.

Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0

**MOTION PASSED.**

March 24, 2026 Regular Common Council Minutes

April 14, 2026 Regular Common Council Minutes

**4 Reading of the City of Wausau Public Comment Statement.**

**5 Comments and suggestions from preregistered citizens.**

**6 Consent agenda.**

*Without objection*, item 26-0412 was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Trueblood.

Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Trueblood, to approve all items outlined below.

Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0

**MOTION PASSED.**

**24-1110** Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Levying Special Assessments for the 2025 Street Construction Projects.

**7 Ordinances and resolutions.**

**26-0412** Joint Resolution from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving the Bike Rack Request Form.

Trueblood stated opposition as those requesting the bike racks would not be charged for the complete cost of the installation, including the concrete.

Martens stated that the bike racks would only be installed where concrete was already in place and further stated support as it promotes bicycle infrastructure within the city.

**Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to approve.**  
**Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Larson**  
**No - Alderperson Trueblood**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 10, No 1, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

**26-0402** Confirming Appointments of the Mayor of the City of Wausau to the Historic Preservation Commission, Sustainability, Energy & Environment Committee, Business Improvement District Board, Community Development Authority Board, and Ethics Board.

The Mayor withdrew the appointment to the Ethics Board.

*Without objection, this item was taken up at this time out of order of the agenda as the late filed item was pulled from consideration not requiring the suspension of the rules.*

**Motion by Alderperson Hoenecke, seconded by Alderperson Lukens, to approve.**  
**Yes 11, No 0, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

**8 Suspend Rule 11(A) Referral of ordinances, 6(B) Filing, and 21 Amending of the Rules.**

**Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Martens, to suspend rule 11(A) Referral of ordinances.**

**Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney**  
**No - Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Larson, Alderperson Trueblood**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 8, No 3, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

**Motion by Alderperson Hoenecke, seconded by Alderperson Kilian, to suspend rule 21 Amending of the Rules.**

**Yes - Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Trueblood**  
**No - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Larson**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 5, No 6, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION FAILED.**

**02-0432** Ordinance from the Common Council to Amend Wausau Municipal Code Ch. 2.16, Standing Rules of the Common Council.

*Mayor Diny relinquished the Chair to Common Council President Kilian.*

*Larson objected, which was a point of order that the proper procedures were not being followed to suspend the rules. Point of order was not well taken by the Chair.*

Watson stated support for the committee structure as it stands because of the lens that each committee views agenda items through. It was further stated that the discussion of this matter may be more appropriate for the Rules Review Committee, so all impacted parties can discuss the matter together.

Neal stated that the efficiencies of combining committee comes at the trade-off of less involvement from members of the Common Council because the committee membership would be more concentrated among a more limited group of alders. It was further stated that this could require longer, more marathon meetings with many, many items on the agenda. Neal stated there was no urgent need to act on this matter and urged the support of the current committee structure for the time being.

Hoenecke stated that other comparable cities have a committee structure similar to the change

of the committee structure as presented. It was further stated that something in this city council structure needed to be changed to better serve residents and that staff had supported the effort.

Wiskowski stated that staff had supported the change to the committee structure while there was some concern about the planning of the agenda for such committees.

Martens stated that the work of the council is generally done by the committee to hash out the details of proposals and ideas. It was further stated concerns about the size of the agenda and the length of the agenda meetings. Martens further stated that the different committees viewed issues with different viewpoints separately, which provides more rigorous discussion of those issues.

Tierney stated support for combining some committees but not necessarily as presented. It was further stated that combining committees could cause more motions to suspend the rules at the council meetings because departments may not have the ability to wait until the next month's committee meeting to bring that item forward for approval.

Lukens stated there was already the ability to hold joint sessions of committees and accessibility to such meetings. It was further stated that fewer committees would mean more topics would be bundled together, causing less public scrutiny and that residents would have a harder time tracking matters moving through the council. Lukens stated the change in committee structure would concentrate membership of such committees among a more limited group of alders.

Trueblood stated the change in committee structure would create efficiencies. It was further stated that committees serve the council, thus all action done by the committees must be brought forward to the council. Trueblood further stated residents were looking for change to create efficiencies.

Slonski stated concerns about the lens of review in the current committee structure and if that review would continue if the committee structure was changed.

Hoenecke stated concerns about the current committee structure in that the committee membership is represented by fewer members of the entire council to discuss the details of proposals and ideas.

*Point of order raised by Larson that department heads were providing verbal reports instead of written reports included in the packet. Point of order was not well taken by the Chair.*

Larson objected to consideration of the question.

*Point of order raised by Hoenecke that there can only be one motion on the floor. Point of order was well taken by the Chair.*

Larson withdrew the objection to consideration of the question.

**Motion by Alderperson Larson, seconded by Alderperson Watson, to refer the item to the Rules Review Committee.**

*Point of order raised by Mayor Diny that the motion to refer was a continuation of the objection and that Larson was not recognized to make a motion to refer. Point of order was well taken by the Chair.*

**Motion by Alderperson Tierney, seconded by Alderperson Hoenecke, to amend the amendment to remove the removal of the last sentence of Rule 1 A (1).  
Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Kilian,  
Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Trueblood  
No - Alderperson Larson  
Abstained - None**

**Yes 10, No 1, Abstained 0  
MOTION PASSED.**

Larson stated opposition to the amendment to the amendment as this was too much to devour without the entire matter going before the Rules Review Committee.

Lukens stated that there needed to be a discussion among residents before moving forward.

**Motion by Alderperson Watson, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to amend as amended item 02-0432, subject to attorney review, to substitute the words "or left at their usual abode" with ",voicemail, and email" in Rule 1 B (1); to add "*Committee of the Whole*: The Common Council shall convene a Committee of the Whole twice a year with the agenda items set from alders and citizens to fill the agenda. The Agenda shall be created by the Council President and Clerk within an appropriate meeting time." as Rule 1 E; to add the words "at 12:00 p.m." before the word "prior" in Rule 6 B; to add "*Common Council Retreat*. The Council President shall schedule a retreat of the Common Council within a month of the organizational meeting." as Rule 8 C; and to add "The specific rule suspended shall be explicitly expressed on the agenda or explicitly stated during the meeting." as the last sentence in Rule 20.**  
**Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Tierney**  
**No - Alderperson Larson, Alderperson Trueblood**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 9, No 2, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION PASSED.**

Lukens stated opposition as the matter needed to be discussed among residents and suggested putting this item on hold to be discussed at a Committee of the Whole.

Larson stated that there had not been enough data produced and a lack of information in the packet and urged the matter to be discussed at more length at the Rules Review Committee.

Martens stated this issue was well hashed out at this meeting and stated opposition to referral to the committee as it would likely not change the minds of alders.

Wiskowski stated support as feeling well-prepared to vote on the ordinance.

**Motion by Alderperson Larson, seconded by Alderperson Neal, to refer the item to the Rules Review Committee.**  
**Yes - Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Larson**  
**No - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Trueblood**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 2, No 9, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION FAILED.**

Martens stated this might be trading efficiency with transparency and that the current committee structure gives the average citizen the ability to understand the process in which matters move through the council in a slower and more deliberative manner.

**Motion by Alderperson Neal, seconded by Alderperson Larson, to amend item 02-0432, subject to attorney review, to remove the substitution of the words "Infrastructure and Facilities" with the words "Infrastructure, Facilities, and Parks" in Rule 13 B (1); to remove the substitution of the words "Finance" with the words "Finance and Administration" in Rule 13 B (3); to remove the removals of the words "5. Human Resources;" in Rule 13 (B) 5; to remove the removal of the words "6. Parks and Recreation;" in Rule 13 (B) 4; and to remove the substitute of the renumeration of Rule 13 B (7) to Rule 13 B (4).**  
**Yes - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson**

**Watson, Alderperson Larson**  
**No - Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Trueblood**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 5, No 6, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION FAILED.**

Kilian stated recognition on the importance of the ordinance before the council.

**Motion by Alderperson Hoenecke, seconded by Alderperson Tierney, to approve as amended.**  
**Yes - Alderperson Kilian, Alderperson Wiskowski, Alderperson Slonski, Alderperson Hoenecke, Alderperson Tierney, Alderperson Trueblood**  
**No - Alderperson Lukens, Alderperson Martens, Alderperson Neal, Alderperson Watson, Alderperson Larson**  
**Abstained - None**  
**Yes 6, No 5, Abstained 0**  
**MOTION FAILED.**

*Mayor Diny retained the Chair from Common Council President Kilian.*

**9 Announcement from Mayor and Alderpersons.**

1. Larson - stated the West Thomas Street neighborhood meeting was canceled the previous Monday and would meet the following Monday at it's regular meeting location.
2. Trueblood - recognized Hmong Heritage Month and invited people to a celebration of the Hmong's 50th year in the city.

**10 Comments and suggestions from citizens present during Public Comment occurring both before and after the business meeting.**

1. Tom Neal, 133 E. Thomas Street - spoke on city-owned property at 1300 Cleveland Avenue.
2. Jesse Kearns, address not provided - spoke on the Environment, Sustainability, and Committee.

**11 Adjournment.**

Motion by Alderperson Kilian, seconded by Alderperson Slonski, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 09:29 PM.

The recording of this meeting may be viewed on  
YouTube [@CityofWausauMeetings](https://www.youtube.com/@CityofWausauMeetings)



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