



**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
REGULAR MEETING

**MEETING:** Police & Fire Commission  
**DATE/TIME:** Monday, April 27, 2026, at 7:30 AM  
**LOCATION:** City Hall — Council Chambers  
407 Grant Street, 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, Kathy Strasser  
Members Not Present:  
Members Excused:  
Present 5, Not Present 0, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 07:30 AM.

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

The meeting was called to order by Commission President Strasser.

Roll Call

Commission Members:  
K. Strasser, C. Bahr, T. Garver, V. Leskys, K. Rosenberg

Also Present:  
Mayor Diny, HR Director Nowak, Chief Kopp, Chief Barnes, EMS Division Chief Tormohlen,  
Deputy Chief Pluess, Deputy Chief Baeten, Captain Pauls

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

**March 23, 2026 Regular Police and Fire Commission Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Rosenberg to approve minutes from March 23, 2026 meeting.  
Second by Commissioner Garver  
Motion Carries 5-0

**3 Discussion and possible action.**

Open for General Agenda Items  
None

**4 Presentations.**

- I. Monthly Fire Department Operations Update:
- Presentation of current Fire Department activities
  - Report on subsequent policy changes regarding controlled substances
  - 1st Quarter Report

**Current Fire Department Activities**

Chief Kopp reported that the Fire Department is currently in a licensing year. He noted that EMS Division Chief Tormohlen has been performing exceptionally well in tracking training

requirements and ensuring that all personnel are prepared for their licensing renewals.

#### **Q1 Report**

Chief Kopp highlighted the accomplishment of Firefighter/Paramedic Shifflett, who successfully completed the Indiana Smoke Diver Course—a physically demanding program. Out of 45 participants, only 14 completed the course, including Shifflett. Chief Kopp stated that this achievement brings valuable advanced skills to the Department.

#### **Subsequent Policy Changes Regarding Controlled Substances**

Commission President Strasser noted that the commission has not yet received detailed reports related to the completed investigation of former EMS Division Chief J. Thompson. He inquired about when these documents would be provided to commission members.

Chief Barnes addressed the matter of providing PFC Commissioners with a copy of the full investigative report related to the former EMS Division Chief.

HR Director Nowak discussed the internal investigation and read HR's summary into the record.

Chief Kopp outlined several changes implemented to improve the handling and oversight of controlled substances. The five key changes include:

- Reducing the quantity of controlled substances stored on ambulances
- Redesigning stocking and restocking procedures
- Reinforcing documentation requirements
- Increasing oversight by the Medical Director
- Implementing new technology to support tracking and compliance

Chief Kopp and Deputy Chief Pluess responded to questions from PFC Commissioners regarding these updates.

EMS Division Chief Tormohlen provided a presentation on the narcotic storage boxes used on ambulances. His presentation highlighted the boxes' inventory-tracking capabilities, the requirement for unique access codes for each paramedic, and other technological safeguards.

Chief Barnes again addressed the topic of the PFC receiving the full criminal investigation report from DCI.

HR Director Lisa Nowak offered additional remarks to the commission.

#### **Additional Discussion on the Q1 Report**

Commission President Strasser opened the floor for further questions or comments relating to the Q1 Report. No additional comments were presented.

## **II. Monthly Police Department Operations Update:**

- Presentation of current Police Department activities
- 1st Quarter Report

#### **Current Police Department Activities**

Chief Barnes began by announcing that Bridge Street Mission has completed its renovations and has officially reopened, allowing the WMC Shelter to close. He highlighted the building's new design, the dedication of its staff, and the expanded resources it will provide to the homeless population.

Chief Barnes also reported on the activities of the Community Resource Unit, noting an

increase in large drug-seizure cases. He discussed evidence handling, established protocols, and chain-of-custody procedures necessary to properly manage these seizures. He additionally provided an update on "Use of Force training" and review processes. Chief Barnes noted that several Lieutenants will deliver presentations on these topics at upcoming PFC meetings.

Commissioners asked questions regarding the Downtown Officers and whether their presence has contributed to improvements in the downtown area. Chief Barnes explained that maintaining a consistent, day-to-day officer presence has strengthened community engagement and visibility.

## 5 Adjournment.

Next Meeting: May 18, 2026

Commission President Strasser proposed rescheduling the May 18th meeting to May 11th. A final decision regarding the date change will be determined in the coming days.

Motion by Commissioner Rosenberg to adjourn.  
Second by Commissioner Leskys  
Motion carried 5-0  
Meeting adjourned at 8:39 AM

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



City of Wausau  
(715) 261-6500 | [clerk@wausauwi.gov](mailto:clerk@wausauwi.gov)  
[wausauwi.gov](http://wausauwi.gov)

