



## OFFICIAL MINUTES REGULAR MEETING

**MEETING:** Wausau Water Works Commission  
**DATE/TIME:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM  
**LOCATION:** Wausau City Hall — Council Chambers  
407 Grant Street, Wausau WI, 54403

**MEMBERS:**  
Mayor Doug Diny (P) Peter Gelhar  
Michael Martens Deb Hadley  
Jim Force

Members Present: Doug Diny, Deb Hadley, Peter Gelhar, Michael Martens  
Members Not Present:  
Members Excused:  
Present 4, Not Present 0, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.

### 1 Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).

#### April 8, 2026 Regular Wausau Water Works Commission Minutes

Motion to Approve minutes of April 8, 2026 by Hadley. Seconded by Gelhar. Motion carried 4-0.

### 2 Director's Reports.

*Report Placed on file.*

#### a. Update on Lead Service Line Replacements.

Lindman reviewed current funding, recent progress, and upcoming decisions for LSL replacements. Principal forgiveness has been strong but is expected to decline, increasing private-side costs that must be covered by general obligation debt. Participation may drop once homeowners begin paying a share. Reintroducing the Lead Service Line Replacement Ordinance will be a key decision for the Waterworks Commission and City Council, as it would allow more options for required replacements. The city will apply for 2027 funding at the end of June, with updates to follow. A Committee of the Whole meeting is planned to brief the Council. Funding qualifications change each year, and staff will run scenarios for 2027–28. Construction costs are rising, with current replacements averaging \$9,200 and other cities seeing \$9,000–\$13,000 in construction-only bids.

#### b. Wastewater Project Updates- Headworks Screening Project, Cherry Street Lift Station and Lift Station Assessment w/ Clark Dietz.

Brooks summarized the memo included in the packet. Hadley questioned the additional costs for the Cherry Street project. Lindman reported a letter was sent requesting a meeting with Integrity to address liquidated damages, and noted that retainage remains on the project and will be resolved before final completion.

### 3 Discussion and Possible Action.

#### a. Approving the 2027 through 2031 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget for the Drinking Water and Wastewater Utility.

Staff reported progress on implementing the new Gravity software for tracking capital projects, noting that reporting is improving but still in development. The memo outlined the complexity of project funding—mixing grants, principal forgiveness, loans, and borrowing—and provided a breakdown for current and future years. Lead service line work continues to skew long-term borrowing projections, but excluding that, both water and wastewater utilities remain consistent with past borrowing levels. Staff are coordinating with Finance and Ehlers to compile full debt-service information for the upcoming operating budget cycle. The Commission had no further questions. Motion by Gelhar, seconded by Hadley, to approve the

2027–2031 Capital Improvement Projects budget and forward it to Council passed unanimously. Motion carried 4-0.

- b.** Approving the Sole Source Renewal Agreement for HydroCorp Non-Residential Cross Connection Control (CCC) Program.

Staff reported that HydroCorp has provided non-residential cross-connection inspections since 2016, operating under two-year renewals. Following HydroCorp's acquisition and changes to contract terms, the Assistant City Attorney reviewed the updated agreement and requested revisions to protect the city; most terms are now agreed upon, with minor wording changes pending. The proposed contract is a four-year agreement with annual payments of \$52,451.98 with a roughly 4% annual increase thereafter, and staff advised that few alternative vendors are capable of performing the required volume of work. A motion by Hadley, seconded by Gelhar, to approve the sole-source renewal agreement with HydroCorp subject to attorney review passed unanimously. Motion carried 4-0.

- c.** Approving the Sole Source Request for MCEP9 and K144L-NA Polymers used to thicken solids in the Belt Filter Presses and Gravity Belt Thickeners.

Staff explained that the polymer used for gravity belt thickeners and sludge presses remains at last year's pricing. Midwest Chemical continues to be the preferred vendor due to strong technical support and system familiarity. While alternative vendors exist, switching products would require significant retuning of equipment and could disrupt operations, however, staff will explore pricing and comparable products to keep the market competitive. A motion by Gelhar, seconded by Martens, to approve the sole-source purchase with direction to review additional vendor options passed unanimously. Motion carried 4-0.

#### **4 Discussion.**

- a.** Regarding the Wastewater - Final WPDES Permit Issued with a permit term of five years.

Staff reported that following receipt of Class A biosolids approval, the final draft discharge permit was issued with minimal changes. Key updates include a shift from Fecal Coliform to E. coli testing (already being performed), new PFAS monitoring requirements for effluent (bimonthly) and biosolids (annual), and elimination of the mercury variance due to successful local reduction efforts. The five-year permit is effective May 1, 2026–March 31, 2031. Discussion also noted that upon the completion of two years of PFAS testing, it will allow future consideration of Marathon County leachate if needed, and staff confirmed the facility is officially approved for Class A biosolids. The Commission acknowledged staff's work, particularly Brook's efforts, in securing the long-delayed approval.

#### **5 Adjournment.**

Diny inquired whether the 11:00 AM meeting time was suitable for all commissioners. It was agreed that scheduling future meetings at 11:30 AM would be more effective. The next meeting is scheduled for June 2, 2026, at 11:30 AM. Motion to adjourn by Martens. Second by Gelhar. Motion carried 4-0, meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

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



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