



OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING

MEETING: Police & Fire Commission
DATE/TIME: Monday, May 11, 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, 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 07:31 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, Chief Barnes, Chief Kopp, Deputy Chief Baeten, Deputy Chief Pluess, M. Pauls,
J. Chittum, S. Kariger, N. Cihlar

2 New Business

Public Comment made by Carrie Marohl

I. Election of Officers — President and Vice President

Motion by Commissioner Leskys to nominate Kathy Strasser as President

Second by Commissioner Bahr.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Commissioner Leskys to nominate Tom Garver as Vice President

Second by Commissioner Bahr.

Motion Carried 5-0

II. Appointment of Secretary

Motion by Commissioner Strasser to nominate Cheryl Bahr as Secretary.

Second by Commissioner Leskys

Motion Carried 5-0

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

April 27, 2026 Regular Police and Fire Commission Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to approve minutes from April 27, 2026 meeting

Second by Commissioner Leskys

Motion Carried 5-0

4 Closed Session.

Convene Meeting into Closed Session pursuant to 19.85(1)(f) for consideration of financial, medical, social, or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems and/or 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 related to the Police Department made by J.C.V. and A.T. and one Citizen Complaint related to the Fire Department made by S.S.

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to go into closed session

Second by Commissioner Leskys

Motion Carried 5-0

The Police & Fire Commission convened into Closed Session at 7:43 AM

5 Open Session.

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

Motion by Commissioner Garver to go back into open session

Second by Commissioner Rosenberg

Motion Carried 5-0

The Police & Fire Commission reconvene into Open Session at 8:17 AM

6 Discussion and possible action.

I. Action on Citizen Complaints

Further action has been paused pending Mayor Diny's consultation with legal counsel on how to move forward with the complaints.

II. Discussion on updating the Fire Department website to incorporate easy access to the complaint process for citizens

Chief Kopp advised the Commissioners that the information would be published on the website by the end of the upcoming week.

7 Presentations.

I. Monthly Police Department Operations Update:

- Presentation on Drug Investigation and the CRO Unit by Lieutenant Chittum
- General Updates

Lieutenant Chittum gave a presentation on Drug Investigation and the CRO Unit. His main topics included targeting drug-trafficking houses, executing search warrants, and addressing internet crimes against children. He also discussed the court-supported diversion and deflection programs.

General updates included Chief Barnes' remarks on National Police Week. He also highlighted several major cases, including four overdose incidents, two of which were fatal.

II. Monthly Fire Department Operations Update:

- Fire Prevention Division update presented by Division Chief Shahn Kariger
- General updates

Fire Prevention Division Chief Kariger presented on Community Risk Reduction. He highlighted the response to the Sturgeon Eddy Apartment fire, initiatives to educate children on fire safety, and ongoing citywide inspection efforts.

Chief Kopp provided updates on current grant applications and ongoing collaboration with Aspirus to secure an additional Community Care Paramedic.

8 Adjournment.

Next Meeting: June 22, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to adjourn.

Second by Commissioner Garver.

Motion carried 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM

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



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