

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Roll Call

11/07/2023

Roll Call indicated 11 members present.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Diny, Doug	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Proclamations:

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:
Homelessness Awareness Month (November 2023)
Hmong New Year (November 11 and 12, 2023)

Consent Agenda

11/07/2023

Motion by Watson, second by Larson, to adopt all the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

23-1001 Minutes of a previous meeting. (10/24/2023)

21-0811 Resolution Approving Advance Ordering of 2024 Vehicles and Equipment.

23-0108 Resolution Approving or Denying Various Licenses as Indicated.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

23-1003

11/07/2023

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Henke, to confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Rick Reyer to the Police & Fire Commission.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

23-1109

11/07/2023

Public Hearing: Proposed 2024 City of Wausau Budget

None

23-1105

11/07/2023

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Herbst, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Human Resources and Finance Committees Approving the reclassification of Transit Supervisor from grade 18 to grade 17.

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

23-1104

11/07/2023

Motion by Henke, second by Herbst, to adopt Ordinance from the Plan Commission Rezoning 514 South 21st Ave from SR-2, Single Family Residential-2 Zoning district and 503 22nd Ave from a SR-5, Single Family Residential-5 Zoning district to PUD, Planned Unit Development.

Henke stated that many of the citizen concerns were answered and addressed.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Diny, Doug	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 9 No Votes: 2 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

Suspend the Rules **11/07/2023**

Motion by Watson, second by Rasmussen, to suspend Rule 6(B) Filing and 12(A) Referral of Resolutions. *(2/3 majority required)*

Yes Votes: 11 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

22-1106 Refer to Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee

11/07/2023

Motion by Gisselman, seconded by Larson, to refer the resolution to the Capital Improvements and Street Maintenance Committee.

Gisselman questioned as to why this matter was taken up exclusively by the Finance Committee when, according to the city website, it is the Capital Improvement and Street Maintenance Committee which would recommend the purchase, sale, or leasing of real estate by the city and to recommend the use or disposition of vacant land. It was stated that this should have gone before the CISM Committee for review and then the Finance Committee to address the funding aspect of the purchase.

Rasmussen questioned the value of the referral to the CISM Committee as consideration of the property was originally recommended by the Capital Improvement Project Committee to be included in the Proposed 2024 City of Wausau Budget through the Finance Committee. It was stated that the need for finding a new location for Fire Station 1 has been widely made known. Rasmussen further stated that delay on this could push the purchase back to January of 2024.

Martens stated that there have been many opportunities for this to be reviewed as it came forward as an ARPA request, and then a CIP planning discussion.

Larson stated that regardless of its approval will be given or not, the item should be discussed further in committee.

Lukens stated concerns with this motion as it may imply that this item was not transparently before the Common Council. It was stated that alders need to be careful with their words and motions as to not instill public distrust.

McElhaney questioned if this item was discussed in open session. Rasmussen stated that it was acted upon in open session and that the details of the need for this purchase was conducted in previous open meeting discussing ARPA and CIP, in addition to the Finance Committee. It was stated that the closed session meetings discussing this item were limited to purchasing negotiations on the property.

Kilian stated that it is confusing to the public when items do not go through the proper process as stated publicly and stated that the city could do a better job with the matter of transparency. Kilian stated that the referral adheres to the outlined rules and duties of the committees.

Larson stated concerns with a slippery slope of moving items forward without them going to the proper committees.

Herbst stated concerns with having a CISM Committee meeting, Finance Committee, and a meeting of the Common Council all in the time allotted in this agreement to purchase and because of that stated opposition to the referral.

Rasmussens stated that there are examples of other land purchases by the city which does not go through the CISM Committee and stated concerns with losing the sale of the property due to the perceived minutia of the process.

Watson stated concerns with this motion to refer being brought up now when the items have been discussed in the Finance Committee for several months already, when it could have been referred to the CISM Committee during those months.

Point of Order raised by Larson against Lukens speaking for a third time. *Point of Order was not well taken by the chair* as there were no objections heard to Lukens speaking again on this matter.

Lukens questioned as to what the proper process is based on the ordinances and rules. It was stated the ordinance does not apply because it refers to the sale of city owned property while this item is a purchase and because the ordinance differs from the committee descriptions on the website. It was stated that generally it is the decision of the Common Council to outline and agree upon the process.

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1	Lukens, Carol	NO
2	Martens, Michael	NO
3	Kilian, Tom	YES
4	Diny, Doug	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	NO
8	Watson, Sarah	NO
9	Herbst, Dawn	NO
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	NO

Yes Votes: 5 No Votes: 6 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: FAILED

23-1006 **11/07/2023**

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Martens, to adopt the Resolutions from the Finance Committee Approving City’s accepted Counter-Offer to Purchase for 811 and 815 Grand Avenue and related budget modification. *(2/3 majority required)*

Gisselman questioned if there would be a need to purchase houses on Prospect Avenue. It was stated that there would not be a need for these purchases as traffic would be routed around onto Floral Avenue. Gisselman questioned if the traffic on Grand Avenue could handle a new station. It was stated that the Floral Avenue location would alleviate traffic issues because the new station would not drive onto a controlled intersection as it does currently. Gisselman stated strong support for the Fire Department and support of the motion.

Larson stated a preference for discussing an alternative site on Thomas Street at the old Social Services building. It was also stated that there are numerous facility needs by the city and was concerned that they might be biting off more than they can chew in terms of building new facilities all at once.

Rasmussen stated that this is purchasing the land, not authorizing the building of a new fire station. It was stated that in the interim the property could be used for training purposes and that there were no current plans to build multiple facilities without retiring current debt.

Kilian questioned the environmental studies conducted on the site as previous environmental studies which were conducted on other sites did not find contamination when contamination was later found to be present.

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4	Diny, Doug	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	YES
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Herbst, Dawn	YES
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	YES

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 2

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

Adjourn

11/07/2023

Motion by Watson, second by Herbst, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Kody Hart, Deputy City Clerk