

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL

held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:35 p.m.,

Mayor Katie Rosenberg presiding.

Roll Call

04/09/2024

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

Statement from the Mayor

04/09/2024

Mayor Katie Rosenberg made a statement reflecting on the previous mayoral term.

Public Comment: Pre-registered citizens for matters appearing on the agenda and other public comment

04/09/2024

- 1) Orlando Alonso, 1015 Brown Street – Spoke in support of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 2) David Eckman, 209 W. Washington Street – Spoke in support of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 3) Jay Kronenwetter, 117 Sturgeon Eddy Road – Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 4) Tom Neal, 916 Hamilton Street – Spoke in opposition of a park and recreation reorganization proposal.
- 5) William Harris, 316 ½ N. 3rd Street – Spoke in support of an increase for the Police Department staffing and the creation of the Community Care Paramedic Program.
- 6) Randy Radtke, 244 Wyatt Street – Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 7) Sandra Kelch, 802 Augusta Avenue - Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 8) Nancy Stencil, 223281 Azalea Road, Wausau, WI - Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 9) Terry Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street - Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 10) Carla Joseph, 5205 Sherman Street - Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.
- 11) Amanda Ladecki, 616 Sumner Street - Spoke in opposition of an increase for the Police Department staffing.

Consent Agenda

04/09/2024

Without objection, items 24-0413 and 24-0318 was pulled from the agenda for consideration.

Motion by Diny, seconded by Watson, to adopt all the items on the Consent Agenda as follows:

24-0401 from the Common Council to Approve Minutes of a previous meeting (03/26/2024).

03-0306 Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the write-off of certain uncollectible delinquent personal property tax accounts from the City’s accounting records.

24-0405 Ordinance from the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee Designating three 15-minute parking stalls on the south side of Washington Street between 2nd Street and 3rd Street.

24-0406 Resolution from the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee Setting a public hearing regarding vacating and discontinuing a portion of right-of-way south of Adams Street abutting 1010 and 1012 Everest Boulevard and 1100 Highland Park Boulevard (that portion known as N. 11th Street on plat of H. B. Huntington’s Addition to the City of Wausau, Document No. 167682).

24-0410 Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving sale of 6 acres of City-owned property of the northwest corner of 315 N. 72nd Ave (29129073030996) to Green Tree Construction for residential development.

24-0412 Resolution from the Infrastructure and Facilities Committee Approving walkway easement with Green Acres at Greenwood Hills LLC – Vistas at Greenwood Hills First Addition.

24-0108 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving or Denying Various Licenses as Indicated.

Mayor's Appointments

04/09/2024

Without objection, item 24-0402 was pulled from the agenda for consideration.

Suspend the Rules

04/09/2024

Motion by Henke, second by Larson, to suspend Rule 6(B) Filing and 12(A) Referral of Resolutions.

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

24-0404

04/09/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee Authorizing the creation of the Community Care Paramedic Program, adding 1 FTE community care paramedic position; and related budget modification from ARPA and other funding.

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

24-0403

04/09/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to replace ARPA with reserves in the last Whereas, and to replace American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund with reserves in the second Be It Further Resolved in the Joint Resolution from the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee to Authorize increase for the Police Department staffing and related budget modification from ARPA and other funding.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	NO
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	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

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

Motion by Herbst, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Joint Resolution as amended from the Finance Committee and the Human Resources Committee to Authorize increase for the Police Department staffing and related budget modification from ARPA and other funding.

Rasmussen stated that the Finance Committee had made a recommendation to fund this position out of reserves instead of ARPA funding. It was further stated that the Common Council have allocated a number of resources to support the unhoused population. Rasmussen further stated that the goal of these additional officers is not to criminalize the condition of homelessness and that it was to protect the safety of residents.

Watson stated that adding additional officers was not the solution to curb homelessness. It was stated that ARPA funding should go towards that issue and that existing funding should go towards protecting residents.

Lukens stated agreement with those that spoke at public comment that do not want to see homelessness criminalized and that mental health and addiction services in the community is not robust. It was stated that one of the services the city government provides is safety to residents and that the city does not provide social services. Lukens stated support for the additional officers to protect safety of residents which is a city service and for the amendment to not allocate funds from ARPA towards these officers.

Larson stated that it is the responsibility of the city to keep residents, housed and unhoused, safe and that all residents must adhere to the laws and ordinances set for the community. It was stated that this is necessary to keep the downtown area safe.

Kilian questioned the duties and responsibilities of these positions. It was stated that these positions will prioritize enforcement and not the referral of services to unhoused individuals. Kilian stated that it was a toxic policy to criminalize poverty with unhoused individuals who may not have a place to go. It was stated that evidence-based data suggest that this course of action will not curb homelessness.

Martens stated that if an incident occurs in the downtown area, the police resources are disproportionately allocated towards that area leaving these vital services uncovered for the rest of the city. Martens stated support for dedicating officers for community policing in the downtown area. It was stated that the Marathon County government must be a partner in addressing this issue outside of the policing allocation to craft a sustainable policy to curb homelessness.

McElhaney stated that many downtown establishments have needed to lock their doors and people do not feel safe in the downtown parking ramps. It was stated that the city must enforce laws equally no matter an individual's socioeconomic status. McElhaney stated that this was not targeting the unhoused but instead targeting criminal behavior.

Rasmussen stated that this is not about criminalizing homelessness but instead about addressing criminal behavior. It was stated that residents should not feel unsafe using public facilities in the downtown area. It was stated that the first responder to certain incidents can not be a community outreach coordinator because often times those are unsafe situations.

Kilian stated that the memo used to support this item specifically refers to unhoused individuals, not criminal behaviors. Concerns were stated that criminalizing using a public space for certain activities could occur pending a United States Supreme Court case currently being worked through right now. It was stated that Marathon County should be providing services to individuals for which it is statutorily required to do. Kilian stated that these additional officers are for enforcement, not providing services.

Herbst stated support for the additional officers and stated that the evidence provided by the Police Department in support of these additional officers was compelling to grant that support.

Gisselman stated opposition to the additional officers and questioned if the council has the will to address the larger issue of homelessness caused by lack of resources and poverty.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Tom	NO
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	YES
11	Henke, Chad	YES

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

Public Comment & Suggestions **04/09/2024**

- 1) Christine Salm, 3312 N. 11th Street – Spoke to thank Mayor Katie Rosenberg.
- 2) Patrick Bacher, 505 S. 22nd Avenue – Spoke to thank Mayor Katie Rosenberg.
- 3) LaTonya Campbell, 4035 Carl Street – Spoke to thank Mayor Katie Rosenberg.
- 4) William Harris, 316 ½ N. 3rd Street – Spoke to thank Mayor Katie Rosenberg.
- 5) Amy Leonoff, 906 McIndoe Street – Spoke to thank Mayor Katie Rosenberg.

Adjourn **04/09/2024**

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Katie Rosenberg, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk