

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

05/28/2024

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, Terry | YES |
| 4 | Neal, Tom | YES |
| 5 | Gisselman, Gary | YES |
| 6 | McElhaney, Becky | YES |
| 7 | Rasmussen, Lisa | YES |
| 8 | Watson, Sarah | YES |
| 9 | Tierney, Vicki | YES |
| 10 | Larson, Lou | YES |
| 11 | Henke, Chad | YES |

Consent Agenda

05/28/2024

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

24-0501 from the Common Council to Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (05/14/2024).

24-0513 Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Program Allocation.

24-0515 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Accepting Permanent Easement with Sarah Thompson and Laura Fitzsimmons Revocable Trust of 2022 at 1937-1939 Milwaukee Avenue for Access to the Northwestern Lift Station.

24-0516 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Accepting Easement with Wisconsin Public Service for the installation of gas facilities at 144 West Washington Street.

24-0518 Resolution from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Approving the Adoption of the Safe Routes To School Plan as prepared by North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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

24-0502

05/28/2024

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to approve Mayor's Appointments of Brian Fox to the Business Improvement District Board; Veronica Hope to the Transit Commission.

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

02-0433

05/28/2024

Nominations for Wausau Water Works Commission were opened.
Rasmussen nominated Sarah Watson. Watson accepted the nomination.
Larson nominated Chad Henke. Henke did not accept the nomination.
Without objection, a unanimous ballot was cast for Sarah Watson to the Wausau Water Works Commission for the remainder of the 2024-2026 term.

24-0514

05/28/2024

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Neal, to adopt the Resolution from the Economic Development Committee Approving the Authorization for Request For Proposal for the North Riverfront Redevelopment Plan.

Larson stated opposition in that the funds could be used on other city needs and expressed confidence in the Economic Development Department's capability to redevelop this area without an outside consultant.

Gisselman questioned clarity on the need for redevelopment. It was stated that a number of previously industrial sites have moved out of the area leaving space for redevelopment and the site is challenging for redevelopment because of geographical constraints and the potential for a negative impact on the surrounding neighborhood. It was further stated the Economic Development Department did not have expertise in redevelopment of industrial superfund sites that require remediation. Gisselman further stated a need for public space on the river edge which should be a priority and stated support to ensure that priority.

Rasmussen stated agreement with Gisselman in support to balance between active public spaces and economic development for taxable purposes. It was stated a broad base of knowledge was needed to ensure that projects are weighted with the plan.

Kilian stated that planning is important and that city spending is an identified issue of residents in light of the recent property reevaluation. It was further stated that the passage of this request for proposal could spur future spending and that the needs of the residents are far more important than moving ahead on this request for proposal.

Henke stated the challenges with navigating the current location as it currently stands and stated that this was just a request for proposals and not an authorization for spending on a consultant at this time. It was further stated that a long-term plan that can be amended was needed as opposed to rushing through a new plan as development continues.

Neal stated this property is a prime piece of real estate and if a process is not started then the redevelopment of this area will be delayed.

Tierney questioned if a plan can be developed if portions of the industrial sites are not remediated and stated opposition for that reason.

Rasmussen stated the identified issues of residents are homelessness, affordable housing, and economic development and growth which is a part of this proposal and that not proceeding with projects funded in the current budget was not an identified issue. It was further stated that residents are asking for what will happen in this area prompting competent analysis of what should go here. It was stated that economic development prompts tax-base growth which provides the most taxpayer relief.

Lukens stated support for the request for proposal as it was needed to find out what could be developed in this area and that the request does not obligate the spending of funds.

Martens questioned if there was a master plan on the north river front. It was stated that a university student project created a plan as part of a graduate assignment. Martens stated the lack of a plan may impede development and echoed Gisselman's statements of balancing public space and development.

Larson questioned why the Economic Development Department was not able to produce a redevelopment plan themselves. It was stated that the department lacked the staffing capacity and expertise on particular challenges of this site as a previous industrial area.

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|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1 | Lukens, Carol | YES |
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| 3 | Kilian, Terry | NO |
| 4 | Neal, Tom | YES |
| 5 | Gisselman, Gary | YES |
| 6 | McElhaney, Becky | NO |
| 7 | Rasmussen, Lisa | YES |
| 8 | Watson, Sarah | YES |
| 9 | Tierney, Vicki | NO |
| 10 | Larson, Lou | NO |
| 11 | Henke, Chad | YES |

Yes Votes: 7

No Votes: 4

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

Suspend the Rules

05/28/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Rasmussen, to suspend Rule 6(B) Filing and 12(A) Referral of Resolutions.

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

23-11090

05/28/2024

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Larson, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving 2024 Budget Modifications – Purchase of 10 Portable Motorola Radios.

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

24-0519

05/28/2024

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Common Council Approving Intergovernmental Agreement for Weights and Measures Inspection with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

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

Closed Session

05/28/2024

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Watson, to go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(g) conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved regarding Marathon County Case No. 24CV40 Green Acres at Greenwood Hills, LLC vs. City of Wausau.

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

Adjourn

05/28/2024

Motion by Larson, seconded by Neal, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk