

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WAUSAU COMMON COUNCIL
held on Tuesday, September 10 2024, in Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.,
Mayor Doug Diny presiding.

Roll Call

09/10/2024

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

Proclamations

09/10/2024

The Mayor of the City of Wausau Proclaims:

- Graphic Packaging Day (September 8, 2024)
- Constitution Week (September 17 – 23, 2024)
- International Wisconsin American Ginseng Month (September 2024)

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

09/10/2024

1. Jay Coldwell, 3422 Horseshoe Spring Road - spoke in support of the solar array project.
2. Judy Lombard, 149988 Skylark Lane, Wausau - spoke in opposition to the humane officer proposal.

Presentation: Report from Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Committee on Current Initiatives

09/10/2024

Discussion was held. No action taken.

Consent Agenda

09/10/2024

Without objection, item 24-0904 was pulled from the consent agenda by the request of the Mayor and item 99-1104 was pulled from consideration by the request of the Mayor.

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

24-0901 from the Common Council Approve Minutes of a previous meeting(s) (08/19/2024).

24-0903 Ordinance from the Infrastructure & Facilities Committee Amending Section 10.20.080(a) designating no parking on the east side of North 4th Avenue beginning at the intersection of Oak Street and extending 60 feet north, and designating no parking on the west side of North 4th Avenue between Oak Street and Bridge Street.

24-0908 Resolution from the Public Health & Safety Committee Approving Various Licenses as Indicated.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
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

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 1

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

Motion by Rasmussen, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Joint Resolution from the Human Resources Committee and Wausau Water Works Commission Approving Additional Staff at Wausau Water Works.

Larson questioned the need to add additional employees which would add to the budget of the utility in the context of the PILOT payments and a water facility that is automated. It was stated this was the recommendation of the Wausau Water Works Commission and the utility. Larson stated the extra three employees are not necessary.

Tierney questioned the wage comparisons presented and the appropriateness of the cities compared as they are cities in the southern part of the state with a higher cost of living. It was stated the comparisons were meant to reflect the job responsibilities and not staffing wages as the creation of the positions were the matter at hand. Tierney questioned why an increased workload for meter changeover for the utility did not need more staff while the utility is asking for more positions.

Rasmussen stated the city has an obligation to staff the utility, and if not staffed properly regulators would step in. It was stated this would address that deficiency to properly meet the needs of the facility.

Kilian questioned if it was true that the new facility, with the automation in place, needed less staff and if the utility is currently in non-compliance with staffing needs. It was stated the new facility did have more automation but with increased regulations and general maintenance of the facility requires more staffing. It was also stated the utility is currently in compliance with staff needs at this time and that future needs would necessitate hiring more staff.

Watson questioned if season hires were an option or if staff was all the same regardless of season. It was stated all positions need to be staff year-round minus season staff hired for mowing at facilities. Watson further questioned if this can be delayed and considered with the budget. It was stated this was an option and it was stated this would be part of a cost to continue with positions being filled over the years.

Rasmussen stated the format of the budget workshops would allow the budget to factor in this expense and prioritize other budget needs within the departments. Rasmussen stated concerns with waiting to staff the utility properly as it is in compliance now but could easily find itself with an order from the state in the future.

Tierney questioned if future staff may be requested as legislation requiring more regulations is implemented and if those additional staff would come to the Common Council. It was stated that was a possibility and any position requests would come before the Common Council.

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

Yes Votes: 8 No Votes: 3 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: PASSED

Motion by Henke, seconded by Watson, to adopt the Resolution from the Economic Development Committee for the Authorization of the American Rescue Plan Act - Beneficiary Agreement and Attestation with the Wausau Community Development Authority.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
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

Yes Votes: 10

No Votes: 1

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

24-0813

09/10/2024

Motion by Lukens, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Joint Resolution from Public Health & Safety and Human Resources Committees Recommending Approval of the Proposed Restructuring of the Animal Control Program within the Wausau Police Department.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Tierney, to amend 24-0813 to substitute the 7th whereas clause with “the proposed model to use one full time humane officer, and two part-time, non-sworn officers to allow up to 60 hours per week of animal control services which would include evening and weekend shifts for one year and then review data”; and remove in the 10th whereas clause “is a budget neutral restructure which”; and substitute the 11th whereas clause with “the proposed model would continue for one year, at which time a review of this model for delivery of animal control services would be reviewed”; and add as the 16th whereas clause “on August 19, 2024, the Common Council voted 8-2 to postpone to the next regular Council meeting scheduled for September 10, 2024, an amended version of the resolution under consideration, and to send it to Finance Committee on August 27, 2024”; and substitute the nowtherefore, be it resolved clause with “ by the Common Council of the City of Wausau that the current animal control program will continue to operate for one year with a full-time humane officer and two, part-time non-sworn officers for up to 60 hours per week of animal control services to include evenings and weekends as opposed to using a single employee to provide 40 hours of services during business hours.” and add a budget modification.

Rasmussen stated concerns with the amendment in that it spends more money on the program. It was stated research done by staff and the committees that reviewed the proposal found the current service model was inefficient. Rasmussen stated opposition to the amendment because it does not save money as the proposal as presented would be sufficient for the service needed.

Neal questioned and noted the fiscal impact of the proposal and stated opposition to the amendment.

McElhaney stated the program as originally intended included additional community services officers (CSO’s) which was meant to generate an enterprise fund for buy-in from other communities in the county. It was stated that never happened and the program now only has operation in the city. McElhaney stated opposition due to budget concerns.

Larson stated there was a need for an experienced full-time humane officer and stated support for the amendment.

Martens stated there were several deficiencies with the amendment in how staffing will occur within the department and the year long review of the program. Martens stated opposition to the amendment.

Kilian stated the amendment represents more than a financial issue. It was stated residents had expressed in the media and experts in the animal welfare businesses and organizations the need for a humane officer position. Kilian stated support for the amendment.

Watson questioned the fiscal impact of the amendment and the impact of the reserve fund which will be used to pay for the proposal as amended.

Lukens questioned if CSO’s were utilized for animal control services in another municipality. It was stated that if a CSO was available it was possible but that those non-sworn officers work during limited times of the year and it is possible they were not available when the service was needed in another municipality. Lukens stated the original program was meant for a larger area and this amendment proposes a level of service that may not be needed.

Rasmussen stated the last thing this needs is more money and more service as the level of service right now is not self-sustaining and carries cyclical levy pressure. It was stated the current program is not as robust and optimal as it needs to be and recommended trying the original plan as proposed.

Tierney shared concerns with not having two dedicated CSO’s that will work year-round. It was stated the original proposal would have three part-time CSO’s that are dedicated year-round to the animal control service. Tierney shared concerns of a revolving training cost.

Kilian stated the animal control services is not a one-person-job and stated a humane officer position in addition to the support of CSO’s would provide adequate assistance and help to make the program self-sustaining.

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

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 7 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 0 Result: FAILED

Martens stated support for the resolution as staff had thoroughly researched the program and provided an additional level of service that would have the ability to work year-round that provides evening and weekend hours.

<u>District</u>	<u>Aldersperson</u>	<u>Vote</u>
1	Lukens, Carol	YES
2	Martens, Michael	YES
3	Kilian, Terry	NO
4	Neal, Tom	YES
5	Gisselman, Gary	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
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

24-0907 09/10/2024

Without objection, item 24-0907 was taken out of order from the agenda.

Motion by Neal, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Authorizing the Issuance and Establishing Parameters for the Sale of Not to Exceed \$9,100,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes.

Tierney pointed out a scrivener’s error in the resolution which authorized \$9,100,000,000. It was stated that the agenda correctly listed \$9,100,000 and staff was directed to correct that scrivener’s error in the resolution itself.

<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	NO
10	Larson, Lou	NO
11	Henke, Chad	YES

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

23-1109V 09/10/2024

Motion by Martens, seconded by Henke, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving of a Budget Amendment Recognizing the Grant Award of \$498,482.08 for a Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Grant for City of Wausau Tree Planting and Private Ash Mitigation Project.

Yes Votes: 11

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

23-1109W

09/10/2024

Motion by Watson, seconded by Lukens, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving and Adopting the Budget for American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Funded Projects – Water Meters.

Henke stated opposition as the funding of the water meters was chosen over the solar array project at the water treatment plant.

Rasmussen stated the solar array had wide public support as a task force researching the project worked with the neighborhood to find consensus. Rasmussen questioned if additional funding could be secured for the solar array project. It was stated the project would move through the regular budget process to see if funding could be secured.

Lukens stated support for the solar array project and hoped that ARPA funds would have been applied to the project.

Henke stated the approval of this funding toward water meters did not kill the solar array project but moves the funding decision to the budget.

Gisselman stated support for the solar array project and stated concern for the timing of these two projects with the challenge of finding funding for the project. Gisselman stated the city was moving away from a strong endeavor towards alternative energy which is opposed to what the residents want.

Larson questioned the alternative funding for water meter replacements. It was stated there was no planned alternative for water meters at this time. Larson stated water meter replacements had been neglected for some time and stated support for both projects.

Lukens stated willingness to support the water meter replacement project as a number of residents see that as a concern. Lukens stated full support for the solar array project and hoped to find funding for the project in the future.

Martens stated the solar array project was a worthy endeavor and would save the utility money in the long run. It was stated there are concerns with the drawdown and deadline of ARPA funding if the solar array project could be contracted in time for the deadline. Martens stated this will help fund the additional cost to complete the project as an increase in revenue from accurate meter reads will support the full cost of the replacement. Martens stated a vote for the water meter project was not an opposition vote for the solar array.

Watson questioned the remainder of the ARPA funding allocation and if the contract for the water meter replacements could be secured by the deadline with an estimated lead time.

Gisselman stated citizens desire a solar array project and wants the city to move in that direction and wanted to see how the city will ensure the project gets completed.

<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	NO
6	McElhaney, Becky	YES
7	Rasmussen, Lisa	YES
8	Watson, Sarah	YES
9	Tierney, Vicki	YES
10	Larson, Lou	YES
11	Henke, Chad	NO

Yes Votes: 9

No Votes: 2

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

24-0906

09/10/2024

Without objection, item 24-0906 was pulled from consideration by the request of the Mayor.

Suspend the Rules

09/10/2024

Motion by Neal, seconded by Lukens, 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

23-1109U

09/10/2024

Motion by Neal, seconded by Rasmussen, to adopt the Resolution from the Finance Committee Approving of a Budget Modification for Fire Department CPR Devices.

Yes Votes: 11

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

CLOSED SESSION

09/10/2024

Motion by Tierney, seconded by Lukens, 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 a settlement offer from plaintiff in Marathon County Case No. 19CV162 Kenneth J. Stankowski, et al vs. City of Wausau.

Yes Votes: 11

No Votes: 0

Abstain: 0

Not Voting: 0

Result: PASSED

McElhaney is excused from the rest of the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION to take action on closed session item, if necessary.

Public Comment & Suggestions

09/10/2024

1. Tom Kilian, 133 E. Thomas Street – spoke on the humane officer position
2. Ashlee Bishop, 1203 N. 5th Street – spoke on the humane officer position

Adjourn

09/10/2024

Motion by Henke, second by Larson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Doug Diny, Mayor
Kaitlyn Bernarde, City Clerk