



## OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the Solar Array Task Force of the City of Wausau, Wisconsin will hold a regular or special meeting on the date, time and location shown below.

Meeting of the: **SOLAR ARRAY TASK FORCE**  
Date/Time: **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.**  
Location: **City Hall (407 Grant Street, Wausau WI 54403) - City Council Chambers**  
Members: **Chad Henke, John Robinson, Jay Coldwell, Paul Svetlik, Susan Woods**

### AGENDA ITEMS

- 1 Call to Order, Roll Call
- 2 Approval of Minutes from May 10 meeting
- 3 Educational Presentation by Clark Dietz - Overview of solar power
- 4 Discussion and possible action on solar power and the City of Wausau vision
- 5 Discussion and possible action addressing goals and questions for the Solar Array Task Force from the May 10 meeting.
- 6 Discussion and possible action establishing agenda items for the next meeting

Signed by Chad Henke, Chairperson

This Notice was posted at City Hall and transmitted to the Daily Herald newsroom on 06/20/23 @ 11:55 AM Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Clerk.

*In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261-6622 or [ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us](mailto:ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us) to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.*

## **SOLAR ARRAY TASK FORCE**

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 6:00 pm, Council Chambers

Members Present: Chad Henke (c), John Robinson, Paul Svetlik, Jay Coldwell

Others Present: Mayor Rosenberg, Eric Lindman

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Rosenberg at 6:05pm.

### **Roll Call**

4 voting members were present.

### **Approval of Minutes from April 19 Meeting**

Motion by Svetlik. Second by Coldwell. Motion passes 4-0.

### **Public Comment**

1. Bob Lotz, 1107 Bugbee Ave, concerned about solar panels in the neighborhood.
2. Charlotte Doesher, 1005 Bugbee Ave, concerned about solar panels, wants to stay informed.
3. Joseph Hoppa, 1108 Bugbee Ave, wants to learn more about the science of solar panels.
4. Dale Doescher, 1005 Bugbee Ave, wants to learn the whole story.
5. Deb Hoppa, 1108 Bugbee Ave, concerned about home values affected by solar panels.
6. Marion Sells, 1721 Tierney Rd, concerned about solar panels in neighborhood, wants to be good stewards of nature.
7. Peter Sells, 1721 Tierney Rd, concerned about proximity of solar panels to the residential neighborhood.

### **Review and Discussion of Solar Concepts #1 and #2**

Paul Svetlick stated there have been multiple public meetings on this topic. Eric Lindman confirmed the renderings were of Bugbee Ave and Tierney Rd. Robinson urged caution at looking at renderings, at believes they are not a good fit for the neighborhood.

### **Discussion and possible action creating goals for the Solar Array Task Force**

Henke introduced the initial goal categories.

- A. Neighborhood goals
  - a. Full transparency (explanation for placement of the array, provide a range of options)
  - b. Buffering and leaving trees where we can. (Henke)
  - c. Not impact the neighborhood negatively (Coldwell)
  - d. Potential other developments for the land for the next 30 years (Coldwell)
  - e. Opportunities to incorporate community engagement in the property (put things of value to the neighborhood in the design (Robinson)
- B. City budget goals
  - a. Looking at different size of arrays to how it offsets power (Lindman)
  - b. Capitalize on federal funding (Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) (Rosenberg)
  - c. Lifecycle and net impact of tying power back into the grid (Robinson)
  - d. Creating institutional knowledge (partnering with schools to create internships) (Rosenberg)
  - e. Net financial impact on utility rates (Robinson)
- C. Sustainability Goals
  - a. Lifecycle of the panels (Henke)
  - b. Percentage of the plant that it will be helping. (Look at other facilities in the area) (Henke)
  - c. Work towards the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals (Coldwell)
  - d. Creating plantings under and around panels (Coldwell)
  - e. Net carbon impact of project (creation and recycle of panels compared to alternative supply) (Robinson)

Lindman and Henke will work together to invite industry experts to provide information to the task force.

- D. Any other goals
  - a. Resiliency of potable water for a sustainable community (Coldwell)

Henke noted that the items listed may not be goals, but educational opportunities for the task force and neighborhood.

**Discussion and possible action establishing a public engagement timeline.**

Robinson stated as we have educational presentations to gather baseline information, we can create bulleted lists of information to share with the neighborhood throughout the process. Create what we want to consider, and then engage the neighborhood formally. Henke stated step 1 was to educate ourselves and then educate the community, come up with some options. Svetlik stated they can share information with the neighborhood groups with plenty of weeks' notice.

**Discussion and possible action establishing agenda items for the next meeting.**

Keep agenda item #5 on the agenda with questions underneath and have an educational presentation. Robinson requested someone to provide more information on solar panels and options for building/landscaping around the array.

Lindman stated they can put together an FAQ document based on information they have collected over the year that can be posted.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Coldwell, second by Robinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:58pm.



### Solar Array Goals and the City of Wausau Vision

1. Utilization and construction of solar generated power for City use follows the City's adopted Strategic Plan and the City's adopted resolution for Supporting Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Security.
  1. Strategic Plan sets an objective of "Support and lead in green eco-friendly efforts and initiatives for a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable environment.
2. Utility is challenged to find innovative ways to reduce operational costs moving forward.
  1. Solar energy is a proven technology to reduce energy costs long term.
3. Rate payers of the utility pay for the infrastructure and decisions on these initiatives. Need to look at benefits to all rate payers and balance any concerns brought forward about the project.
4. Consider solar generation and use at locations that have the most beneficial impact for all rate payers in the city.
5. Consider resiliency and to support services and operations to all city residents.
6. Installation of solar generating infrastructure will consider the area or neighborhood it is to be installed and adapt the project to work with the neighborhood during design of the facility.
7. Provide city wide educational outreach to notify the public of the city's objectives and inform rate payers of benefits, short and long term.



## Solar Array Task Force Goals and Questions from May 10, 2023, Meeting

- 1. Neighborhood goals**
  - a. Create full transparency (explanation for placement of the array, provide a range of options)
  - b. Create buffering and leave trees where we can.
  - c. Work to not negatively impact the neighborhood.
  - d. Explore potential developments for the land for the next 30 years.
  - e. Look for opportunities to incorporate community engagement in the property.
- 2. City budget goals**
  - a. Look at different size of arrays and how it offsets power.
  - b. Capitalize on federal funding opportunities.
  - c. Review the lifecycle and net impact of typing power back into the grid.
  - d. Create institutional knowledge to strengthen the workforce.
  - e. Explore the net financial impact on utility rates.
- 3. Sustainability goals**
  - a. Explore the lifecycle of the panels.
  - b. Identify a percentage of the plant that the project would be helping.
  - c. Work towards the City's greenhouse gas reduction goals
  - d. Create plantings under and around panels.
  - e. Discover the net carbon impact of the project.
- 4. Possible additional goal categories**
  - a. Create resiliency of potable water for a sustainable community.