



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Contact: Chris Schock, Economic Development Manager 715-261-6683

On Monday, 6/22/15 the Wausau Common Council rejected the relocation package for Wausau Chemical. While I accept the decision of the Council and appreciate that the comfort level with a project of this size was just not there at this current time, it is also important to highlight important facts to you, the Community, which may get lost in the emotional responses and retorts.

First -- the Council had previously voted as a Committee of the Whole 8-2 to further this process. Based on this direction, along with information gathered over the last eighteen months, City Staff and Wausau Chemical worked hard to iron out an effective and appropriate plan for the relocation and redevelopment of their site. I am confident City staff did all the necessary and important due diligence to bring this relocation to fruition; since it was the will of the Council- the proposal and relocation plan was thorough and well thought out. I also am confident this project is as inexpensive as it will ever be especially since we can use TIF financing now; this is the best way to finance such a move so to minimize financial risk for the City and our taxpayers. I believe years from now, we will look back on this decision as a missed opportunity and the cost to relocate Wausau Chemical and redevelop this neighborhood will be exponentially higher then, that is just the fact.

Second -- this decision shows our difficulty as a Council to do bold, long-range redevelopment as a matter of policy. The Wausau Chemical relocation plan was very expensive, but it was also a very strategic and timely project which would have set in motion a continued redevelopment of the riverfront. I realize that it was just too expensive for some, but I truly feel that the relocation of Wausau Chemical was exactly the kind of innovative, forward-looking project we as a City should be leading.

City Administration remains committed to bringing forth innovative, forward-looking, meaningful redevelopment proposals which create future tax base and development- that is our continued mission. I know all of our Aldermen appreciate and value our work to continue this- even if some of the proposals are not possible politically -- I take great pride that we still make every effort. As Mayor, I am proud to have Wausau Chemical as business in our City and I would like to thank Rob Flashinski and the employees for working diligently with my administration. Through no fault of their own, they have had their reputations and good name inappropriately questioned -- which is unfair. It is inappropriate to question Mr. Flashinski's intentions and I can understand it if he interprets it as bordering on slander as Wausau Chemical has never been seeking enrichment from the City- they sought only a replacement building to continue their existing business and we worked to get them that facility at the lowest cost possible. While that cost was deemed too high and we respect that decision- Mr. Flashinski has



Office of the Mayor
James E. Tipple

TEL: (715) 261-6800
FAX: (715) 261-6808

been nothing but an upfront and upright citizen. Actions do have a cost, but so does our inaction, and I ask that we all consider that as we continue to move the City of Wausau forward.

Sincerely,
James Tipple, Mayor