

# CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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**Time and Date:** The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Monday, February 11, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall.

**Members Present:** Pat Peckham, Claire Meney, Mary Kluz, Lisa Siewert

**Others Present:** Brad Sippel, Brad Lenz, Mayor Mielke, Eric Lindman, Brian Kowalski/City Pages, Ben/Channel 9

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

## **Welcome and introductions**

Sippel called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves. Mayor Mielke thanked the committee members for their service.

## **Discussion and possible action on the selection of a committee chairperson**

Sippel and Peckham summarized the responsibilities of the chairperson. The chairperson is typically nominated then selected by the committee. Peckham suggested the chairperson be someone other than an elected official to keep a more citizen feel to the committee.

## **Discussion and possible action on establishing regular meeting dates and times**

The committee discussed potential meeting times and frequency. The committee consensus was to start by meeting monthly.

## **Discuss committee authority and responsibilities**

Sippel handed out the ordinance that created the Sustainability, Energy and Environment committee, and went over the committee purpose and responsibilities.

## **Discuss 2019 ideas and priorities**

The committee discussed potential projects for 2019. Kluz suggested discussing some of the things that staff have done in the past at the next meeting so the committee has a good starting point. Peckham summarized some of the achievements of the internal Energy Team, facilities manager, and the Department of Public Works. Mayor Mielke said that creative ideas are the reason these committees are created. Meney asked if the City has a sustainability plan, and if that is something that could be created. Sippel responded that a plan does not exist, but could be a good first step. The committee discussed some initial ideas, including rooftop solar, single use plastics, and energy audits. Sippel handed out goals and objectives from the 2017 City of Wausau Comprehensive Plan to help generate some ideas. Kluz discussed her work with Marshfield, their work to become an eco-municipality and the Natural Step Framework. Lenz mentioned that Meleesa Johnson at the Marathon County Solid Waste Department would be a good resource for the committee. The committee discussed the potential to apply the Natural Step Framework to the committee's work. Peckham mentioned using sustainability goals as part of the evaluation of proposals for City projects and operations. Kluz mentioned the PACE program.

## **Future items for consideration**

Sippel said he would place 2019 ideas and previous accomplishments onto the next agenda. Kluz said it might be useful to know if Wausau passed an eco-municipality resolution. Kluz also mentioned best practices for municipalities would be useful.

**Future meeting date**

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Sippel will send out a Doodle Poll to set up the next meeting.

**Adjourn**

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Motion by Kluz/Meney to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.