

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Pat Peckham, Claire Meney, Ralph Fischer, Mary Kluz

Others Present: Brad Sippel, Adam Snippen, Paul Zouski, Mayor Mielke

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

Peckham called the meeting to order in absence of the chairperson at 4:05 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Approval of the minutes of July 24, 2019 meeting

Motion by Meney/Fischer to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2019 meetings. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on Focus on Energy projects in Wausau

Adam Snippen overviewed Focus on Energy projects with the City of Wausau. Snippen handed out a list of all of the projects that have received Focus on Energy funding. Most of the projects have been lighting projects, and there was one gas project that was a new water boiler. Snippen noted that Focus on Energy has handbooks of standard projects that are eligible for funding, and they can also do custom incentives for projects that are not listed. The custom incentive is eligible for energy saving projects that have a between 1.5 and 10 year simple payback period, because the program tries to influence projects that are competing with other priorities to make them a little more attractive. Snippen also mentioned there are incentives for retro commissioning that are often worthwhile, and basically makes sure all of the building systems are operating as they were designed to. The savings from these can often pay back in less than a year. Snippen asked if the committee is tracking metrics for success. The committee discussed tracking energy use and benchmarking. Snippen mentioned that Energy Star has a benchmarking website where City departments can upload their utility bills directly to the website and enables the City to track energy use and compare to similar buildings across the country. Fischer asked if water use was included in the Focus on Energy incentive program, and Snippen replied that water use is only included in terms of saving electricity used for pumping, like with lift stations. Snippen cited an example in another community where a day worth of work saved the community \$20,000/year in electricity costs, just by changing the time of day that the water tower was filled. Kluz asked if the source of the energy is tracked. Snippen replied that it would be part of the tracking. Peckham said what we want out of the departments is fuel, electricity, and natural gas used.

Motion by Meney/Kluz to request that Snippen meets with Brian Bartkowiak to talk about retro-commissioning, for Snippen to meet with Bartkowiak to determine if it would be practical for department heads to use the Energy Star benchmarking system for utility costs, and for Sippel to find out from Finance if we are getting time of use rates for any facilities that use electricity.

Discussion on sustainability and energy criteria in development applications and RFPs

Sippel overviewed the application for development assistance, and the current language related to PACE financing and Focus on Energy evaluations. Peckham asked about points for development RFPs. The committee reviewed past RFPs and the language related to sustainability in the criteria. Meney asked about the points scale, and suggested that there are different point ratings for different levels of sustainability

related achievements in a development, such as LEED certification or green building techniques. Sippel said that the points can typically be assigned on a scale up to the listing in the RFP.

Motion by Kluz/Meney to recommend that sustainability language becomes a standard component of future RFPs for development.

Discussion and possible action on sustainability recognition program

This item will be moved to the next meeting.

Discussion and possible action on City energy use reporting

Discussions on this item were combined with the discussion on Focus on Energy projects in Wausau.

Update on Bluestem Energy Services development

Sippel and Peckham provided an update on the Bluestem Energy Services development process.

Future items for consideration

Sustainability recognition program, and a discussion about who should be responsible for the program, potential criteria, and other program information will be on the next agenda.

Future meeting date

September 25 will be the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Adjourn

Motion by Meney/Kluz to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.