



Sustainability Commission

Regular Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Agenda

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.84, Notice is hereby given to the public that a meeting of the **Sustainability Commission** of the City of De Pere will be held on **September 14, 2021** at **5:30 PM**.

This meeting will be held electronically and the public may attend this meeting electronically or telephonically by accessing either:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://www.gotomeet.me/DePere>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States (Toll Free): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)

United States: [+1 \(312\) 757-3117](tel:+13127573117)

Access Code: 154-883-285

*****THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD IN PERSON.*****

This meeting may also be rebroadcast on Spectrum Cable Channel 4 and AT&T U-verse Channel 99 throughout the week and available on demand at <http://deperecitywi.igmp2.com/>.

I. Call to Order

1. Roll Call

II. Public Comment Period

III. Action Items

1. Consider Election of Chairperson
2. Consider Election of Vice Chairperson
3. Approval of the August 10, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
4. Discuss Commissioner Gasch's request for Idle Ban Ordinance
5. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Renewable Energy Work Plan*

IV. Future Agenda Items

V. Adjournment

Any person wishing to attend this meeting who, because of disability, requires special accommodations should contact the Clerk's office at 339-4050 by Noon, the previous day so that arrangements can be made.

***Items with an asterisk require City Council approval.**

Agenda Sent To:

Alderspersons

City Administrator

Mayor

Department Heads

TV, Newspapers & Radio Stations

Kress Family Library

De Pere Chamber of Commerce



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider Election of Chairperson



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider Election of Vice Chairperson



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Betty Sellenheim

SUBJECT: Approval of the August 10, 2021 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2021 0810 Sustainability DRAFT Minutes (PDF)



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<https://www.deperewi.gov/>

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

5:30 PM

GoToMeeting

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Alderperson Shana Defnet Ledvina

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Remote	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Remote	5:34 PM
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Remote	5:42 PM
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Alderperson	Remote	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	5:33 PM

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director
Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary
Alderperson John Quigley

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the Sustainability Commission June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Alderperson Ledvina moved to approve the Sustainability Commission June 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Rakers. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
AYES:	Garrison, Gasch, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Rakers
AWAY:	Randall Lawton

2. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Clean Energy Resolution*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, reintroduced the City of De Pere draft Clean Energy Resolutions and explained the view from the internal Sustainability Team of presenting the July 2020 draft resolution to Common Council. Commissioner Gasch stated that neither draft resolution has been voted on at a Sustainability Commission meeting. Mr. Thoresen explained the majority of commissioners attending the July 2020 meeting had agreed to that iteration. Alderperson Ledvina questioned if the resolution had been voted on and approved in July 2020. Mr. Thoresen stated it had not been and further explained the history and progress of the Clean Energy Resolution. Mr. Thoresen further listed the differences between the two draft resolutions. Commissioner McKean expressed concerns about presenting either resolution to Council without having a baseline for the City. Commissioner Gasch stated her main priority for getting a resolution or work plan presented to Common Council was to help establish funding for the commitment the Commission was asking the City to take on with the approval of the resolution. Commissioner Gasch expressed her concerns about presenting the work plan before the resolution. Commissioner McKean and Alderperson Ledvina supported Commissioner Gasch's position. Commissioner Rakers stated his opposition of forwarding the June 2021 draft to Council and believes the work

plan should be prioritized over the resolution. Commissioner Gasch explained why she added the commitment dates back into the June 2021 draft and stated it would not complete the requirement for Green Tier without them. Alderperson Ledvina stated if the internal Sustainability Team and staff were not supporting the June 2021 draft, she did not feel Council would either. Commissioner Lawton stated his belief that the Commission needed to work closely with staff regarding the work plan and realistic accomplishments. Alderperson Ledvina suggested the commitment dates and other goals could be added to the work plan or the resolution could be amended at a later date. Commissioner McKean explained the need for a baseline before being able to set goals. Commissioner Lawton agreed. Commissioner Gasch disagreed and stated she wanted to see a vision set by Council with sustainability at the center and listed concerns from climate scientists. Commissioner Lawton expressed concerns regarding allocating resources best in a situation of small impact on a worldwide problem. Commissioner Gasch stated the organization was not to take on political or financial tasks but to further De Pere in sustainable practices and felt the commission would be abdicating their commitment if they did not advocate for carbon neutrality on a rapid timeline. Commissioner Lawton explained the Commission needs to consider cost benefit of the technology available. Alderperson Ledvina suggested tabling this agenda item until the Commission was at full capacity with new members appointed the next week. Commissioner Garrison asked what would be required to obtain the baseline. Mr. Thoresen explained staff had obtained monthly usage records from Wisconsin Public Service and were in the process of compiling. Alderperson Ledvina offered her assistance. Commissioner Gasch suggested advocating for funding to hire a consultant to establish the baseline. Mr. Thoresen explained the process and cost that other communities went through in order to establish a baseline to set the commitment goals. Commissioner McKean agreed with the timeline required to establish the baseline from Mr. Arendt, UWGB professor and City of Green Bay Sustainability Commissioner, and stated the work plan is very aggressive and cannot be accomplished with only volunteer time and funding. Mr. Thoresen explained staff's recommendation to forward the July 2022 draft clean energy resolution and stated if it was approved, work would continue on the work plan. Alderperson Ledvina stated the Council would be more likely to approve funding if the resolution has been approved. Mr. Thoresen and Commissioners Garrison and Gasch agreed. Commissioner Gasch requested a status update on the Green Tier assessment. Commissioner Lawton stated staff and the commission needed to be working together to accomplish goals on a timeline they are both comfortable with. Mr. Thoresen explained a process of including the new commission members in the approval of the resolution. Commissioner Gasch stated her preference of forwarding the resolution based on the work from the current commission members. Commissioners Lawton, Garrison, and Rakers agreed with forwarding the resolution from this meeting.

Commissioners Gasch moved to approve and forward to Common Council the draft Clean Energy Resolution from July 2020, seconded by Commissioner Garrison.

Mr. Thoresen explained the process for getting the resolution included in the Council agenda for August 17, 2021. Commissioner Lawton expressed concerns with the contents of Paragraph 7. Commissioner McKean explained her sources for that information. Mr. Thoresen suggested the sources be included in the paragraph for reference. Commissioner Gasch questioned how information could be disseminated to council members or

questions could be answered once presented to Council. Alderperson Ledvina encouraged commissioners to attend the Council meeting on August 17.

Alderperson Ledvina moved to amend paragraph 7 of the July 2020 draft Clean Energy Resolution to include the source for the data, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the amendment passed unanimously.

Upon vote, the motion to forward the July 2020 draft Clean Energy Resolution as amended passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Larry Garrison, Commissioner
AYES:	Garrison, Gasch, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Rakers

3. Consider and Possible Action Regarding Renewable Energy Work Plan*

Scott Thoresen, Public Works Director, suggested tabling this item for further discussion and action in September after the Common Council has discussed the resolution. Alderperson Ledvina agreed. Commissioner Rakers suggested bringing both forward to Council on August 17 on the chance that the resolution was not approved. Commissioner Gasch agreed with tabling the work plan to discuss with the new commission members at the September Sustainability meeting. Alderperson Ledvina and Commissioners Lawton and Garrison agreed. Mr. Thoresen relayed suggestions from the internal sustainability team with regards to the work plan. Commissioner Lawton agreed and expressed it will be a large undertaking to get 25,000 residents on board. Commissioner Gasch suggested utilizing the booth at the Farmer's Market more often in 2022 as a start for incorporating residents in clean energy and carbon neutral initiatives.

Commissioner Gasch moved to table the discussion regarding the Renewable Energy Work Plan until the Sustainability Commission Meeting in September, seconded by Commissioner Lawton. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	TABLED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 9/14/2021 5:30 PM
MOVER:	Renee Gasch, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Randall Lawton, Commissioner
AYES:	Garrison, Gasch, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Rakers

III. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gasch requested bringing the solar panel presentation and group buy program back to the Commission for discussion.

Commissioner Gasch proposed presenting a no idle ordinance to the Commission for consideration.

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Lawton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:29 PM, seconded by Alderperson Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Commissioner Gasch's request for Idle Ban Ordinance



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Consider and Possible Action Regarding Renewable Energy Work Plan*

At the last Sustainability Commission meeting, the commissioners reviewed the and approved moving the work plan (See attached work plan) forward to Council if the City's internal sustainability team had no comments. The City's internal sustainability team met and felt the Commission needs to look at the City as a whole but it would be OK to make recommendations for City operations. In addition, the team felt maybe the work plan needs to come after the resolution if the Council approves it.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Work Plan Final Draft 8-2-2021 (DOCX)

Work Plan Final Draft

- Conduct a baseline assessment of the City of De Pere's greenhouse gas emissions utilizing resources such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol (Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories), City of De Pere staff, WPS staff, and local expertise from faculty and students at St. Norbert College.
- Use baseline assessment as a guideline for the City of De Pere to work towards eventually achieving carbon neutrality and for tracking changes in the City's greenhouse gas emissions annually.
- Conduct research and compile a white paper report that outlines various considerations towards transitioning to carbon neutrality that includes, but is not limited to:
 - Specific information on the baseline assessment of greenhouse gas emissions for the City of De Pere;
 - Scientific evidence for community benefits of reducing greenhouse emissions;
 - Definition of carbon neutrality and possible goals for reaching carbon neutrality;
 - Overview of types of renewable energy possible in the City of De Pere;
 - Discuss energy conservation;
 - Economic and tax rate considerations: the cost of the initial transition vs. the cost of doing nothing, the long-term economic benefits to renewable energy;
 - Policy recommendations to meet the scientific needs with consideration to the economic realities.
- Following the report's presentation and discussion at the City Council, the Sustainability Commission may submit a resolution with stated recommendations with consideration to feedback from the Council that outlines our target dates and goals for a transition to carbon neutrality.
- Solicit feedback from the community on specific possible actions towards transitioning to carbon neutrality before passing a final resolution. This can include, but is not limited to:
 - Commission members reaching out to community organizations, individuals, and other key stakeholders;
 - Receiving feedback from partner organizations' sustainability listening sessions by providing them a list of possible recommendations for them to include in any programming;

- Enlisting the help and advice of expert organizations (ex. RENEW Wisconsin);
 - Developing and sending out a survey to a random sample of city residents and also making the survey available online for residents of the City about possible solutions;
 - Advertise report to the City Council and subsequent resolution and encourage public dialogue and civic engagement prior to any policy votes.
- Following the potential passage of a resolution outlining goals towards the transition to carbon neutrality, the Sustainability Commission may work with city staff and any key stakeholders to develop a Renewable Energy Action Plan that will outline exactly how the municipality and community will make that transition toward any stated goals. This plan may be developed in consultation with third-party consultants, and the commission may identify grant opportunities to fund such a plan (including but not limited to the annual grants from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission). The Sustainability Commission will facilitate community input in this plan.
 - Prior to and following any resolution that states specific goals, the Sustainability Commission may work to identify and recommend any other policy suggestions or programmatic opportunities to encourage the use of renewable energy in the city.
 - The Sustainability Commission may engage and collaborate with other local and tribal governments in the region, the State of Wisconsin (DNR Green Tier Legacy Community Program), and the federal government (Environmental Protection Agency), higher education (e.g., St. Norbert College), business and industry to encourage progress towards these goals.
 - The Sustainability Commission may constantly be identifying funding opportunities from grants, public-private partnerships, possible city budget requests, or any other opportunities that become available.
 - Work with City staff to determine current levels of renewable energy versus other energy sources and identify any existing efforts to transition, cost estimates, and barriers to transition.