



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Agenda

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

5:30 PM

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 **August 11, 2020** at **5:30 PM**.

Due to the current public health emergency, the meeting will be held electronically and the public may attend this meeting electronically or telephonically by accessing either:

Computer/smart phone accessing <https://www.gotomeet.me/DePere>
OR

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 www.depere.tv.

- I. Call to Order
 - 1. Roll Call
- II. Action Items
 - 1. Approval of the July 14, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes
 - 2. Discuss Clean Energy Work Plan
 - 3. Discuss City of De Pere Clean Energy Resolution
- III. Future Agenda Items
- IV. 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: August 11, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Betty Sellenheim

SUBJECT: Approval of the July 14, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2020 0714 Draft Minutes (PDF)



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
<http://www.de-pere.org>

Draft Minutes

Tuesday, July 14, 2020

5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM by Betty Sellenheim

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Larry Garrison	Commissioner	Remote	
Renee Gasch	Commissioner	Absent	
Randall Lawton	Commissioner	Remote	
Shana Defnet Ledvina	Aldersperson	Present	
Rebecca McKean	Commissioner	Remote	
Bill Niedzwiedz	Commissioner	Remote	
Eric Rakers	City Engineer	Remote	

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary

II. Action Items

1. Consider Sustainability Commission Chairperson

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary, requested nominations for the position of Chairperson for the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Rakers nominated Aldersperson Shana Defnet-Ledvina, seconded by Commissioner McKean.

Upon vote the motion passed with a 5-0-1 vote, with Commissioner Ledvina abstaining.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Rebecca McKean, Commissioner
AYES:	Garrison, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Rakers
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch

2. Consider Sustainability Commission Vice - Chairperson

Chairperson Ledvina requested nominations for the Vice-Chairperson for the Sustainability Commission.

Commissioner Garrison nominated Commissioner Renee Gasch, seconded by Commissioner Niedzwiedz.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

3. Approval of the June 9, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Ledvina moved to approve the June 9, 2020 meeting minutes, seconded by Commissioner Garrison.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

4. Consider Baseline Assessment Projects

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained this agenda item as discussed in previous meetings. Commission members were to compile a list of 3-5 items from the DNR baseline scoresheet they wished to see the commission work on in 2020.

Individually, the commission members listed the topics they felt the commission should work toward achieving and discussion could follow each topic.

Bill Niedzwiedz discussed the following topics of interest: League of American bicyclists certification, inventory of contaminated sites, recognition as Bird City of Wisconsin, inventory wetlands and ensure no loss, annual government fleet fuel use, and inventory paved surfaces.

Rebecca McKean discussed the following topics of interest: inventory contaminated sites, inventory paved surfaces, and inventory wetlands (in association with St Norbert GIS courses), create and implement climate change action plan, facilitate a group-buy program-volume based pricing on energy efficiency/renewable energy, and commit to science-based, community based GHG.

Larry Garrison discussed the following topics of interest: bike issues-bike routes, mandatory bike parking, wetlands preservation (Fox River trail), tree city/tree canopy, street lights, and noise abatement.

Eric Rakers discussed the following topics of interest: League of American Bicyclists certification, plan to identify disconnections and funding sources for bikes/peds, financial assistance for sewer lateral replacement, school plans with existing bike/ped structures (safe routes to school), and on-street/off-street trail network to rec facilities and malls.

Randall Lawton discussed the following topics of interest: 75 foot natural zone by surface water.

Shana Ledvina discussed the following topics of interest: bike parking, tree planting with new developments, tree canopy goals, Bird City Wisconsin recognition, replacing toilets, pedestrian safety task force, and ordinance banning smoking/e-cigs in parks/public events.

Chairperson Ledvina asked Mr. Thoresen what goals have been established by the internal staff sustainability group. Mr. Thoresen stated the internal team has not met since the start of COVID. Chairperson Ledvina asked if the toilet replacements could be a topic

of discussion. Mr. Thoresen stated it could be discussed but staff generally replaces the toilets only when they break. Commissioner Niedzwiedz asked if a brick could be added to the toilets to displace water in the tank and reduce the volume used. Mr. Thoresen stated that was an idea but many toilets in the city buildings are tank-less. Chairperson Ledvina asked if the fuel usage of government fleet was accessible information. Mr. Thoresen stated the fuel usage is tracked for each piece of municipal equipment.

Chairperson Ledvina moved to refer back to staff to compile a list of all topics of interest and bring back to Sustainability Commission at the next meeting, seconded by Commissioner Niedzwiedz.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
SECONDER:	Bill Niedzwiedz, Commissioner
AYES:	Garrison, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Rakers
ABSENT:	Renee Gasch

5. Consideration and possible action on Clean Energy Resolution*

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, explained this item is for discussion only tonight and the intent is not to make a recommendation to Council. The discussion was a mini-workshop/brainstorming session to discuss any changes that commissioners may wish to see made to the draft resolution.

Commissioner McKean suggested a few changes to the draft resolution. In the second paragraph change St. Norbert College to St. Norbert Student Government Association. There has been no formal commitment from the College administration yet and the resolution should be as accurate as possible. Mr. Thoresen agreed that all the statements need to be factual. Commissioner Lawton expressed concerns with the wording. Commissioner Rakers expressed concerns regarding the resolution and the lack of a plan to guide the commission. Commissioner McKean agreed with Commissioner Rakers and stated the aspirational nature of the resolution is important and shows the city is making a commitment to sustainability. Commissioner Niedzwiedz and Commissioner Lawton discussed some concerns and changes to wording.

In the fourth paragraph, Commissioner McKean suggested changing it to “WHEREAS, continual advancements in clean energy technology as well as opportunities for federal and state grant money have made investment in many types of renewable energy more cost-effective than further investment in fossil fuels (which are a major contributor to global climate change), posing a financial benefit for the long-term budget of the City of De Pere;”

In the fifth paragraph, Commissioner McKean suggested changing it to “WHEREAS, Brown County, including the City of De Pere, is already experiencing long-term climatic changes, such as increased annual temperatures of 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit and a 15% increase in annual precipitation, as well as an increase in the severity of individual weather events, such as increased intensity of individual precipitation events, which have contributed to increased flooding along the Fox and East Rivers;” Commissioner McKean stated her reference for this information was the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI).

In the sixth paragraph, Commissioner McKean suggested changing it to “WHEREAS, climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) have

found that if rapid action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the planet will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reaching this level of warming will lead to long-term changes in the climate system that will have negative impacts on human health, food and water security, and economic growth;"

Commissioner McKean also suggested adding a paragraph that read "WHEREAS, the goal of carbon neutrality fits within a cornerstone element of the City of De Pere's comprehensive plan related to sustainability and becoming an eco-municipality, such that the City Council and the Mayor of De Pere already adopted a resolution "endorsing the principles of sustainability and applying them in city decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices" and a second resolution committing the City of De Pere "...to working towards greater sustainability as an eco-municipality";"

Chairperson Ledvina expressed concerns with paragraph eight. Commissioner Garrison agreed and suggested using aspirational and less committal language ('pursue' or 'strive' to reach benchmarks). Commissioner Rakers agreed with concerns regarding this language and the proposed changes to 'pursue'. Commissioner Rakers suggested including wording about cost-effectiveness and efficiency and wording from Eau Claire's resolution regarding unintended consequences and short and long term achievements based on technological advancements.

Mr. Thoresen suggested a few changes to the draft resolution. In the eighth paragraph, change to one of the following suggestions or combining them into one "BE IT RESOLVED, that given the City's first choice for meeting energy needs is energy efficiency measures that reduce both operating costs and carbon footprint, the City will prioritize energy efficiency and conservation as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation" or "BE IT RESOLVED, that given energy efficiency is a key and economical choice for meeting energy needs and reducing our carbon footprint, the City will advance energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs, and outreach". Mr. Thoresen thought the following two sections should be added to the beginning of the document to add history: "WHEREAS, the protection, stewardship, improvement, and promotion of the environment is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the De Pere community for present and future generations;" and "WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the City Council established a Sustainability Commission to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in De Pere, with the ultimate goal of providing a more sustainable, livable, and healthy community;". Mr. Thoresen agreed with a previous suggestion from Commissioner Rakers and suggested adding the paragraph from Eau Claire that states "WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while emphasizing efforts in the mid and long-term ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline;".

All suggestions were met with positive reactions from the commission members.

Commissioner Garrison questioned how the commission will proceed with analyzing the proposed changes. Mr. Thoresen stated staff would incorporate the changes that were discussed and send to Commission members and discuss at a future meeting for recommendation to Council.

Mr. Thoresen scheduled a special meeting to be held on August 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM where the City of Green Bay work plan and changes to the resolution will be discussed.

III. Future Agenda Items

None

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Rakers moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM, seconded by Commissioner Garrison.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: August 11, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss Clean Energy Work Plan

It was discussed at the last sustainability commission meeting whether the commission should look at creating a renewable energy work plan prior to creating a renewable energy resolution. The City of City of Green Bay established a renewable energy work plan. (See attached) Green Bay's Sustainability Commission shifted from establishing a resolution to creating a work plan to have the City hit 100% clean energy. As part of this plan, the City of Green Bay will eventually create a renewable energy resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

- City of Green Bay Renewable-Energy-Work-Plan-PDF (PDF)

City of Green Bay Sustainability Commission Renewable Energy Work Plan

In order to meet our stated goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy, the Sustainability Commission for the City of Green Bay may take the following steps:

- I. Conduct research and compile a white paper report that outlines various considerations towards transitioning to renewable energy that includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Scientific evidence for reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
 - b. Overview of types of renewable energy;
 - c. Define different areas, both at the municipal and community level, that require various forms of energy;
 - d. Define carbon neutrality;
 - e. Discuss energy conservation;
 - f. Economic considerations: the cost of the initial transition vs. the cost of doing nothing, the long-term economic benefits to renewable energy;
 - g. Policy recommendations to meet the scientific needs with consideration to the economic realities.

This report may be presented to the full Sustainability Commission in April, and upon approval sent to Common Council for presentation.
- II. Following the report's presentation and discussion at Common Council, the Sustainability Commission may submit a resolution with stated recommendations with consideration to the feedback from council that outlines our target dates and goals for a transition to renewable energy at the municipal and/or community level.
- III. Enlist the help of UW-Green Bay faculty and students to conduct a study to determine a baseline for greenhouse gas emissions to be used as a reference for any possible carbon reduction goals. This should be started right away, but does not need to be finished prior to the passage of a resolution outlining goals.
- IV. 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.
- V. Work with WPS to determine current energy sources at the community level, and identify future plans towards transitioning to renewable energy that already exist.
- VI. Solicit feedback from the community on specific possible actions towards transitioning to renewable energy before passing a final resolution. This can include, but is not limited to:
 - a. Commission members reaching out to community organizations, individuals, and other key stakeholders;
 - b. Receiving feedback from partner organizations' sustainability listening sessions by providing them a list of possible recommendations for them to include in any programming;

**City of Green Bay Sustainability Commission
Renewable Energy Work Plan**

- c. Enlisting the help and advice of expert organizations (ex. RENEW Wisconsin);
 - d. 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;
 - e. Advertise the findings of the white paper and subsequent resolution and encourage public dialogue and civic engagement prior to any policy votes.
- VII. Following the potential passage of a resolution outlining goals towards the transition to renewable energy, 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 plan (including but not limited to the annual grants from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission). The Sustainability Commission will facilitate further community input in this plan.
- VIII. Ensure the inclusion of energy policy, among other sustainability issues, in the city's next comprehensive plan.
- IX. 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.
- X. 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., Northeast Wisconsin Technical College), business and industry to encourage progress towards these goal
- XI. 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.



City of De Pere, Wisconsin

Request For Sustainability Commission Action

MEETING DATE: August 11, 2020

DEPARTMENT: Sustainability Commission

FROM: Scott Thoresen

SUBJECT: Discuss City of De Pere Clean Energy Resolution

Continued discussion of and revisions to the City of De Pere Clean Energy Resolution.

ATTACHMENTS:

- De Pere Clean Energy Resolution (Draft) (PDF)
- De Pere Clean Energy Resolution (Revised track changes) (PDF)
- De Pere Clean Energy Resolution (Revised) (PDF)

RESOLUTION to establish clean energy and carbon neutrality goals
for the City of De Pere (Draft)

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already demonstrated progress in reducing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, for example through its green roof on city hall, its transition to natural gas engines in public works vehicles, and other building efficiency upgrades.

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, City of Green Bay, the Oneida Nation, Green Bay Area Public School District, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and St. Norbert College have all committed to achieving 100 percent clean energy, energy conservation, and other sustainability goals by 2050 or earlier;

WHEREAS, the entire community stands to benefit when collaborative approaches are taken to invest in clean energy, such as job creation, increased property values, long-term resilience, cleaner air and water, improved public health, and economic benefits for taxpayers;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is likely to see budget shortfalls due to the impact of COVID-19 on the regional economy and investing in clean energy and reducing its carbon footprint will lead to money saved to maintain essential services;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already seen an increase in the severity of weather patterns and flooding as well as decreased water and air quality due to carbon emissions;

WHEREAS, climate scientists have found that if action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 then irrevocable damage to the climate will occur;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is committed to ensuring all residents, no matter race, ethnicity, age, income, geographic location or ability level are involved in the decision making and planning process so that the city's transition to clean energy benefits all;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere establishes goals to meet 50% of all city operations energy needs with carbon neutral energy and offsets by 2030, 75% by 2035 and 100% by 2040 as measured by its carbon footprint;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere will account for these goals in its 2021 budget cycle and collaborates with the De Pere Sustainability Commission to develop a work plan which identifies cost-effective measures to transition to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the De Pere Common Council, have executed this resolution on this DD day of MM month, YY Year.

Signatures

RESOLUTION to establish clean energy and carbon neutrality goals
for the City of De Pere (REVISED 2020 0714)

WHEREAS, the protection, stewardship, improvement, and promotion of the environment is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the De Pere community for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the City Council established a Sustainability Commission to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in De Pere, with the ultimate goal of providing a more sustainable, livable, and healthy community;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already demonstrated progress in reducing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, for example through its green roof on city hall, its transition to natural gas engines in public works vehicles, and other building efficiency upgrades;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, City of Green Bay, the Oneida Nation, Green Bay Area Public School District, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and ~~St. Norbert College~~ St. Norbert Student Government Association have all committed to achieving 100 percent clean energy, energy conservation, and other sustainability goals by 2050 or earlier;

WHEREAS, the entire community stands to benefit when collaborative approaches are taken to invest in clean energy, such as job creation, increased property values, long-term resilience, cleaner air and water, improved public health, and economic benefits for taxpayers;

WHEREAS, continual advancements in clean energy technology as well as opportunities for federal and state grant money have made investment in many types of renewable energy more cost-effective than further investment in fossil fuels (which are a major contributor to global climate change), posing a financial benefit for the long-term budget of the City of De Pere~~WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is likely to see budget shortfalls due to the impact of COVID-19 on the regional economy and investing in clean energy and reducing its carbon footprint will lead to money saved to maintain essential services;~~

WHEREAS, Brown County, including the City of De Pere, is already experiencing long-term climatic changes, such as increased annual temperatures of 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit and a 15% increase in annual precipitation, as well as an increase in the severity of individual weather events, such as increased intensity of individual precipitation events, which have contributed to increased flooding along the Fox and East Rivers~~WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already seen an increase in the severity of weather patterns and flooding as well as decreased water and air quality due to carbon emissions;~~

WHEREAS, climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) have found that if rapid action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the planet will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reaching this level of warming

~~will lead to long-term changes in the climate system that will have negative impacts on human health, food and water security, and economic growth~~ WHEREAS, climate scientists have found that if action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030 then irrevocable damage to the climate will occur;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is committed to ensuring all residents, no matter race, ethnicity, age, income, geographic location or ability level are involved in the decision making and planning process so that the city's transition to clean energy benefits all;

~~WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while emphasizing efforts in the mid and long-term ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere establishes goals to meet 50% of all city operations energy needs with carbon neutral energy and offsets by 2030, 75% by 2035 and 100% by 2040 as measured by its carbon footprint;~~

~~WHEREAS, the goal of carbon neutrality fits within a cornerstone element of the City of De Pere's comprehensive plan related to sustainability and becoming an eco-municipality, such that the City Council and the Mayor of De Pere already adopted a resolution "endorsing the principles of sustainability and applying them in city decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices" and a second resolution committing the City of De Pere "...to working towards greater sustainability as an eco-municipality";~~

~~BE IT RESOLVED, that given energy efficiency is a key and economical choice for meeting energy needs, reducing operating costs, and reducing our carbon footprint, the City will advance energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs, and outreach as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation;~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere will account for these goals in its ~~2021~~ future budget cycle~~s~~ and collaborates with the De Pere Sustainability Commission to develop a work plan which identifies cost-effective measures to transition to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the De Pere Common Council, have executed this resolution on this DD day of MM month, YY Year.

Signatures

RESOLUTION to establish clean energy and carbon neutrality goals
for the City of De Pere (REVISED 2020 0714)

WHEREAS, the protection, stewardship, improvement, and promotion of the environment is a public necessity and is required in the interest of health, prosperity, safety, and welfare of the De Pere community for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, on July 17, 2018, the City Council established a Sustainability Commission to explore sustainability initiatives that can be implemented in De Pere, with the ultimate goal of providing a more sustainable, livable, and healthy community;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere has already demonstrated progress in reducing carbon emissions in its municipal operations, for example through its green roof on city hall, its transition to natural gas engines in public works vehicles, and other building efficiency upgrades;

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin, City of Green Bay, the Oneida Nation, Green Bay Area Public School District, University of Wisconsin – Green Bay, and St. Norbert Student Government Association have all committed to achieving 100 percent clean energy, energy conservation, and other sustainability goals by 2050 or earlier;

WHEREAS, the entire community stands to benefit when collaborative approaches are taken to invest in clean energy, such as job creation, increased property values, long-term resilience, cleaner air and water, improved public health, and economic benefits for taxpayers;

WHEREAS, continual advancements in clean energy technology as well as opportunities for federal and state grant money have made investment in many types of renewable energy more cost-effective than further investment in fossil fuels (which are a major contributor to global climate change), posing a financial benefit for the long-term budget of the City of De Pere;

WHEREAS, Brown County, including the City of De Pere, is already experiencing long-term climatic changes, such as increased annual temperatures of 3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit and a 15% increase in annual precipitation, as well as an increase in the severity of individual weather events, such as increased intensity of individual precipitation events, which have contributed to increased flooding along the Fox and East Rivers;

WHEREAS, climate scientists from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) have found that if rapid action is not taken to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, the planet will reach 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Reaching this level of warming will lead to long-term changes in the climate system that will have negative impacts on human health, food and water security, and economic growth;

WHEREAS, the City of De Pere is committed to ensuring all residents, no matter race, ethnicity, age, income, geographic location or ability level are involved in the decision making and planning process so that the city's transition to clean energy benefits all;

WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while emphasizing efforts in the mid and long-term ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline;

WHEREAS, the goal of carbon neutrality fits within a cornerstone element of the City of De Pere's comprehensive plan related to sustainability and becoming an eco-municipality, such that the City Council and the Mayor of De Pere already adopted a resolution "endorsing the principles of sustainability and applying them in city decision making, planning, policy making, and municipal practices" and a second resolution committing the City of De Pere "...to working towards greater sustainability as an eco-municipality";

BE IT RESOLVED, that given energy efficiency is a key and economical choice for meeting energy needs, reducing operating costs, and reducing our carbon footprint, the City will advance energy efficiency and conservation projects, programs, and outreach as a means of rapidly reducing the need for centralized fossil energy generation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of De Pere will account for these goals in its future budget cycles and collaborates with the De Pere Sustainability Commission to develop a work plan which identifies cost-effective measures to transition to clean energy and net-zero carbon emissions;

IN WITNESS THEREOF, the undersigned, being all members of the De Pere Common Council, have executed this resolution on this DD day of MM month, YY Year.

Signatures