



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

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

Final Minutes

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Alderperson Shana Defnet Ledvina

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

Others present:

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works (Remote)

Betty Sellenheim, Recording Secretary (Remote)

II. Action Items

1. Approval of the July 14, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Rakers moved to approve the July 14, 2020 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes, seconded by Chairperson Ledvina.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Eric Rakers, City Engineer
SECONDER:	Shana Defnet Ledvina, Alderperson
AYES:	Gasch, Lawton, Defnet Ledvina, McKean, Niedzwiedz, Rakers
EXCUSED:	Larry Garrison

2. Discuss Clean Energy Work Plan

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, outlined discussions from the July meeting to create a work plan before attempting to pass the Clean Energy Resolution. Mr. Thoresen stated he spoke with the City of Green Bay and discussed their work plan, which was provided in the packet. Mr. Thoresen stated he researched other communities with clean energy resolutions and found many had a work plan prior to passing the resolution. Commissioner Rakers expressed his support of creating a work plan. Commissioner Gasch expressed her support of creating a work plan and explained her reasoning behind bringing the resolution forward initially. Commissioner Gasch suggested adding a timeline for establishing the work plan. Mr. Thoresen agreed regarding setting a timeline and reminded commissioners not to set too tight of a timeline due to COVID 19 and how it can impact the process. Mr. Thoresen also explained that the Commission could potentially have two work plans; the clean energy work plan and the green tier work plan. Commissioner McKean expressed her support of the clean energy work plan and working with staff to determine the current use of clean energy by the City. Commissioner McKean pointed out the importance of gaining community support through outreach and engagement. Chairperson Ledvina expressed her support. Commissioner Niedzwiedz

expressed his support. Commissioner Lawton expressed his support and interest in extending the efforts to the entire community beyond the governmental unit. Commissioner Rakers discussed projects the City can do that will influence the use of sustainable options throughout the community including: better biking and pedestrian facilities, influencing staff to update ordinances that restrict certain uses on City facilities (i.e. scooters), and installing electric vehicle charging stations. Mr. Thoresen stated he would research work plans for other communities and at the September meeting, they could be discussed and start coming up with a work plan for De Pere. Commissioner Rakers and Chairperson Ledvina discussed the intricate nature of the work plan and commissioners being tasked with working alongside staff or independently on different aspects. Commissioner Lawton agreed with commissioners being tasked with working alongside staff and independently. Commissioner Gasch expressed interest in the community outreach and engagement portion of the work plan. Commissioners Niedzwiedz and Gasch discussed the necessity of inventorying the current status of De Pere, existing research on sustainability, and potential goals for the future along with implementing through the commission. Mr. Thoresen read the ordinance establishing the Sustainability Commission and their objective. Commissioner Niedzwiedz questioned the community knowledge of the sustainability commission establishment. Mr. Thoresen stated that could be included in a community survey that could be completed to gain community feedback, buy-in, and interest. Commissioner Lawton agreed with conducting a community survey and sharing the results with staff and elected officials. Chairperson Ledvina asked staff what the next steps could be. Mr. Thoresen stated he envisions it similar to the clean energy resolution; commission will start with a draft and make revisions until commissioners are satisfied with the plan. Mr. Thoresen stated he would research plans for other communities and suggested that commission members do the same. Mr. Thoresen stated the work plan and green tier scoresheet will be on the September agenda. Commissioner Gasch questioned if comments and edits should be provided to staff prior to or if they should be brought to the September meeting. Mr. Thoresen stated both would work but suggested emailing them to staff over the next couple weeks (deadline August 28). Commissioner Lawton questioned quorum rules. Mr. Thoresen explained open meetings, open records, and quorum.

No action necessary

3. Discuss City of De Pere Clean Energy Resolution

Scott Thoresen, Director of Public Works, suggested no action or further discussion of the resolution and it will be brought back to the commission to build upon in the future. Commissioner Gasch expressed her concerns over removing the milestone years and Commissioner McKean agreed and suggested combining or removing a couple paragraphs that were quite similar (first and fifth).

No action necessary

III. Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Gasch requested to present future ideas for the sustainability video tutorials.

IV. Adjournment

Commissioner Lawton moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 PM, seconded by Commissioner Gasch.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Sellenheim