



Sustainability Commission

Special Meeting

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

Final 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