

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION MINUTES
March 6, 2025 - 5:30 PM
Room 126
933 Michigan Avenue, Stevens Point, WI**

Opening Section:

1. Roll Call.

PRESENT Sam Lang - District 9 Alderperson, Allison Birr - District 5 Alderperson, Heather Phelps, Gregory Knight, Robert Michitsch, and Doug Stingle.

OTHERS PRESENT Mayor Mike Wiza, Lara Broderick - District 4 Alderperson, Adam Kuhn - Associate Planner/Zoning Administrator, Chris Johnson - Superintendent of Streets, Ernie Quasada - Fleet Manager, David Woitczak - Sweeper/Operator, Dustin Preble - Plover, Bill Fisher - 3032 Moses Crossing, and Maxwell Johnson - 2345 Jersey Street.

2. Persons who wish to address the Sustainability Commission on specific agenda items must register their request at this time.

There were no people who wished to address the Commission on specific agenda items.

3. Persons who wish to address the Sustainability Commission for up to 3 minutes regarding a non-agenda item.

There were no people who wished to address the Commission on non-agenda items.

Discussion and Possible Action on:

- 1. Presentation by Scott Beduhn, Director of Public Works:
 - a. Department operations and efforts to reduce greenhouse gases and adaptations to climate change.****

Director Scott Beduhn and Streets Superintendent Chris Johnson presented actions Public Works is currently using that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptations to climate change:

- As streets are reconstructed, staff looks at opportunities to reduce road width, which slows traffic and requires less asphalt and/or concrete material. It also creates safer streets for pedestrians and provides boulevard space for planting trees and permeable surfaces for rain infiltration for less stormwater runoff.
- Adding sidewalks for most new street projects.
- Using asphalt paving emulsions (GSB88) on certain new paving project surfaces to extend the life of the asphalt.
- Using asphalt/fiber mix, when feasible which adds strength to the asphalt and extends its life. In some cases, it can be used with a thinner layer of asphalt.
- The City recycles asphalt and concrete material from internal street projects as base material for projects rather than new materials, which also saves on gas and mileage on the trucks.
- Working along with the Utilities Department to determine street reconstruction projects to reduce pavement disturbances.
- City crews perform pavement patching for utility projects for less cost and faster response time.
- Putting in roundabouts to keep traffic flowing, less maintenance, and they're safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Slowly converting City-owned streetlights to LED bulbs using less energy.
- Doing signal timing studies to keep traffic flowing minimizing the number of stops vehicles have to make.
- Composting and mulching of trees and yard waste.
- GIS System that has all our street signs, streetlights, trees, etc. for less travel and better planning when maintenance is needed in certain areas due to vehicle accidents or general maintenance.
- Using brine before a storm as well as salt metering technology on the trucks to reduce salt output.
- 9 Hybrid Police vehicles have been purchased (electric vehicles are not an option at this time as the vehicles are used 24/7, which does not allow charging time).
- Right-sizing the fleet vehicles for the most efficient needs.

Things Public Works is working towards in the future to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adaptations to climate change:

- Hydrogen fuel as an alternative to large heavy equipment fuel.
- A new Public Works facility to accommodate the following:
 - Electric vehicles (the current building blows fuses on what they currently use, making it inadequate for installing charging stations).
 - Electric lawnmowers and small engine equipment (when the costs become more competitive and again when the street garage building is addressed).
 - Building height limitations (the current building is too low to handle certain vehicles, such as the fire trucks where they're forced to do maintenance work outside).
 - Building garage space (the current building can't house all the heavy equipment, so

they are forced to store some of them outdoors in the elements).

2. Discussion on implementation of City Ordinance 3.57: Identify goals and objectives.

Items 2, 3 and 4 were briefly discussed, and it was concluded that these items would be brought forward at the April meeting.

Ald. Lang **moved**, Heather **seconded**, to postpone items 2, 3 and 4 at the April meeting.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: **All**
Nays: **None**; Motion **Carried**

3. Select a member to act as a Commission Liaison to Green Tier Legacy Communities.

4. Identify potential topics and presentations to the commission to be accomplished in 2025.

It was confirmed that Adam Kuhn, Associate Planner and Zoning Administrator for Community Development, will be giving a presentation at the April Meeting.

5. Next meeting: Staff designee (Adam Kuhn: an overview of Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition, WLGCC) and potential agenda topics.

Closing Section:

1. Adjournment.

Ald. Birr **moved**, Ald. Lang **seconded**, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Call for the Vote: Ayes: **All**
Nays: **None**; Motion **Carried**