

Item 23-0662: Resolution #5-R-23, Joining the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition

Parks and Recreation Committee

Mon, Jun 12, 2023, 6:15PM

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 01:32

There is no public hearing or appearances. So, we'll go to action items 23-0662, resolution 5-R-23 joining the Wisconsin local government Climate Coalition. Do I hear a motion on this?

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 01:47

Move to approve.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 01:49

Do I hear a second?

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 01:50

Second.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 01:51

Motion's been made and seconded to approve this. Any of the authors want to make a comment on this. Kris?

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 01:59

Sure. I sat on the climate task force when I first joined the Council. And the idea that that I was supportive of is the community and government really working together as one team, as opposed to the city having a plan and then the public. And I think that the taskforce did a great job on that.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 02:19

Now with the committee, I think what this recommendation is just to connect us to the other larger communities that are trying to do the best that we can, in following those directions. Anytime we work together, we pool our resources. We could be learning something or finding a way that we can be beneficial to the city on an economic standpoint and an environmental standpoint.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 02:40

So, I support this idea in again, working together across the state to do the best we can to move forward towards the goals that have been set out in terms of climate actions between now and 2050.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 02:53

Any other comments? Aldersperson Hartzheim, I'm going to guess your 13.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 02:59

Correct. Thank you Chair. I have no concerns about pooling resources and working with other communities on things that we want to correct or fix. But I am concerned about some of the verbiage that is included in the resolution. For example, in one of the whereas causes, it says "members recognize that climate change poses severe risks to our communities, and that we cannot avoid the worst effects without effective state policy." I don't believe it's in Appleton's—that we as Appletonians should be necessarily assuming that without state change that we should affect state change, and that our Council should go together to do that. And that—again

that verbiage, while I did a very bad job of explaining how uncomfortable I am with that, that verbiage is concerning to me.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 04:00

And I did take a look at the coalition website as well, and some of the initiatives of the of the coalition are a bit disconcerting to me, and—not, maybe not disconcerting, but maybe not exactly where we as a Council feel Appleton should go. So, I have concerns about fully supporting becoming members of this coalition, not because we can't get the benefits that come from it but because some of the initiatives that are proposed by this coalition may not necessarily align with what we feel is good for Appleton. And I think we do a great job. I think we have staff within the facilities group that are well informed and work very well with many local communities on these same initiatives. So, I think the coalition itself is just what gives me a little bit of hesitance in this regard. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 04:59

Okay. Any other comments, questions? Alderson van Zeeland, what number are you? Five.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 05:10

Thank you, Chair. I'll just add that when I read that line that Alder Hartzheim referenced about "without effective state policy," I guess I didn't read that as being negative toward our state legislature or anything in that regard. I read it as, as a Wisconsin coalition, that that policies together, not necessarily government state policy. So that's just how I read that. I read it differently. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 05:40

Any other comments? Alderson Firkus, what number are you? Four?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 05:48

Thank you, chair. This resolution was an i—was shared with me from a member of the advisory panel on sustainability, and climate resilience. It sounds like it did also come through staff originally. Steve had been involved in drafting the resolution.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:04

The idea of really is just giving us a seat at the table with a coalition as trying to do work that will really well dovetail well, with efforts that we're already doing. As Alder Alfheim had said about being able to pool our resources and share knowledge and transfer information between different communities that are also trying to do some of the same things that we're doing, I think that's really where the strength of this is going to come from—that and the possibility of being able to get access at grant funds.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 06:35

Regardless of maybe some of the higher-level discussions around these topics, at the end of the day, everybody wants to do things cheaper, more efficiently, use less energy, less waste, those are going to—those are things that are going to save our taxpayers tax dollars. We also have to deal with the elements of the of weather, of climate, one way or the other. Whether you believe it's manmade or not, you know, we're still going to get droughts, we're still going to get snow, we're still going to get severe weather, and we want to make sure that our city is resilient to all of those conditions as best as we can. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 07:12

Okay. Alderson, Fenton. You're four again?

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 07:19

Thank you Chair. I'm gonna echo a little bit of what Alder Alfheim said. I served on the original task force since its very beginning. And I was the coauthor of the resolution that created it. And one of the things that we talked about a lot in our report was being proud of what Appleton had already done. And one of the things that we were really proud of was being a green tier legacy commit—community. And we were one of the very first. Were we the very first? We were one of the very first, and we still participate with those communities sharing ideas.

Alderson Denise Fenton (District 6) 08:00

So, I think the local government Climate Coalition—and as I understand it, staff is already participating, even though we're not a member of the coalition, yet. Staff is already participating and working with some of the communities here. And as to the sentence about effective state policy, part of what we're advocating for here is local control, as in some ways state policy prevents us from taking effective measures on our own. Their state policy about ban on bans, their state policy that limits what we can do at the local level. And I think something that's completely free, where we can participate with communities, both big and large, to find ways to work towards solutions to a problem that we're all facing is nothing but a great idea. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 09:01

I'm going to ask a couple questions. You're number one? Director One or District One? One of my questions is what's the difference between this coalition and green tier that we're involved in?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 09:26

Yes, thank you, Chair. I'm glad you asked that question. A green tier has been effective in really networking. And we meet and there's a lot of educational opportunities, but they haven't really got on the forefront of collaborating for grants and resources. And so, when Steve Schrage, our sustainability coordinator had come across this group—and I'm not sure exactly how he sure he did. He reads a lot of materials. One thing he recognized is that they were going through for a lot of grants and a lot of opportunities that would bring resources to the municipalities, but you had to be one of the joint members in order to do that, to benefit from that.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 10:11

And so, he'd been attending some of the meetings online, and kind of watching what they're doing just to assess if it's a value to us. And after about six months, he said, Yeah, I think, you know, this is a value. So, I took that, and I shared that with the mayor. And he said, this would be something good for the, you know, the panel, I suggest the panel. And, you know, that's what, who we're to get our, some of our advice from, and to share that with them. And then we came back, and after discussions, there's a lot of questions—same questions, everybody here has, what is it committed to? Is there an expense? Is there an expense of time from staff? Is, you know, is the juice worth the squeeze type of thing. And so, we ended up coming to the conclusion where Steve felt it was beneficial. And the members that are part of this, or the cities that are part of this, are people that are pretty aggressive, and go out and do some of these things.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:10

And when I say aggressive, there's—that can be construed wrongly, because I think people who know me from the sustainability side will consider me like a conservative sustainable guy. That we're not going to spend \$2 million on a windmill to save \$100,000—you know, \$200,000, to save \$100,000. It has to make financial sense too. So, if it's something where we can sign on and get better pricing for solar panels, great. If it's somebody, I can call over in Eau Claire, and ask them if they got an RFP for electric charging stations. And I can get that from them. It's just another resource to do that. But it's not committing me to do anything.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 11:53

If so if all sudden they sign on to say, hey, we're all committing to be carbon neutral by 2030. And by sign—we don't have to do anything like that. And they don't even approach that type of stuff. That's the one thing we noticed that it wasn't a group that was specifically, you know, driving a lot of those initiatives. It was more about, Hey, are you aware of this federal grant? Are you aware of these dollars that came out? Could we—if we all sign on, we have a better chance of getting that money.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 12:26

And that's not happening presently with green tier?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 12:31

In a couple instances, they brought some things forward. But we haven't capitalized on anything in regards to any grants specifically. Where we benefited from Green Tier is when we did apply for some different grants like the one for the Lawe Street trestle, noting that—because that's the DNR stewardship grant, I believe, I would believe that that benefited us. Because they say when you're, you know, part of—we can stress the sustainability arm of why we needed the multimodal transportation and so forth.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:06

So, I believe it benefits us. It's benefited us on jobs where—like green tier has a little bit of different benefit, like one of the things they say is, say we were tearing down a building. And they would normally come and inspect several times, knowing that we've committed to not—or we've committed to be good stewards of their environment, they don't come and inspect us. They may show up. But from the standpoint of since we joined, we've seen little from them, just because they know we're committed to doing the right thing. So, there's certain benefits from that group. And I think they're, you know, from this group, the different benefits would be our eligibility to be part of a larger group to go after some resources.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 13:52

This is not a state sponsored coalition?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 13:55

No.

Alderman William Siebers (District 1) 13:56

Okay. Okay. Alderman Kris.

Alderman Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 14:00

If I may ask a question. Director Gazza, that was a great summary on the benefits that you guys have been investigated. Are there—do you see any drawbacks to becoming part of this coalition?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 14:12

Yeah, the only drawback would be is, say, say, Steve would attend these meetings and would get no benefit out of them. I think what would happen at that point would be a waste of time. But the point of the matter would be he just wouldn't—we would just not attend the meetings anymore. You know, we just wouldn't—I don't know if we'd have to officially drop back out of it or if we would just not participate. But from what he's seen in the six months—because one of the things when he brought this to me six months ago, I said "No, you just kind of, you know, see if you can attend some of the meetings, see if what value it'll bring." And after several months of attending, he came back. He said, "Yeah, it'll be beneficial to us. Let's do it." He goes.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 14:55

If I may. So just as a follow up, just to have it on record, Appleton has already in place a plan that we are working towards in terms of our environmental efforts.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:07

Right.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 15:08

And every step of that is following, whether it be state guidelines or things the city itself has established. And there's a cost to doing these things. And we have already agreed we're going to do it. So, the concept of this coalition is to help us find resources to allow us to do those.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 15:25

It isn't that we're coming up with new ideas that haven't been brought forward, it's that we all have a set of plans that must take place over the next 30 years, and this coalition is meant to make sure we're aware of every opportunity to gain dollars via grants or whatnot to allow that to happen, correct?

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 15:43

Absolutely.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 15:44

Yeah. So, I think that this is something—again, we're not, we're not trying to go off script and say, Hey, let's go gung-ho on anything. I appreciate Director Gazza's approach to our environmental issues. We understand, we acknowledge, and we balance with what our opportunities are fiscally. And this gives us a way to address some of these issues—perhaps just to stay on track. In some cases, maybe be ahead, but we're not trying to do anything that we aren't already trying to do. We just now may have resources that help accomplish it without hitting the budget of the city.

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 16:16

Yeah, like any projects brought forward would end up being brought forward through a committee of jurisdiction anyway at some point.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 16:23

Thank you chair. May I address Dean? I would like to thank you for the work we've done on this already in kind of watching to see if it would be beneficial over that period of time. That's a lot of commitment to making sure that what we're getting into as a city is beneficial to us. So, I think that this would be a really good thing. And I appreciate your summary and what you do for the city, as well. I've always thought that you truly care about not only what the Council wants to do as far as environmental policies, but from a financial standpoint, you've helped anchor us and achieve more. So

Director Dean Gazza (Parks, Recreation, and Facilities) 17:06

Thank you.

Aldersperson Nate Wolff (District 12) 17:07

Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 17:09

Alderson Hayden.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 17:10

Yeah, I just wanted to echo and kind of expand upon the point that Alder Alfheim was making. And I really do appreciate everything she said there. And I think it's not just giving us resources; it's giving us a seat at the table to direct resources. So, by not—we're not just piggybacking off of what all these communities are already doing. We're going to be there helping them direct where these resources are going and where the state wants to go. So, it gives us a seat at the table when Milwaukee and Madison and Whitefish Bay are talking about all these issues. I think we need to be in that room, and by being outside of it we're falling behind those cities.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 17:46

Alderson van Zeeland, are you?

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 17:53

Thank you, chair. When I spoke before, I was trying to remember why I specifically thought that there was a collaboration with the state. And I didn't scroll down far enough on the mission page. It says it partners with the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy to develop a platform and model resolutions for all local governments. And I think that that's important, because it doesn't look like this is a lobbying group or an activist group. It looks like a group working together and streamlining things with other local governments. And I see this as an opportunity like you would with any consortium. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 18:30

Alderson Hartzheim.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 18:33

Thank you, Chair. Again, I don't have a problem with us necessarily joining the coalition. But can we join this coalition without all of the exact verbiage that is contained in this particular resolution? I see some of it as troubling, and I would like to see whether there was a way to perhaps pair that to what actually makes sense in our neighborhoods and with our constituents.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 18:59

Okay. Anybody else? My only concern right now is what are the parameters in regards to joining a coalition? You know, what's the next coalition we're going to join? What are the rules and guidelines? And I don't know if there are any rules and guidelines at this point in time in terms of that helps us. Because who says that next week there's another coalition about some other manner that you know...? Alderson Wolff, you have an answer?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 19:43

I think—I mean, from what Director Gazza said, he said that there was no real commitment here and that if it wasn't beneficial to us, we could just leave, and like—this one they've watched for about six months. So, we kind of know exactly what we're getting into. Whereas if someone came up next week and said another coalition, but they hadn't watched it for six months, that would be a fair assessment that I would make as well. I just think we've watched this for a really long time, so I think we know what the parameters—I mean, if Director Gazza maybe could explain the parameters some more, but I think we've gotten the image that is just us joining and then if we don't find it beneficial, we can just drop out. That that's what I think the parameters are.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 19:44

I think, Alderson Firkus is going to help me with this.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 20:37

Sure. Thank you, Chair. My thoughts on what maybe could be workable parameters, if we want to put that around coalition building, would be partially does it help the staff do the work of the city, the work of the community? Does the community benefit from it in some way?

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 20:53

And the other step was does the staff have capacity to participate in any given coalition, since any coalition, for whatever cause or reason or effort you want to come up with, is going to require at least some amount of time if we're going to be active participants in a coalition. So, I think those are—those would be a two real good starting point for what we look for if we are trying to set parameters.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 21:17

Okay. Aldersperson Kris.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 21:22

If I can ask—again, sometimes we get to Council and we hear the terms "This is committee work,"—Right?—so I would actually ask Alder Hartzheim it's okay—if it's okay, if we agree with the concept of joining in general, but your want to change the verbiage, what would satisfy that? I would rather talk about it now than waiting until Council. If I understand correctly, you—it's the first paragraph you don't like. Is that correct?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 21:53

Thank you for putting me on the spot.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 21:56

I just, I don't want to get to Monday—er Wednesday and hear we didn't do it in committee. Let's have the conversation.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 22:02

I would have to review the first whereas clause to see whether that has anything that that stands out as egregious to me, but I am concerned about the few last whereas clauses. In fact, the one right before the now therefore be resolved. "Whereas the city of Appleton shares the goals of the Climate Coalition." I don't know whether the city of Appleton exactly shares every single goal of that coalition, and if those, if the goal—if the coalition's goals change, how does Appleton go along with that? Or is that something that will preclude us from, you know, being—will that be a concern for us at the—being involved in that coalition? Just like you said before. So, what are the guidelines for us being in any coalition? And that particular statement strikes me as potentially a problem.

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 22:58

The other one that I did mention was the one that say says something to the effect of "we can't avoid the worst effects of climate change without effective state policy." I don't know that that's true, because Appleton does work very well in working against the negative impact of climate change. So that too me, feels almost like hyperbole to me, and I would prefer that not be there. So, there are some hyperbolic statements that I think could be paired and trimmed, and that would make me feel more like this makes more sense for us to join without joining with all these unknowns. Thank you.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 23:44

City attorney.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 23:46

Seems like it's a good opportunity for a reminder for folks here, the "Now therefore, be it resolved" is the action that's being taken within the resolution. All the whereases are reasons, rationale leading up to that. Something to keep in mind for future resolution writing and taking that into consideration when you're including the whereas clauses, you may have somebody that agrees with the "now therefore," but has some issues with the "whereases", but when it comes down to it, the action falls within the "therefore be it resolved". So just ask that you keep that in mind.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 24:31

Recall there have been times before where this Council has really gotten bogged down in amending portions of whereas clauses to the point where the original authors feel like it no longer is consistent with what they were putting forward. Again, the whereases are there to help kind of shape some of the rationale. Agree, disagree with it. Really focus on the "now therefore" because that's the action that's being asked of staff.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 25:03

And what you're saying is, "we are not necessarily saying that we share the goals, we're not voting on that."

Attorney Christopher Behrens 25:10

That's some of the rationale that the authors have put forward in support of the "now therefore."

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 25:17

And we don't necessarily have to agree with it, but we can still vote for the joining of the coalition.

Attorney Christopher Behrens 25:24

What you agree with and how you vote is your individual decision.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 25:27

If I could continue?

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 25:29

You may.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 25:29

So, I would ask the lead author to—the what I see in hearing what from Alder Hartzheim, it's the first, whereas and the last whereas that you're touchy on language, and yet, the whole thing still works if we take them out. The bottom line is, if we can gain something for the city, by being a member, I support that. And if there's any flare due to whereas one and the last whereas, removing them doesn't change what we're trying to accomplish. So as a coauthor, I'd be happy to do that. I leave that with the lead author to consider that. Thank you.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 26:03

The lead author's Aldersperson Firkus.

Aldersperson Brad Firkus (District 3) 26:08

I think—maybe I look at it from a slightly different angle of how to interpret some of these. I'll start with the last one since I've got this right in front of me, "The city of Appleton shares the goals of the Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition." I think, by joining a coalition to at least at the broadest sense, you're pursuing the same goals. You may not agree on every single task or action that can be taken towards that goal with our

partners in the coalition if we were to join, but you still have a high level, you know, general sense of where you want to go. So, I think you can kind of parse away from—like, we don't need to agree on everything of every member of the coalition as far as what we should be doing and how we should be doing it. But we can still have a general sense of, like, but we need to address this topic.

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 26:55

With the first one. I mean, I get it. It's, you know—"overwhelming threats" is quite a heated line to put in there, but at the same time, when we're talking about how issues like this are tackled, I'm—personally I'm a big proponent of saying like—yeah, a lot of local decisions really do make a big difference, especially because a replicated on so many places at such a—even if it's a small scale, small scale replicated many times is a big impact. But I think it's going to—you know, when we're talking about this issue, we're talking about the need for partnerships at both small and large scales. And I think what this coalition, at least in part, wants to do is try and make sure that the state is a partner with us and not, you know, not have this contentious, you know, us versus them type of mentality. So, I think that's what's really at the heart of this first, whereas is to try and say, "We need a cooperative working relationship more than we need to really be at odds with each other."

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 27:54

Alderson Hayden.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 27:56

Yeah, I'd just like to direct you to some information from the coalition's website. They ask, "Do members have to sign on to all commitments or participate in every action by the coalition?" And it goes on to say, "We understand there may be specific actions that you or your community do not feel comfortable in participating in. We are flexible." And I think that kind of gets to the crux of where we're kind of stuck is they don't seem to make everybody line up and agree to every single thing. But they're willing to work with communities where the goal is don't naturally align.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 28:29

Alderson Hartzheim?

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 28:31

Thank you, Chair. I appreciate that statement from Alderson Hayden. I would love it added into this particular item or resolution. And I would say if we're looking as Attorney Behrens said about the final, therefore be it resolved, if the last three words were eliminated from the therefore be it resolved, I'd be much more comfortable as well. Again, I would prefer some of the hyperbole be gone from the whereas statements, but we can get bogged down in those sorts of things. When, as Attorney Behrens noted, the Now There—Now Therefore, Be It Resolved is the is the crux.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 29:08

Alderson Van Zeeland. I know, you're five.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 29:15

Sorry. I guess I was just looking at it from a standpoint of wanting this to pass and understanding that some people just disagree with some of the language even if it's not actionable, and I might make the suggestion to keep the third Whereas and the Now Therefore, Be It Resolved and call it a day. If we can all agree, you know, what we want is to join and that's what would happen. That would just be my two cents.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 29:47

What would you want to keep? And then

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 29:49

The third "Whereas the city of Appleton advisory panel on sustainability and climate resilience has recommended the city of Appleton join the Wisconsin local government Climate Coalition," and then just pop right down to the "Now therefore be it resolved." And that's just my two cents. Thank you.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 30:08

City attorney. Can we make a motion on the Whereases?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 30:18

This Council has done that before, and it's become problematic in the past with authors, but this legislation is before the body so I'm not going to tell you what you can and can't do to amend it. I'll just restate again, the crux of the action falls in the "Now Therefore" piece.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 30:40

Okay, I'm going to ask—okay, Alderson Croatt. What?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 30:44

Thank you, Chair. I appreciate the discussion on this. And actually, the more I researched this coalition, the more I'm comfortable with Appleton joining it. If you look at the list of membership, it's basically all large cities and some counties in the state of Wisconsin.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 31:01

My concern with joining these coalition's is always what is our commitment? What are we going to have to fund? What are we going to have to do not maybe want to do? I don't really see that with this one, and I'm comfortable with what Director Gazza presented, with what I'm seeing on their website.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 31:18

I personally think that we don't need any of the whereas part of the resolution. We just need to vote on whether or not to join this coalition. And with the understanding of you've done your homework to understand what that means to join the coalition. I am afraid that—and I think Attorney Behrens hit a hit it right the nail right on the head—we sometimes get too bogged down in the defining the part that doesn't matter so much. And—because I always look at resolutions, they'll go right to the bottom and see where the action part is. And then the rest of it can get can make everything complicated.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 31:51

I would recommend that we bring it to Council in a pared down form and advocate for joining this coalition with just the action based on are we going to be a member or not? And just so everybody knows the list of membership is the cities of Baraboo, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Milt—Middleton, Milwaukee, Racine, Stevens Point, Sun Prairie, Wausau, Wauwatosa, McFarland, Whitefish Bay and the counties of Dane, Eau Claire, La Crosse, and Milwaukee. So, it's, there's—it's a big membership. And I think there's value in us joining. Actually, I'm surprised we're not already a member, to be honest, but—so I would advocate for joining this. I just don't want us to get caught up in the whereas language, and I think we can really get rid of all or most of it.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 32:35

So, you are suggesting that we pare it down?

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 32:38

Very much so.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 32:39

Okay. Alderson Wolff?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 32:43

I would like to make an amendment to the resolution.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 32:48

Okay. What would you like to?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 32:50

I would like to remove all of the Whereases.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 32:57

All of them?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 32:58

Yep.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 33:02

Okay, motion has been made to remove all the Whereases. Do I hear a second to that? There's no second. Motion fails. Alderson van Zeeland made a suggestion. Does anybody want to move for that? Alderson Wolff?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 33:27

I would like to make an amendment to the resolution where we get rid of all of the Whereases after the third, whereas. So, starting at, "whereas the state of Wisconsin has a goal of 100% carbon emission electricity by 2050, local governments" down would be eliminated.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 33:44

Second.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 33:45

Okay. Help me again. I didn't—what are you?

Attorney Christopher Behrens 33:50

I need that restated too.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 33:51

What are you? So, what are you keeping?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 33:55

I'm keeping the first whereas, the second whereas, the third, whereas, and then after that whereas I am eliminating that down to the therefore be it resolved.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 34:07

So, you're keeping the first three?

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 34:08

Correct.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 34:10

And I heard a second to that. Okay. Alderson van Zeeland.

Alderson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 34:16

I was just gonna clarify that my suggestion was to only keep the third.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 34:22

Oh.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 34:22

Right. Nice try.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 34:28

But I mean, we can get rid of the next two later. Let's just—

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 34:32

Okay.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 34:33

If we want, we can continue discussion after we get down to three. All right.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 34:37

Motion has been made and seconded to keep the first three and eliminate all the other whereases. All in favor signify by saying aye. All those opposed?

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 34:50

Nay.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 34:52

Chair votes nay. We have a 2-2? And a 2-2 vote it fails. All right. Anybody want to make a motion to suggest to take Katie van Zeeland?

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 35:08

I would like to make that motion.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 35:09

Okay? Could you verbalize it?

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 35:15

I would like to make the motion that we drop the first three whereas.

Aldersperson Katie Van Zeeland (District 5) 35:20

Just keep the...

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 35:21

No, just the two. I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Drop the two for—the two whereases and in the "now therefore be it resolved" drop the last three words "in their efforts." So, the statement would be, "by Common Council, the city of Appleton of the city of Appleton officially joins the Wisconsin local government Climate Coalition" End.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 35:49

City attorney, do you have that? I'm not sure I have that. But.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 35:54

So, we're getting rid of whereas one and two.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 35:57

Okay.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 35:58

Leaving everything else the same Until the Now therefore

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 36:02

No.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 36:03

Okay, then somebody else say it. We're all getting...

Aldersperson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 36:05

They just want to keep the third one.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 36:06

You just want to keep the third one as far as the whereas?

Aldersperson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 36:09

Correct.

Aldersperson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 36:09

All right, so let me be clear. I would like to make a motion that we remove all Whereas with the exception of number three.

Aldersperson William Siebers (District 1) 36:18

And that being "the city of Appleton advisory panel on sustainability and climate resilience has recommended the city of Appleton join Wisconsin local government Climate Coalition."

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 36:28

Correct. And in the "Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved", remove the last three words "in their efforts". Just a period at the end of "Climate Coalition."

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 36:40

Okay. I will second that. Any discussion? Alderson Alfheim?

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 36:49

I'm just gonna say our goal is to pass this. Our goal is to do something good for the city and for our environment, and by removing a few words, if that helps make that happen. Let's get it done.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 37:01

Okay, Alderson Firkus?

Alderson Brad Firkus (District 3) 37:03

I don't think we're ever gonna get the word into this where it's 100% consensus. So, I'm more inclined to agree with Alder Alfheim. As much as I think there are some really meaningful statements made in this, at the end of the day, I do share the same goal that the work gets done.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 37:19

Right. Alder—Alderson Hayden.

Alderson Patrick Hayden (District 7) 37:26

Yeah. While I do agree that it's most important that this gets passed, I feel like Alderson Wolff's amendment kind of fit better. And we were giving up probably about 60 to 70% of the of the language that was out there. And there was nothing changed with the "Now Therefore be it resolved" part. So, I feel like, I feel like it's losing a lot of the meaning behind it with this amendment.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 37:57

Alderson Croatt.

Alderson Sheri Hartzheim (District 13) 37:58

Thank you, Chair. I appreciate the constituents of district 13 being heard. Thank you.

Alderson Chris Croatt (District 14) 37:58

Thank you, Chair. I would encourage you to support this amendment that's on the table. This is the version that I think the Council could get behind unanimously. And I've read some of the recent members that joined, and their councils voted unanimously to join, and I think Apple—it would be neat if Appleton could do the same thing. And I think this version could do that for us. Otherwise, we're just gonna get caught up in all of this committee work at Council. Alderson Hartzheim.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 38:36

Motion has been made and seconded to...

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 38:44

Amend.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 38:45

Pare it down. All in favor, signify by saying aye.

Alderson Kristin Alfheim (District 11) 38:51

Aye.

Alderson Nate Wolff (District 12) 38:54

Aye.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 38:57

Chair votes aye. Aye. All those opposed? One nay. Three to one.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 39:05

All right. Now it's paired down. Now let's vote on the paired down resolution. Okay, all those in favor of the now paired down resolution signify by saying aye. All those opposed? Chair votes aye. Four zero.

Alderson William Siebers (District 1) 39:40

Great. I know it doesn't make everybody happy, but we got the coalition—joining the coalition done.