

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DECEMBER 27, 2017 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANALYZING THE LOCAL IMPACTS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT.**

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2017 the City Council of the City of Eau Claire directed the Sustainability Advisory Committee and staff to provide recommendations on how the City of Eau Claire is meeting the Paris Climate Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Paris Climate Agreement is an international treaty that seeks to stabilize the global climate system by “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels”; and

**WHEREAS**, climate scientists have determined this upper temperature limit to be the best feasible scenario in managing climate change impacts (such as extreme weather events and sea level rise) that threaten public safety, infrastructure, private property and economic prosperity; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 8, 2018 the City Council received recommendations in an executive summary report entitled “Towards a Renewable City”. To assist in meeting the objectives of the Paris Climate Agreement, from a local perspective, carbon neutrality and 100% renewables by 2050 were suggested as essential goals to pursue; and

**WHEREAS**, these recommendations will advance the City’s mission “to assure the common good through services essential for a safe, sustainable, engaged and healthy community”; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommendations are consistent with the City’s The Natural Step Framework 2009 resolution to reduce fossil fuel use, lessen pollutants, decrease damage to the natural environment and to not compromise meeting basic human needs; and

**WHEREAS**, these recommendations align with policy and principles within several adopted plans, including but not limited to, the City’s Strategic Plan 2015-2018 and the City’s Comprehensive Plan Sustainability and Health Chapters; and

**WHEREAS**, these recommendations succeed the City’s 2008 Energy Independence Community (EIC) commitment of 25% renewable electricity and transportation fuels by 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the City envisions a climate and energy planning process that will reflect community values and stakeholder participation to develop low-carbon means to reach these goals. Stakeholders include residents, low-income and minority populations, large and small businesses, local utilities, the educational community, institutions, the building and construction sector, transportation providers, waste companies and many others; and

**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 ratcheting up efforts in the mid and long-term target ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Chamber’s position is “Climate change is a serious challenge that needs to be addressed through thoughtful policies that will have a meaningful impact. The Chamber supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and believes technology and innovation offer the greatest potential to reduce emissions and mitigate the negative impacts of climate change. The best solutions are going to come from the private sector—or the private sector working together with government. Protecting our economy and the environment for future generations are mutually achievable goals. The Chamber has vigorously supported the production and use of renewable energy and we have consistently called for additional funding for renewable and other clean energy technology advancements.”; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin pays an estimated \$14 billion dollars to states with fossil fuel resources and is last in per capita workforce in the clean energy economy compared to other Midwestern states. Pursuing these goals will reduce out-of-state monetary flows, recycle dollars back into the local economy, spur local economic development and create jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2017 community sustainable development survey revealed public support in the city for pursuing aggressive municipal and community goals, and further, demonstrated a willingness to pay slightly more in making the transition.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that it adopts the following sustainability goals:

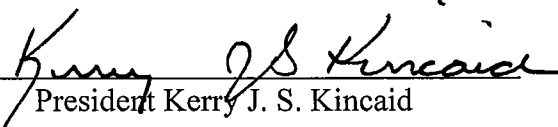
- 1) Achieve municipality and community carbon neutrality by 2050 with incremental drawdown targets of 5% by 2020, 25% by 2030, 30% by 2040 and 40% by 2050.
- 2) Obtain 100% renewable energy by 2050 for the municipality and city.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that a 2015 greenhouse gas baseline will be used to evaluate progress.

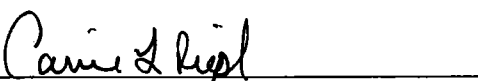
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that the City will undertake planning and action initiatives to assist the municipality and community in achieving these sustainability goals.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire that all purchasing decisions that come before the City Council for approval, which impact our goals of carbon neutrality and renewable energy, shall include a cost benefit analysis and a measurement of the contribution the purchase will have towards reaching our stated goals. Such analysis shall include, at a minimum, the initial purchase cost differential, and if significant the relative operation and maintenance costs of the competing options.

Adopted,  
March 13, 2018

(SEAL)   
President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL)   
City Manager Dale Peters

(ATTESTED)   
City Clerk Carrie L. Riepl