



## WAUWATOSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POLICY STATEMENT

### POWERS OF THE WAUWATOSA COMMON COUNCIL AND MAYOR ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE ELECTORATE

#### ISSUE

Every four years in the spring, the citizens of the City of Wauwatosa go to the polls to elect a Mayor to represent them as their highest locally elected Chief Executive. Additionally, citizens also elect their local alderperson, which make up the Wauwatosa Common Council. The Council is composed of 16 aldermen, two from each of eight districts. They serve four-year terms, with one member from each district up for election every other year.

#### BACKGROUND

##### **Power and Authority of the Common Council Power and City Administrator**

According to the *City of Wauwatosa 2020 Adopted Budget* document: “The Common Council manages and controls city property, finances, highway, and public service; and has the power to act for the government and good order of the city for its commercial benefit and for the health, safety, and welfare of the public. The Common Council may carry out its powers by license, regulation, suppression, borrowing money, tax levy, appropriation, fine, imprisonment, confiscation and other necessary or convenient means.”

Additionally, the City Administrator, who is not an elected official, serves as the chief administrative and operating officer.

##### **Power and Authority of the Mayor**

Also, according to *the City of Wauwatosa 2020 Adopted Budget* document: “The Mayor is elected Chief Executive Officer of the City of Wauwatosa. The Mayor presides over the Common Council, serves as primary spokesperson of the City, and strengthens community relations in support of the City’s Mission and Strategic Plan.”

## WAUWATOSA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE STATEMENT

**City Administrator** -The Wauwatosa Chamber of Commerce believes it is important for the business community and residents alike to understand the responsibilities entrusted to the City Administrator who administrates municipal operations and hires key decision-making staff to the Common Council. The City Administrator is not an elected official and not accountable to taxpayers.

**Wauwatosa Mayor** - The Wauwatosa Mayor is a part-time position and primarily a figure head for the City. Because of this unique positioning, it is important for businesses and citizens to learn the views of candidates running for Mayor and consider the following issues:

- **Bully Pulpit** - Find out how the Mayoral candidates will use the 'bully pulpit' to fight for a pro-business, pro-economic development atmosphere in Wauwatosa and region wide;
- **Pro-Business** Issues- Learn how the Mayoral candidates will be pro-active on behalf of all business issues you care about such as regulation, development, taxes, safety, infrastructure, property taxes and government spending; and
- **Veto Power** - Find out if the Mayoral candidates are willing to use the most powerful tool they have, which is the power of the veto. Will they support you and your business with one of the main leadership tool he or she has as an elected official.

**Important Date** - The Spring General Election is April 7, 2020.

