Resolution #3-R-25: Truancy Ordinance as Amended 9.24.25

Whereas Wisconsin statute § 118.163 allows municipalities to enact an ordinance prohibiting a person under 18 years of age from being habitually truant, and

Whereas the City of Appleton Municipal Code does not currently include an ordinance prohibiting habitual truancy, and

Whereas the Appleton Area School District (AASD) has requested assistance from the City of Appleton to support students who have not responded to school district attempts for resolution of habitually truancy and chronic absenteeism and are not on-pace to graduate,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City of Appleton will enact a truancy ordinance and that said ordinance will adopt and conform to Wis. Stat. §118.163, and

Be It Further Resolved that the ordinance will be put in place for a trial period commencing 01/01/2026 and sun-setting 07/01/2027, unless amended by the City of Appleton Common Council. Throughout this trial period, upon request of the Chairman of the City's Safety & Licensing Committee, the City will conduct periodic reviews of the success of the ordinance in meetings of the City's Safety and Licensing Committee, and

Be It Further Resolved that the City truancy ordinance limit the available dispositions to those defined in State Statute 118.163(2)(b), 118.163(2)(d), 118.163(2)(e), 118.163(2)(g), 118.163(2)(h), and 118.163(2)(j).

Be It Further Resolved that support of this ordinance is dependent on the following which shall be included in the periodic reviews as set forth above:

1) AASD will develop and enforce a policy of internal supports and tools which will be uniformly be applied to all students with truancy and chronic absenteeism issues, and
2) Said policy will include enforcement of this truancy ordinance to be used as a final measure should other supports be unsuccessful with a student, and
3) AASD will provide evidence of the supports that the district has offered to students with attendance issues before any court dispositions for truancy are levied upon a student. These include but are not limited to:
    - Number of truancy citations issued in the past semester
    - Number of truancy citations from prior semesters eventually expunged due to student compliance (include semester original citation was issued for each expunged instance)
    - Number of truancy citation convictions from previous semesters (including the dispositions that were applied)
    - Updated absentee and truancy rate numbers for the previous semester