

**Common Council Minutes  
Tuesday November 18, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025. This meeting was open for attendance in the council chambers as well as virtually.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call indicated the following Alderpersons present: Ald. Davis, Lampe, Berg, Bartz, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzels and Moldenhauer (virtual). City staff present were Fire Chief Tanya Reynen, Police Captain John Caucutt, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Streets Superintendent Stacy Winkelman (virtual), Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Water/Wastewater Director Pete Hartz, Peg Checkai Library Director, Health Director Carol Quest, and City Clerk Megan Dunneisen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING**

Mayor Stocks inquired if there were additions or corrections to minutes of the Common Council meeting held Tuesday, November 4, 2025. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by unanimous voice vote.

**COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT**

No comments were received.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Mayor Stocks opened the public hearing for the 2026 Proposed Budget at 7:04 pm. After waiting for members of the public to comment, and there being none, Ald. Smith made a motion to reduce account 01-55-11-46 (Library Contribution) in the General Fund by \$100,000.00, increase account 01-54-31-60 (Streets Capital Outlay) in the General Fund by \$100,000.00 and reduce account 05-58-11-69 (Annual Streets) in Fund 5 by \$100,000.00, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer. Ald. Lampe made a motion to amend the original motion to have the \$100,000.00 reduction come from the Contingency Fund reducing it to \$126,000.00 from \$226,000.00, instead of account 01-55-11-46 (Library Contribution), seconded by Ald. Bartz and failed by roll call vote: Yes-3 (Lampe, Bartz, Wetzels); No-6 (Berg, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Moldenhauer, Davis); Abstain-0. Original motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-5 (Smith, Arnett, Moldenhauer, Berg, Blanke); No-4 (Wetzels, Davis, Lampe, Bartz); Abstain-0.

Peg Checkai, Library Director; Danielle Bailey, Library employee; John Kaddish of 204 W. Main Street; Barb Weiss of 1118 Riverview Lane; and Barbara Phelps of 119 S. Church Street spoke in opposition to the motion to reduce the library contribution.

There being no further comments Mayor Stocks closed the public hearing at 8:34 pm.

**REPORTS**

*(Complete minutes are open for public inspection in the Finance/Clerk Department.)*

The following reports were received and filed: Housing Authority minutes from September 24, 2025, Licensing Board minutes from October 8, 2025, WMSP Board of Directors minutes from October 21, 2025, Finance Committee minutes from October 27, 2025, Public Safety & Welfare minutes from November 5, 2025, Tourism minutes from November 13, 2025.

**COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Watertown Fire Department September report was presented.

Fire Chief Reynen gave recognition to Greg Wellach with the Fire Department for twenty years. Mayor Stocks gave recognition to Andrew Beyer with Department of Public Works for five years, and Aaron Giles with DPW Wastewater for five years.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ald. Lampe made a motion to reduce accounts 05-58-11-69 Annual Streets and 05-51-71-70 Municipal Building by \$50,000 each, for a total reduction of \$100,000, seconded by Ald. Davis. Ald. Lampe, with the consent of the seconder, requested to withdraw the motion. There being no objections, the motion was withdrawn.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to reduce account 05-51-71-70 Municipal Building by \$100,000.00, seconded by Ald. Davis. The motion failed, due to needing 2/3 vote, by: Yes-5 (Davis, Lampe, Blanke, Arnett, Moldenhauer); No-4 (Berg, Bartz, Smith, Wetzel); Abstain-0.

## **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

Payroll Summary - October 15 through October 28, 2025, Paid Invoices Report - October 2025, Cash and Investments - October 31, 2025, were presented and approved.

Ald. Wetzel made a motion to approve the appointment of Mike Kujawski – serving his first partial term expiring August 1, 2028, replacing Jennifer Walter, to the Watertown Housing Authority, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **LICENSES:**

Ald. Bartz made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor license from JP Watertown Bowl LLC DBA Watertown Bowl North (Bakul Desai, Agent) located at 766 N Church Street for licensing year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 conditioned on passed city inspections and surrender of the current license issued to the premises, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by voice vote with Ald. Blanke abstaining.

Ald. Bartz made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor license from JP Watertown Bowl LLC DBA Watertown Bowl 18 (Bakul Desai, Agent) located at 102 W. Cady Street for licensing year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 conditioned on passed city inspections and surrender of the current license issued to the premises, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by voice vote with Ald. Blanke abstaining.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor license from The Goose & Gander LLC DBA The Goose & Gander (Lydia Sobol, Agent) located at 200 N. Second Street for licensing year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 (FKA Elias Inn) conditioned on a Successor Conditional Use permit being filed and passed city inspections, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor license from CSP Enterprises LLC DBA Bismarck's Main Street Bar (Christopher Paulsen, Agent) located at 103/105 E. Main Street for licensing year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 (FKA Bismarck's Main Street Bar & Grill) conditioned on a Successor Conditional Use permit being filed, EIN letter being submitted, passed city inspections, and surrender of the current license issued to the premises, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **ORDINANCES**

Ord. 25-23 - Amend Section 453-6(B) Acquisition of facilities; rates and charges (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee First Reading). Ald. Arnett moved for adoption of ordinance 25-23 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Berg); Abstain-0.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

*Resolutions below are listed in order of the agenda but may not be the order by which they were taken up at the Council meeting.*

Exh. 9800 - Resolution to enter into the 2026-2027 Service Agreement between the City of Watertown, Wisconsin and the Watertown Humane Society (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9800, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

## **COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT**

No comments were received.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Wetzel, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dunneisen, City Clerk

*DISCLAIMER: These minutes are uncorrected; any corrections will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved. Complete minutes are open for public inspection in the Clerk's Office. Video recording available at Watertown TV's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WatertownTV>*