

**ORDINANCE TO
CREATE SECTION 428-1 RIVERFEST OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN
GENERAL ORDINANCES**

**SPONSOR: ALDERPERSON DANA DAVIS
FROM: PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE COMMITTEE**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. § 428-1 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances is hereby created to read as follows:

§428-1. Riverfest

A. Findings:

- (1) The Common Council recognizes that Watertown Riverfest is a unique and long-standing public event within the City of Watertown, which has for several decades brought substantial benefits to the community which are difficult to quantify.
- (2) The City wishes to partner with Watertown Riverfest Inc. to ensure that Watertown Riverfest continues in operation.

B. Special Event Application: Watertown Riverfest will comply with the requirements of Watertown Ordinance § 428-7 except as those requirements are modified by this Section.

C. Application Date: Watertown Riverfest Inc. shall apply for a special event permit for each year on or before January 5 of each year. The Special Event Permit may be for up to four (4) days, which will include the second (2nd) full weekend in August for each year.

D. Extraordinary Services:

- (1) Watertown Riverfest Inc. shall reach out to department heads that they anticipate needing Extraordinary Services from or that have previously provided Extraordinary Services for Watertown Riverfest on or before April 30th of each year to discuss the Extraordinary Services needed from that department for the year.
- (2) Provided Watertown Riverfest Inc. complies with the requirements of this Section, the City will contribute fifty percent (50%) of the extraordinary costs assessed to Watertown Riverfest Inc. up to a maximum contribution of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) in each year that Watertown Riverfest occurs. Watertown Riverfest Inc. shall be responsible for paying its share of fifty percent (50%) of the extraordinary costs and any extraordinary costs that exceed sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000).

- E. **Illumination:** Illumination of the Riverfest Ground shall be sufficient to light the entire area of the event at the rate of at least five lumens except during fireworks and in areas that are access restricted after dark. Lights will also be able to be restored in public areas during fireworks.
- F. **Noise:** Watertown Riverfest Inc. will seek approval for the following noise standard (to the exclusion of others): Peak sound pressure level shall not consistently and constantly exceed 105 dB ‘A’ weighted at the FOH (front of house) mix position as measured by the venue’s SPL meter. An “Amplified Music Permit” shall be applied for by Watertown Riverfest Inc. Quiet hours shall be 11 pm to 5 am. Notwithstanding any provision, to the contrary, Watertown Riverfest Inc. shall be permitted to operate at full volume from 8am (to support sound checks and the carnival) to 11pm each day of the festival.
- G. **Open Containers:** Watertown Riverfest Inc. shall establish its open container boundaries with prominent signs and Watertown Auxiliary Police or Watertown Police officers at all street and sidewalk entrances. Personnel shall observe and prevent attendees from bringing alcohol on premises and removing open containers from premises. Open containers may only be carried and consumed by people wearing a festival-specific wristband provided by a festival agent who previously performed an age check at the festival using an appropriate ID. Service of open containers will only be permitted within boundaries defined by fences and signs.
- H. **Dispensing Fermented Malt Beverages / Wine:** Watertown Riverfest Inc. (or its duly licensed vendors) shall be allowed to dispense to any person up to four (4) fermented malt beverages and/or wine at a time for removal from the event licensed premises, and no person shall remove at one time more than four (4) such fermented malt beverages and/or wine from the event licensed premises. Fermented malt beverages/wine may only be dispensed to people wearing a festival-specific wristband provided by a festival agent who previously performed an age check at the festival using an appropriate ID.
- I. **Alcoholic Beverage Protocol:** Watertown Riverfest Inc. shall use cups of consistent appearance to serve alcoholic beverages. These may or may not have the logo of the festival, sponsor or vendor on them, but will be markedly dissimilar in appearance from any cup or container used to serve non-alcohol beverages at the festival.
- J. **Riverfest Grounds:** The City will not rent the Riverfest Grounds at Riverside Park to any other organization or individual from the Monday before to the Monday after the second (2nd) full weekend in August. The City shall provide rent-free use of said Riverfest Grounds and structures and fixtures on the grounds to Watertown Riverfest Inc.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force the day after its passage and publication.

<i>DATE:</i>	<i>August 19, 2025</i>		<i>Sept. 2, 2025</i>	
<i>READING:</i>	<i>1ST</i>		<i>2ND</i>	
	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>YES</i>	<i>NO</i>
DAVIS				
LAMPE				
BERG				
BARTZ				
BLANKE				
SMITH				
ARNETT				
WETZEL				
MOLDENHAUER				
MAYOR STOCKS				
<i>TOTAL</i>				

ADOPTED September 2, 2025

CITY CLERK

APPROVED September 2, 2025

MAYOR