Common Council Minutes
Monday November 2, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:06 p.m. on Tuesday, November 2, 2026. This meeting was open for attendance in the Watertown Municipal Building at 106 Jones Street.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Alderpersons present: Ald. Davis, Lampe, Berg, Nitecki, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Haase, and Moldenhauer. City staff present were Police Chief David Brower, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Streets Superintendent Stacy Winkelman, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Assistant Engineer Nathan Williams, Park and Rec Director Ryan Schmidt, Economic Development Coordinator Deb Sybell, 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, October 20, 2026. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to move New Business closed session and action to immediately follow the second public comment section, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Stacy Estudillo of 1002 E Main Street spoke opposing flock, housing, and the 2027 proposed budget. Richard Evans of 608 S. 8th Street, Susan Choinski of 512 S. 8th Street, Michael Choinski of 512 S. 8th Street, and Rob Lund of 210 S. 8th Street spoke opposing one-way streets. Laurie Hoffmann of 1009N. 2nd Street spoke on affordable housing/zoning.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Finance Committee 2027 Budget Minutes from October 6-19, 2026, Police and Fire Commission minutes from October 12, 2026, Public Works Commission minutes from October 13, 2026, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from October 19, 2026, Senior Center Advisory Board minutes from October 20, 2026, RDA minutes from October 21, 2026, Public Works minutes from October 26, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Department: September 2026 Monthly Data Report was presented. Chief Brower gave a Flock presentation follow up.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to move New Business closed session items and action to after comments and suggestions from citizens present at the end of the agenda, second by Ald. and carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

2027 Budget Proposal.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to decrease account 01-57-11-44 (Oak Hill Cemetery) by $10,000 and increase account 01-55-11-46 (Library Contribution), seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Haase); Abstain-0.

Ald. Berg made a motion to increase account 01-51-31-50 (Economic Development, ThrivEd) by $14,792 and decrease account 01-51-81-56 (Contingency) by $14,792, seconded by Ald. Lampe and failed and by roll call vote: Yes-3 (Berg, Blanke, Lampe); No-6 (Davis, Nitecki, Smith, Arnett, Haase, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0.

Ald. Davis made a motion to decrease account 01-52-11-20 (Police Department Maintenance) by $36,000 and increase account 01-51-81-56 (Contingency) by $36,000, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and failed by roll call vote: Yes-2 (Davis, Nitecki); No-7(Lampe, Berg, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Haase, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0.

Ald. Davis made a motion to decrease account 05-58-11-69 (Streets Capital) by $557,000, seconded by Ald. Berg. During discussion Ald. Berg called the question, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0. Budget motion failed by roll call vote: Yes-1(Davis); No-8; Abstain-0.

Ald. Arnett made a motion to convene into closed session per §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved (Claim of K. Albrecht), seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Arnett made a motion to reconvene into open session, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Smith made a motion to deny the claim of K. Albrecht, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - September 30 through October 13, 2026, and Cash and Investments - September 30, 2026, were presented.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 26-29 - Amend Section 253-23 Fire Protection Systems of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety and Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 26-29 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-30 - Amend sections 446-20(B)(3), 446-20 (C)(3), 446-20(D), 446-21(A), 446-28, and 446-29 of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 26-30 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-31 - Amend a portion of Section 500-5, One-way streets and alleys, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 26-31 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-32 - Amend a portion of Section 500-5, One-way streets and alleys, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-32 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and failed by roll call vote: Yes-4 (Davis, Lampe, Blanke, Arnett); No-5 (Berg, Nitecki, Smith, Haase, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-33 - Create a portion of Section 500-3(B), Stop Intersections, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second

Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 26-33 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-34 - Create a portion of Section 500-3(B), Stop Intersections, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 26-34 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Davis and failed by roll call vote: Yes-0; No-9; Abstain-0.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to move resolution 9904 to be discussed at this time, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ord. 26-35 - Amend Section 500-9(A) Parking prohibited in specified places, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 26-35 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-36 - Create a Portion of Section 500-3(B) Stop Intersections of Chapter 500 Traffic Code (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-36 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-37 - Amend Chapter 453, Article I Stormwater Management Utility of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission, First Reading). Ald. Arnett moved for adoption of ordinance 26-37 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; 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. 9901 - Resolution to Close Fund 8 (TID #4) (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Smith moved to adopt resolution 9901, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9902 - Resolution to Close Fund #12 (Riverfest) (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9902, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9903 - Resolution for EMS Billing Company Contract (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Smith moved to adopt resolution 9903, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9904 - Resolution to approve Tax Incremental District No. 10 (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9904, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-2 (Arnett, Haase); 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. Blanke moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Haase, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 10:20 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