THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2026, AT 5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 106 JONES STREET, WATERTOWN, WI 53094

Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Arnett, Moldenhauer, Smith

Others present: Mark Stevens, Ali Panalogoulos, Peter Hartz, Tanya Reynen (video), Stacey Winkelman (video), Samantha Rovik (video) [Paramedic Billing Service]

1. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.
2. Ald. Smith moved, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, to approve the **minutes from the October 6-19 budget** meetings. Unanimously approved.
3. The fire department administration presented a recommendation to **contract with Paramedic Billing Services, Inc for EMS billing** as of January 1, 2027 for five years. The transition represents an opportunity to improve serve to the residents, strengthen billing operations, and reduce the fees from 6.9% to 4.5%. Ald. Arnett moved, seconded by Ald. Smith, to approve entering an agreement with this firm. Unanimously approved.
4. **Water Systems** Manager Hartz presented recommended **changes to a few positions** based upon a McGrath Consulting review:
    a. Retitle two employees from Utility Technician II to Utility Technician III at G/S 140-F retroactive to January 1, 2026 with appropriate pay adjustment.
    b. Retitle one employee from Systems Operator II to Systems Operator I at G/S 135-I effective January 1, 2026 with appropriate pay adjustment, correcting an initial placement error.
    c. Retitle one employee from Utility Technician I to Utility Technician II at G/S 135-A effective with the October 14 pay period.

    A motion was made by Ald. Arnett, supported by Ald. Moldenhauer, and unanimously approved.
5. Mayor Stocks requested approval to initiate the **recruitment for the position of an IT Help Desk Technician position** that has been included in the 2027 budget request. If someone is offered a position, the request is to have this person begin working for approximately four weeks in 2026 to allow for overlap with the shared Jefferson Co IT employee that will not be working for Watertown in 2027. Ald. Arnett made the motion, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, to allow the recruitment efforts to begin for a potential late November start date with the costs to be allocated from the Contingency Fund if the hiring takes place. Unanimously approved.
6. Ald. Arnett moved, supported by Ald. Moldenhauer, to convene into **closed session** per §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rending 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**). Unanimously approved via roll call vote.
7. After reconvening into open session, Ald. Smith, seconded by Ald. Arnett, moved to recommend the disallowance of the **claim of K. Albrecht** to Common Council. Approved unanimously.
8. Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adjourn the Finance Committee at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Ald. Smith, and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.