

**RESOLUTION DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY IN RESPONSE  
TO SEVERE STORMS AND FLOODING APRIL 14-17, 2026**

**SPONSOR: MAYOR STOCKS**

**WHEREAS**, between April 14, 2026 and April 17, 2026, the City of Watertown experienced significant spring storms with hail, high winds and rainfall events including an approximately 50-year rain event, which saturated the ground, raised the Rock River levels and produced widespread flooding throughout the community; and

**WHEREAS**, rainfall totals for the series of rain events for this time period totaled approximately 5.5 inches overwhelming stormwater systems, damaging public infrastructure and private property, disrupting transportation corridors, and interfering with essential services, creating conditions dangerous to the health, safety, and welfare of City residents; and

**WHEREAS**, response to the storm and flooding has required significant emergency measures, including debris management, protective actions, and the coordinated efforts of City staff, first responders and County emergency management; and

**WHEREAS**, because of such emergency conditions, the Common Council was unable to meet with promptness; and

**WHEREAS**, Wis. Stat. Secs. 323.11 and 323.14(4)(b) empower the City to declare and ratify a state of emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the formal declaration of a “State of Emergency” facilitates the mobilization of emergency resources, expedites the procurement of equipment and services, and preserves the City’s eligibility for state and federal disaster assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN:** A “State of Emergency” is hereby declared for the entire City of Watertown, retroactive to April 14, 2026, in direct response to the hail, high winds, severe flooding and resulting damages from these storms; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this “State of Emergency” shall remain in effect until such time that the conditions warranting the emergency have subsided and recovery operations are complete, as determined by the Mayor or Common Council; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor, City staff, and their designees are authorized to take all necessary actions to protect life, property, and public infrastructure, including the expenditure of funds, the procurement of equipment and services, and the implementation of emergency protective measures.

That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and adoption.

	YES	NO
DAVIS		
LAMPE		
BERG		
NITECKI		
BLANKE		
SMITH		
ARNETT		
HAASE		
MOLDENHAUER		
MAYOR STOCKS		
TOTAL		

ADOPTED May 5, 2026

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CITY CLERK

APPROVED May 5, 2026

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MAYOR