



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

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

Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Berg, Davis, Lampe, and Smith

Others present: Finance Director Stevens, Attorney Panagopoulos, Fire Chief Reynen, Alder Arnett (video)

1. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.
2. Ald. Smith made a motion to alter the order of the agenda to move review and action on the MOU with Watertown Main Street Program until after the closed session discussion (IGA with JCEDC). The motion was seconded by Ald. Berg. The motion did not pass (2-3).
3. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to approve the **Finance Committee minutes from December 8, 2025**; unanimously approved.
4. Public comments were provided by Deb Reinbold [President, Thrive] (read testimonial from Rebecca Houseman, City Manager of Fort Atkinson) and Michael Luckey [County Administrator, Jefferson Co] to support the value of the Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium (JCEDC) to the City of Watertown.
5. Fire Chief Reynen presented her recommendation to **hire Don Dishnow as Deputy Chief- Fire Marshal** at Grade/Step 175A. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to approve the request. Unanimously approved.
6. A **tentative agreement** between the **City and The Watertown Police Association** was presented. The union ratified its agreement earlier in the day. Ald. Davis moved to recommend approval by the Council, seconded by Ald. Lampe, and unanimously approved.
7. A memo of understanding between the **City and Watertown Main Street Program** (WMSP) was presented. Ald. Smith moved to approve the MOU, seconded by Ald. Berg. Discussion followed regarding added responsibilities and financial support. Ald. Smith then moved to amend the MOU to increase annual support to \$35,000, with quarterly payments of \$8,750 for operations. The amendment was seconded by Ald. Berg. The motion to amend failed (2-3). The original motion to approve the MOU was then voted on and passed unanimously.
8. Mr. Stevens presented a **preliminary Fund 01 income statement through December 31**, providing verbal explanation of outstanding journal entries. Including approximations for accounts receivable and payable not yet posted, he estimated that 2025's net decrease will be about <\$315,000>.
9. A closed session was scheduled on the agenda to discuss the intergovernmental agreement between the City and the JCEDC. Ald. Davis questioned whether a closed session was warranted. Ald. Lampe moved to enter a closed session, supported by Ald. Berg, but the motion failed (2-3).
10. Mayor Stocks provided a memo that laid out a review of the history of the **JCEDC**, participating communities, membership costs, and contemplation for withdrawing from the organization. In addition, the intergovernmental agreement (2022), article on Dodge County's departure from ThriveED, and the 2024 JCEDC annual report were provided. Ald. Smith made a motion to withdraw from JCEDC, but no second was offered. Further discussion ensued, including the necessity to provide a six-month advance notice if the decision to withdraw was made. Ald. Lampe moved, supported by Ald. Davis, to empower the mayor to engage with Thrive to outline the specific

benefits for Watertown, extending beyond just one year, and to report back to Finance Committee by the beginning of Qtr 2. The desire of the committee is to understand the return on investment. This motion was approved 4-1.

11. Finance Committee adjournment. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to adjourn the Finance Committee at 7:12 p.m., and 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.