

Common Council Minutes
Tuesday July 1, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 1, 2025. This meeting was open for attendance in the council chambers as well as virtually.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Alderpersons present: Ald. Davis, Lampe, Berg, Bartz, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel and Moldenhauer. City staff present were City Attorney Steven T. Chesebro, Fire Chief Tanya Reynen (virtual), Assistant Police Chief Ben Olson, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Park and Rec Director Kristine Butteris, Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives Manager Mason Becker, 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, June 17, 2025. There being none, Ald. Arnett moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Jeremy Schmidt of 1011 Meadow Street, Jenifer Hedrick of 915 Garfield Street, Barb Wiess of 1118 Riverview Lane, Elizabeth Fritz of 112 N Maple Street, and William Reichertz of N7886 Coffee Road spoke about warming shelters.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Transit minutes from April 30, 2025, Public Works minutes from May 27, 2025, Site Plan Review minutes from June 9, 2025, Finance Committee minutes from June 10, 2025, Town Square Programming Commission Minutes from June 18, 2025, Site Plan Review minutes from June 23, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Economic Development and Strategic Initiatives Manager Mason Becker gave an Economic Development Update.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Wetzel moved to approve the committee appointments for Melissa Lampe – serving second term expiring June 30, 2026 on Tourism Commission and Sarah Oudenhoven – serving second term expiring June 30, 2028, Erin O'Neill – serving second term expiring June 30, 2028, and Jarred Burke – serving second term as the WUSD representative expiring June 30, 2028 to the Library Board, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0. (Ald. Lampe recused himself from discussion and voting).

Park and Rec Director Kristine Butteris and Jodi Reider with HKGI gave an overview of the amended Parks and Open Space Plan.

Ald. Berg made a motion for the Riverside Park restrooms to be open and available for 2025 Riverfest, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer. During discussion Ald. Berg made a motion to call the question, motion failed by roll call vote: Yes-2 (Berg, Bartz); No-6 (Davis, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0. Ald. Smith made a motion to amend the original motion to include the understanding that the Riverfest Agreement with cost sharing up to \$60,000 will continue as normal if cost are within that scope but if the total expenditures go over \$60,000 then the city will fund any cost overages that relate to the use of the restroom during the event, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0 (Ald. Lampe recused himself from discussion and voting).

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - May 28 through June 10, 2025 was presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Berg moved to approve the application for a Temporary "Class B" Wine and Temporary Class "B" Beer License for the July 4th Celebration event on July 3 and July 4, 2025 sponsored by American Legion Pitterle-Beaudoin Post 189 during the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. for location at Riverside Park, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 25-18 - Amend Chapter 545: Subdivision of Land, through the amendments of language to Sections §545-14A(5), §545-42C(5), § 545-42C(7), §545-50, AND §545-15 (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, First Reading). Ald. Bartz moved for adoption of ordinance 25-18 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-19 - Amend Chapter 550: Zoning Code through the amendment of language to Section §550-150 (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, First Reading). Ald. Berg moved for adoption of ordinance 25-19 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke 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. 9759 - Resolution to approve WisDOT MOU for Opticom use (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9759, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9760 - Resolution to Adopt the Amendments to the Municipal Bond Deposit Schedule (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 6760, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9761 - Resolution to Amend TID #8 (Fund 23) Budget (Sponsor Mayor Stocks, Finance Committee). Ald. Bartz moved to adopt resolution 9761, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9762 - Amend TID 7 Budget (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9762, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1 (Smith).

Exh. 9763 - Resolution to award S. Church Street Shared-use Path Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant Design Project to R.H. Batterman & Company, Inc. for \$228,039.00 (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9763, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9764 - Resolution to Approve Counteroffer on Offer to Purchase City-Owned Property (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9764, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1 (Smith).

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Rev. Dr. Christopher Ross of 432 W Clover Cottage Grove, Jeremy Schmidt of 1011 Meadow Street, and Mary Edstrom of 208 William Street spoke about warming shelters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Berg moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Davis, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 9:14 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>*