THE CITY OF WATERTOWN

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2026, AT 5:30 PM

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

Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Arnett, Blanke, Moldenhauer (video), Smith

Others present: Mark Stevens, Ali Panalogoulos, Tanya Reynen, Alyssa Cahoon, Lisa Schwartz, a number of fire fighters

1. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.
2. Ald. Blanke moved, seconded by Ald. Arnett, to approve the **minutes from the September 14** meeting. Unanimously approved.
3. Public Comment: Firefighter Alex Braunschweig, Local 877 union president, relayed his appreciation to city staff for the process of negotiating the renewal of the bargaining agreement.
4. Mr. Stevens summarized the option to transition to a **self-insured dental insurance** program as of January 1. Ald. Blanke, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, made a motion to authorize the creation of a new accounting dental self-insurance fund, approve the transition of the dental plan to a self-insured model effective January 1, 2027, adopt the monthly funding rates of $36.50 (single) and $113 (family), and to continue to utilize the Delta Dental network with an administrative fee of $5 per family unit per month. Unanimously approved.
5. Mr. Stevens reviewed the renewal options for our **Dean group health insurance** plan. A transition from the current multi-tier HMO plan to an HMO without tiered co-pays would be a savings of approximately $188,000 (4% increase over current premium prices) instead of renewing the current plan (an increase of 9%). A motion was made by Ald. Arnett, supported by Ald. Smith, to authorize the Dean renewal with Plan 1-4 which maintains the existing deductible levels but removes the Dean clinic discounted copays and apply the same copay adjustments to the POS plan 2-4 so plan design changes are consistent across both the HMO and POS offerings. Unanimously approved.

   Our broker is recommending that the city offer a **high-deductible health plan** (HDHP) as an additional health plan option for employees who anticipate lower medical utilization and prefer a plan with lower monthly premiums. More review is needed before a recommendation is made. Ald. Smith, seconded by Ald. Arnett, authorized Finance and HR staff to further analyze and develop an HDHP offering for the 2027 plan year with a recommendation to be presented at a future meeting. Unanimously approved.
6. Ald. Moldenhauer motioned that all three closed sessions be reviewed within one closed session. This motion was seconded by Ald. Arnett and unanimously approved.
7. Ald. Arnett moved, supported by Ald. Blanke, to convene into **closed session** per §19.85(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 Milbrath**; **claim of Klempen**) and per §19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (**Fire union collective bargaining agreement negotiations**). Unanimously approved via roll call vote.

8. After reconvening into open session, Ald. Arnett, seconded by Ald. Blanke, moved to deny the **claim of Milbrath**. Approved 4-0 with abstention by Stocks.
9. Ald. Arnett moved to deny the **claim of Klempen**, supported by Ald. Smith, and unanimously approved.
10. Ald. Arnett moved to adjourn the Finance Committee at 7:03 p.m., seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and the motion was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director

Addition to minutes of August 24, 2026 at request of Ald. Berg:
Public Comment: Ald Berg voiced his concern that any renovations to City Hall do not take away the possibility of a second fire station at the 106 Jones St location.

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