

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

August 5, 2026

5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
• Dana Davis, Chair • Rita Haase • Jonathan Lampe – <i>virtual</i> • Brad Blanke – <i>not present</i>	• Chief Brower • Andrew Beyer • Nathan Williams • Stacy Winkleman • Gina Nitecki • Ritchie Piltz	• Michael Kujawki • Brenda Kujawski • Ray Bezanson • Jen Bezanson • Tera Pilak • Ian Pilak • Dick Evans • Rob Lund • Tom Van Hecke • Mark Kuehl

2. RECEIVE COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Each individual who would like to address the Committee will be permitted up to three minutes for their comments

- The following community members voiced opposition to the conversion of 8th Street from one-way to two-way.
 - Tera Pilak – Concerns about safety, difficulty for delivery services and emergency vehicles if the road is converted to two-way.
 - Tom Van Hecke – Wondered why it was a problem that the street is one-way.
 - Dick Evans – It's always been a one-way street. Said there is already difficulty with cars speeding down the street and semi trucks travelling on the street.
 - Mark Kuehl – The street is old and narrow. It's working fine as is.
 - Rob Lund – Lived on the street for 42 years. Converting to two-way will increase traffic, increase noise, increase the number of vehicles travelling down the street and reduce property values.
 - Ian Pilak – Has the city looked into speed mitigation for the street.
- Ray Bezanson – Says 8th Street is a narrow street for two-way. He pastors a church on the street. He thinks that converting to two-way may make it easier for people to find the church.
- Michael Kujawki – Concerns about speeding on Oakwood. Interested in the possibility of dropping the speed limit or installing new stop signs.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Public Safety & Welfare minutes from July 1, 2026

- [Public Safety Meeting Notes 7-1-26.pdf](#) (0.04 MB)

MOTION: Approve the PS&W minutes from July 1, 2026. (Haase/Davis/Unanimous Approval)

4. BUSINESS

MOTION: Motion to amend the agenda to move items D and E to the top of the Agenda.
(Haase/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

D. Review and take possible action: Oakwood Lane Traffic Study

- [MEMO Oakwood Lane Traffic Study.pdf \(0.58 MB\)](#)
- [Oakwood Lane Site Map.pdf \(0.91 MB\)](#)

DISCUSSION: The Engineering team explained the options for Oakwood (see memo).

MOTION: Approve a stop sign study at Oakwood and Cobblestone performed by engineering interns – Summer 2027. (Haase/Lampe/Unanimous)

E. Review and take possible action: Eighth Street Two-way Conversion

- a. [MEMO Eighth Street Two-Way Conversion.pdf \(0.56 MB\)](#)
- b. [S Eighth Street Conversion Plan.pdf \(2.15 MB\)](#)
- c. [Street Conversion Notice to Residents-S Eighth Street.pdf \(0.18 MB\)](#)

DISCUSSION: The Engineering Dept. explained the history of 8th Street. There are records dating back to the 1970's. In January 2025, the one-way street network was evaluated. The report was presented in a Committee of the Whole meeting and was well received. The report recommended further evaluation of each street, the development of a conversion plan with scope of work and stakeholder engagement.

8th Street, between Market Street and Western Avenue, is at least 27 feet wide face-of-curb to face-of-curb (FOC to FOC), and has parking allowed only on the west side of the street. Upon conversion to two-way traffic, this existing parking restriction will allow for adequate two-way operation. The new street cross-section would have two 10-foot-wide travel lanes and a 7-foot-wide parking lane on the west side of the street. As a point of comparison, 9th street was recently converted to two-way. The travel lanes on 9th street are 9 feet wide.

There is currently no plan in place to widen 8th street. So, there will be no impact to the boulevard or trees. All that would be needed to convert the street from one-way to two-way is removal and placement of signs.

MOTION #1: Convert 8th Street from one-way to two-way from Main to Western as soon as practicable. (Aye – Davis,Lampe; Nay – Haase)

MOTION #2: Rescind the previous motion to convert 8th Street from Main to Western.
(Davis/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

MOTION #3: Convert 8th Street from one-way to two-way from Market to Western within the month of May 2027 and no later than May 31, 2027. (Aye – Lampe, Davis; Nay – Haase)

MOTION #4: Convert 8th Street from one-way to two-way from Main to Market as soon as practicable. (Aye - Davis,Lampe; Nay – Haase)

A. Review and take action: Special Event - Watertown Autofest

- a. [MEMO WATERTOWN AUTOFEST.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- b. [2026-20 APPLICATION.pdf](#) (1.52 MB)
- c. [2026-20 MAP.pdf](#) (1.16 MB)

MOTION: Approve the Watertown Autofest from Watertown Humane Society on August 9, 2026 with the following stipulations:

Boundaries. Watertown Humane Society shall establish its open container boundaries with prominent signs. Personnel shall observe and prevent attendees from bringing alcohol on premises and removing open containers from the premises.

Wristbands. Open containers may only be carried and consumed by people wearing an event-specific wristband provided by a Watertown Humane Society agent who previously performed an age check at the event using an appropriate ID.

Service. Service of open containers will only be permitted within boundaries defined by fences and signs.

Alcoholic beverage protocol. The Watertown Humane Society shall use cups of consistent appearance to serve alcoholic beverages. Per Watertown code 220-3F, malt beverage cup sizes are limited to 12 ounces and wine cup sizes are limited to 6.5 ounces. The cups may or may not have the logo of the event, sponsor or vendor on them, but will be markedly dissimilar in appearance from any cup or container used to serve non-alcohol beverages at the event. (Davis/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

B. Review and take action: Special Event - MCL Annual Fundraiser

- a. [MEMO MCL ANNUAL FUNDRAISER.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- b. [2026-21 APPLICATION Redacted.pdf](#) (1.37 MB)
- c. [2026-21 MAP.pdf](#) (1.10 MB)

MOTION: Approve the MCL Annual Fundraiser from Bartelme-Schwefel Detachment on August 22, 2026, with the following stipulations.

Boundaries. Bartelme-Schwefel Detachment shall establish its open container boundaries with prominent signs. Personnel shall observe and prevent attendees from bringing alcohol on premises and removing open containers from the premises.

Wristbands. Open containers may only be carried and consumed by people wearing an event-specific wristband provided by a Bartelme-Schwefel Detachment agent who previously performed an age check at the event using an appropriate ID.

Service. Service of open containers will only be permitted within boundaries defined by fences and signs.

Alcoholic beverage protocol. The Bartelme-Schwefel Detachment shall use cups of consistent appearance to serve alcoholic beverages. Per Watertown code 220-3F, malt beverage cup sizes are limited to 12 ounces and wine cup sizes are limited to 6.5 ounces. The cups may or may not have the logo of the event, sponsor or vendor on them, but will be markedly dissimilar in appearance from any cup or container used to serve non-alcohol beverages at the event.

(Davis/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

C. Review and discuss: Private fireworks incident reports from Police Department and Fire Department

- a. [PS&W memo fireworks 071426 -DB.pdf](#) (0.22 MB)
- b. [WFD Fireworks Memo PSW 2026 TR.pdf](#) (0.08 MB)

For discussion only.

- 5. ADJOURN** – Being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Haase and seconded by Davis to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:35 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.