

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

August 26, 2026

5:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
• Dana Davis, Chair • Rita Haase • Jonathan Lampe • Brad Blanke	• Chief Brower • Andrew Beyer • Nathan Williams	• Ian Pilak • Marcia Seelman • Josh Mueller • Meredith Degner

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

- Ian Pilak – Consider switching the parking on 8th street from the west side to the east side when the road is converted from one-way to two-way to accommodate church parking.
- Marcia Seelman – Parking concerns 7th and Main during 2028 reconstruction.
- Pastor Ray Bezanson – Concerns about church parking when 8th street is converted from one-way to two-way.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Review and take action: Minutes from August 5, 2026
[08.05.2026 Public Safety Minutes.pdf](#) (0.26 MB)

MOTION: Approve the PS&W minutes from August 5, 2026.
(Lampe/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

4. BUSINESS

MOTION: Amend the agenda to move H. to the bottom of the Agenda.
(Davis/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

- A. Review and take action: Special Event - Wine Walk
- a. [MEMO WINE WALK.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
 - b. [2026-23 APPLICATION_Redacted.pdf](#) (1.12 MB)
 - c. [2026-23 MAP.pdf](#) (0.73 MB)

MOTION: Approve the Special Event – Wine Walk (Blanke/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

- B. Review and take action: Special Event - Celebrating Warming Shelter
- a. [MEMO CELEBRATING WARMING SHELTER.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
 - b. [2026-25 APPLICATION_Redacted.pdf](#) (1.30 MB)

- c. [2026-25 MAP.pdf](#) (1.18 MB)

MOTION: Approve Special Event – Celebrating Warming Shelter from Building a Welcoming Watertown (Blanke/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

C. Review and take action: Special Event - Freedom Ride

- a. [MEMO FREEDOM RIDE.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- b. [2026-27 APPLICATION_Redacted.pdf](#) (1.25 MB)
- c. [2026-27 FULL ROUTE MAP.pdf](#) (2.61 MB)

MOTION: The Freedom Ride from B-Cause We Care, does not meet the parameters of “Special Event” as defined in 428-7. (Davis/Blanke/Unanimous Approval)

- Does not interfere with the normal flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic or the normal lawful use of public property.
- No exclusive use of all or part of the City-owned facilities, buildings, parks, etc.
- Not held in a public building or public park
- Will not close a public street, alley, etc.
- Will not require extraordinary services by any City Department

D. Review and take action: Special Event - Calvary Concert on the Square

- a. [MEMO CALVARY CONCERT ON THE SQUARE.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- b. [2026-24 APPLICATION.pdf](#) (1.47 MB)
- c. [2026-24 MAP.pdf](#) (0.90 MB)

MOTION: Approve Calvary Concert on the Square (Lampe/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

E. Review and take action: Special Event - WUSD Homecoming Parade

- a. [MEMO WUSD HOMECOMING PARADE.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- b. [2026-22 APPLICATION_Redacted.pdf](#) (1.30 MB)
- c. [2026-22 MAP.pdf](#) (0.38 MB)

MOTION: Approve Homecoming Parade from Watertown High School (Lampe/Blanke/Unanimous Approval)

F. Review and take action: Special Event - Run Turkey Run

- a. [MEMO RUN TURKEY RUN.pdf](#) (0.05 MB)
- b. [2026-26 APPLICATION_Redacted.pdf](#) (1.22 MB)
- c. [2026-26 MAP.pdf](#) (0.32 MB)

MOTION: Approve Run Turkey Run with the stipulation that the organization needs to submit an updated certificate of insurance (COI) ten days prior to the event. (Blanke/Lampe/Unanimous Approval)

G. Review and take action: TDORA - Blocktoberfest

- a. [2026 BLOCKTOBERFEST TDORA APP.pdf](#) (1.86 MB)
- b. [BLOCKTOBERFEST COMPLIANCE INFORMATION EMAIL.pdf](#) (0.07 MB)
- c. [Blocktoberfest 2026 TDORA Event Area.pdf](#) (0.97 MB)
- d. [Blocktoberfest 2026 Tenant Access and Alternate Parking.pdf](#) (0.65 MB)
- e. [TDORA Cup Identifier Local Waters.pdf](#) (0.43 MB)
- f. [TDORA Cup Identifier Drafty Cellar.pdf](#) (0.44 MB)

g. [2026-13 Approval Letter.pdf](#) (0.13 MB)

MOTION: Approve TDORA – Blocktoberfest (Lampe/Blanke/Unanimous Approval)

- I. Review and take possible action: S. Eighth Street 200 Block Parking Restriction

- o [MEMO Eighth Street Parking Restriction.pdf](#) (1.13 MB)
- o [S Eighth Street - Parking Restriction.pdf](#) (0.94 MB)

MOTION: Request Engineering to research the possibility of moving the parking on S. 8th Street from the west side to the east side from Market to Wisconsin, notify residents of the possibility and bring the item back to the next Public Safety & Welfare Committee meeting with recommendations. (Lampe/Blanke/Unanimous Approval)

- J. Review and take possible action: S. Seventh Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion

- o [MEMO Seventh Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion.pdf](#) (1.14 MB)
- o [Site Map.pdf](#) (1.31 MB)

MOTION: Convert S. 7th Street from Jefferson Street to Western Avenue from one-way to two-way and add parking to the east side of the street from Jefferson to Market in the month of May 2027 and no later than May 31st.

- K. Review and take possible action: S. Seventh Street Parking - Jefferson Street to Western Avenue
No action taken.

- L. Review and take action: Ordinance to create section 410-33(H) Camping Prohibited on City Property of the City of Watertown General Ordinances

- a. [410-33\(H\) Camping Prohibited on City Property DRAFT 08.19.2026.pdf](#) (0.02 MB)

MOTION: Forward to Council with positive recommendation.
(Blanke/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

- H. Review and take possible action: Chapter 428 Public Events of the City of Watertown General Ordinances

- o [MEMO to PSW.pdf](#) (1.14 MB)

DISCUSSION:

- o Alder Blanke requested that this item be brought to the committee for discussion. He noted that the PS&W committee routinely approves the Special Events and wondered if there would be a way to streamline the process so that “routine” Special Events could be approved by the City Clerk and no longer go to PS&W for approval. He mentioned that the time crunch caused by late applicants sometimes made the required approval by PS&W difficult to do prior to the scheduled event.
- o Alder Haase agreed that a streamlined approach would be good and that a goal should be to make it easy for organizers to host special events.
- o Alder Lampe recounted the history and challenges that led to the change in the Special Event requirements that moved approval authority from the City Clerk to the PS&W committee. He remembers being skeptical of the change

when it was made in 2024, but has now come to see the approval process by PS&W as a feature and an important requirement. He said that he is not convinced that the timing is right to return approval authority to the City Clerk.

- Alder Davis said that prior to 2019, special event applicants were approved by both the Licensing Board and the Council. In 2019, under the direction of Mayor McFarland and the Licensing Board, changes were made to the Special Event process to streamline it. One of those changes was to give the City Clerk authority to approve all special events. In 2023, demonstrations, at least one arrest and broad media coverage surrounded the Pride in the Park event. This led to significant feedback from residents of Watertown. One of the key realizations for residents, and some alders, was that the Special Event ordinance did not involve any elected officials in the approval process. When given the opportunity to deliberate, the Council requested that the Special Event ordinance be revised and that elected officials be a part of the approval process. The Special Event was revised and approved in 2024. The revised process requires PS&W approval for Special Events. Davis shared examples of the value added by the committee review process:
 - Improving event safety.
 - Catching errors.
 - Avoiding potential conflicts.
- The committee compiled the following feedback for the City Clerk.
 - The City Clerk memo was excellent and we appreciated the thorough review of the current special event process.
 - Please seriously investigate moving to an online form submission for the Special Event application. If a new software needs to be purchased, perhaps it can also be used in other departments (zoning, etc.) to move to online form submissions. Adding a payment portal would also be great.
 - Please consider ways that your office can work to optimize the paperwork process.
 - Please consider how the paperwork for repeat events can be streamlined.
 - **Wine Walks** - the Committee is comfortable with you presenting an ordinance change that would no longer require Wine Walks to complete a Special Event permit
 - Suggestion - "Wine Walks" that do not meet the parameters of "Special Event" as defined in 428-7 do not need to complete a Special Event Application
- The committee declined any further action.

I. **ADJOURN** – Being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Blanke and seconded by Lampe to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:49 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.