

**Common Council Minutes
Tuesday August 18, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, August 18, 2026. 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, Nitecki, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Haase, and Moldenhauer. City staff present were Fire Chief Tanya Reynen, Police Chief David Brower, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Assistant Engineer Nathan Williams, Engineering Projects Manager Ritchie Piltz, Public Works Manager Stacy Winkelman (virtual), Water/Wastewater Director Pete Hartz, and Deputy Treasurer/Clerk Lucy Peterson.

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, August 4, 2026. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Stocks opened the public hearing for the 2026 Emmet Utility Extension Project at 7:10 p.m. Amy, Jay, and Isaac Schlicher, 1611 N Second Street, Al Larson, N43W32801 Rasmus Road, Nashotah, WI, speaking on behalf of Fred and Jean Roethle, 1601 N Second St, Kathleen Schlicher, W5740 Navan Rd, Mary Denault, 1617 N Second St, William Libhart, N6068 Switzke Rd, Darcie Valenzuela and Craig Wortman, 1545 Boulder Dr, Michael and Holly Stadler, 1607 N Second St, Angie Heller, 1523 Prospect St, Crystal Baumgarten, 1526 Prospect St, Monica and Bruce Hady, 1600 N Second St, Brian Kelchner, 1527 and 1529 Prospect St, Jared and Stephanie Donner, 1531 Center St, Warren and Shelia Halbrader, 1537 Boulder Dr, and Debra Ebert, 1527 Boulder Dr, spoke in opposition to the 2026 Emmet Utility Extension Project. Those speaking expressed concerns regarding the proposed assessment amounts and the significant financial burden the assessments would place on affected property owners. Ald. Blanke made a motion to extend the installment terms to 96 months, seconded by Ald. Arnett. Ald. Arnett made a motion to amend the motion to allow payment in either equal installments over the 96-month term or in a lump sum at the end of that term. A unanimous voice vote followed. There being no further comments, Mayor Stocks closed the public hearing at 8:11 p.m.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Airport minutes from July 8, 2026, Licensing Board minutes from July 8, 2026, Plan Commission minutes from July 27, 2026, Public Safety & Welfare minutes from August 5, 2026, Tourism minutes from August 13, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Update Presentation on April 2026 Rain Event and Flood Response Efforts – Fire Chief Reynen provided an update on the City's response to the April 2026 rain event and flooding. She shared that the City has been working to document damages incurred as a result of the event and that Jefferson County has received a federal disaster declaration from FEMA. Office of Disaster Recovery Public Affairs Specialist Rafael Samora provided information regarding assistance

available to Jefferson County homeowners and renters. He also shared that businesses, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters may be eligible to apply for low-interest SBA disaster loans. The application deadline for physical damage or personal property losses is August 31, 2026, and the deadline for economic injury losses is March 30, 2027.

Main Street Program Quarterly Report - Stefanie Broere - The agenda item was skipped at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Smith made a motion to disapprove the modifications to the Report on the Estimated Special Assessments specific to the expiration of the intergovernmental boundary agreement for the 2026 Emmet Utility Extension Project, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the appointment of - Robert Smith – serving his first partial term expiring January 2029 (replacing Dave Zimmerman) to the Redevelopment Authority Board, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - July 22 through August 04, 2026, Paid Invoices Report - July 2026, and Cash and Investments - July 31, 2026, were presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the applications for Temporary “Class B” Licenses for the Whiskey and Wine Walk event hosted by Watertown Chamber of Commerce on September 10, 2026, during the hours of 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Locations include 217 E. Main St. - Bradow Jewelers, 212 E. Main St. - Brown's Shoe Fit Co., 300 E. Main St. - Central Block, 618 E. Main St. - Draeger's Floral, 14 E. Main St. - White Oak Builders, 110 N. 3rd St. - Badger State Hydrate, 120 W. Main St. - Rapha Bowls, 118 W. Main St. - Oswald-Konz, 116 W. Main St. - Sassy Sweets, (Linden Peacy, Agent), seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

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. 9884 - Resolution to approve WDNR urban forestry grant for City of Watertown Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Smith moved to adopt resolution 9884, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9885 - Resolution to sunset Downtown Main Street Reconstruction Task Force and establish an Ad-Hoc Communications Work Group (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9885, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9886 - Resolution to Support Sustainable State Funding for Local Public Health Departments (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Health Board). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9886, seconded by Ald. Lampe. Ald. Blanke moved to amend the motion to strike “Include automatic inflationary adjustment,” seconded by Ald. Berg. The amendment carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1; Abstain-0. The resolution, as amended, carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9887 - Resolution to update 2026 Payroll Resolution to Add Information Technology Technician to Administration Department Grade 140 (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9887, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9888 - Resolution to update 2026 Payroll and Job Title Resolution to Add Arborist I at Grade 130 and Re-title Grade 135 to Arborist II Crew Lead PRF Dept (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9888, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Monica and Bruce Hady, 1600 N Second St, thanked the Council for listening to the citizens who spoke during the public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Lampe moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Davis, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Peterson, Deputy Treasurer/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>