

Common Council Minutes
May 20, 2025

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, May 20, 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, Police Chief David Brower, Finance Director Mark Stevens, and Deputy Clerk Sheri Rohr. City staff attending virtually were Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Zoning Administrator Brian Zirbes, and Strategic Coordinator Mason Becker.

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, May 6, 2025. There being none, Ald. Arnett moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Stefanie Broere, Executive Director for the Main Street Program of 516 E Main St, encouraged council members to patronize local businesses to get their feedback on how to promote the downtown community.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Licensing Board minutes from April 9, 2025, Senior Center Advisory Board minutes from April 15, 2025, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from April 21, 2025, Finance Committee minutes from April 21, 2025, Site Plan Review Minutes from April 28, 2025, Plan Commission minutes from April 28, 2025, Finance Committee minutes from May 6, 2025, Public Safety and Welfare minutes from May 7, 2025, Tourism minutes from May 8, 2025, and Plan Commission Minutes from May 12, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Brad Viegut with Baird gave a presentation on the General Obligation Promissory Notes and summarized the actual interest rates are coming in better than projections, reducing the City's debt service payments by nearly \$200k.

Mayor Stocks gave employee recognition to Amber Haumschild 20 years of service in the Police Department.

The 2024 Watertown Fire Department Annual Report and Watertown Fire Department Monthly Report for March were presented by Fire Chief Reynen.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Smith moved to approve the Committee Appointments:

Stephanie Broere – serving her first two-year term expiring May 2027 replacing Judy Purtell (Main Street Representative), Kerry Kneser – serving his first two-year term expiring May 2027 (Park and Rec Representative), Dave Zimmerman – serving his third one-year term expiring May 2026 (RDA Representative), Robin Kaufmann – serving her third two-year term expiring May 2027 (Tourism Representative) to the Town Square Programming Commission, Kerry Kneser – serving first three-year term expiring May 2028 to the Park Recreation and Forestry Commission, Tom Levi – serving his first three-year term expiring May 2028 replacing and Nick Krueger Kerry Kneser – serving indefinitely as the Park and Rec Representative to the Planning Commission, Elizabeth Fritz – serving her first partial term expiring August 2026 replacing Robert Stocks to the

Housing Authority, Cheryl Mitchell – serving her second one-year term expiring May 2026, Courtney Krause – serving her second one-year term expiring May 2026 to the Tourism Commission, Steve Board – serving his first partial term expiring January 2027 replacing Ryan Nowatka to the Redevelopment Authority, Tom Hahn – serving his second four-year term expiring May 2029 to the Transit Commission, Kelly Kwapil – serving his fifth five-year term expiring May 2030 to the Police and Fire Commission, John Katisch – serving a partial three-year term expiring January 2027 replacing Jaynellen Holloway to the Historic Preservation and Downtown Design Commission, Thomas Johnson – serving his second three-year term expiring May 2028 to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Karl Zarling – serving his first three-year term expiring May 2028 replacing Jerry Kolwinska to the Board of Review, second by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Davis made a motion to convene into closed session per §19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering 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 Intertek-PSI re: Johnsonville Sausage project), second by Ald. Bartz carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Davis made a motion to reconvene into open session, second by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Davis made a motion to deny the claim of Intertek-PSI re: Johnsonville Sausage project, second by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - April 16 through 29 2025 and April 30 through May 13, 2025, Cash and Investments - April 30, 2025, Paid Invoices Report- April 2025 were presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a “Class B” Malt and Liquor License from Wolfgram Inc dba Wolfgram (Jerry Heller, Agent) located at 301 E Main Street for licensing year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 conditioned on a passed Fire Inspection, second by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the application for Temporary Class "B" Beer licenses from Watertown Main Street Program for the Craft Beer and Seltzer Walk event on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Locations include 2OH!2 Salon 202 W. Main St., Ava's A Posh Boutique, 209 E. Main St., Bradow Jewelers, 217 E. Main St., Pine Hill Farm: Wellness Collective 200 W. Main St., Sassy Sweets Bakery 116 W. Main St., White Oak Builders, 14 E. Main St., and Wisconsin 26 Culinary Boutique 219 N. Fourth St. second by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Bartz made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary Class "B" License for the Bentzin Family Town Square Summer Concert Series event On May 31, 2025 sponsored by the Watertown Main Street Program during the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. for location 1 W. Main Street, second by Ald. Smith and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Moldenhauer made a motion to approve the application for Temporary Class "B" License for the Moose Lodge Car Show event on June 12, 2025 sponsored by the Moose Lodge during the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. for location 1222 Juneau Street, second by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 25-08 - Amend Chapter 550 Official Zoning Map of the City of Watertown to change 100 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0815-0412-029) and 104 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0915-3343-053) from General Business (GB) Zoning to Central Business (CB) Zoning (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Arnett moved for adoption of ordinance 25-08 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-09 - Amend Chapter 550: Zoning Code, through the Amendments of Language to Sections §550-15, §550-34B(2)(K), and §550-49G (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption of ordinance 25-09 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-10 - Amend Chapter 550 of the Official Zoning Map to reflect the rezoning of 848 Milford Street of Edge Field Subdivision from Single-Family Residential (SR-4) to Two-Family Residential (TR-6) (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, First Reading). Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption of ordinance 25-10 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-11 - Amend Section 500-3B. Stop Intersections of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 25-11 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-12 - Repeal a portion of Section 247-5(D) Prohibited Acts Boating Prohibition Area (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 25-12 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to suspend the rules to combine the 1st and 2nd readings of Ordinance 25-12, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of Ordinance 25-12 on its 2nd reading, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer 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. 9746 - Resolution to accept bid for publication of council proceedings and city advertising and designate official city newspaper (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9746, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9747 - Resolution to approve the Final Plat for Edge Field Subdivision (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9747, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9748 - Resolution authorizing the issuance and establishing parameters for the sale of not to exceed \$19,000,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9748, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9749 - Resolution to approve the purchase of Opticom (Sponsor Mayor Stocks, Finance Committee). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9749, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9750 - Resolution to approve the Final Plat for The Enclave Subdivision (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9750, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9751 - Resolution to Execute the Waiver of Conflict of Interest from Axley Brynerson, LLP (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9751, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9752 - Resolution to approve purchase of Wastewater Ultraviolet Disinfection Equipment (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9752, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9753 - Resolution for Wastewater Utility 2024 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9753, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9754 - Resolution to amend agreement with Watertown Riverfest Inc. (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9754, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1 (Lampe).

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

John Schloemer, 500 hall St, asked that the City find a way to compensate businesses who lost revenue due to Main Street Bridge construction and now Highway 16. He suggested grants, loans, or reduction of property taxes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Arnett moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Rohr, Deputy 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>