



## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

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

Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Berg, Davis, Lampe, and Smith (video)

Others present: Finance Director Stevens, Fire Chief Reynen, Mason Becker, Ald Bartz, Tim Hayden, Attorney Chesebro (video), Brad Viegut (Baird)

1. Call to order. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.
2. Ald. Berg made a motion, seconded by Ald. Davis, to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of April 21. Approved unanimously. Ald. Davis made a motion, seconded by Mayor Stocks, to **approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of May 6**. Approved unanimously.
3. Note: no Finance Committee meeting will take place on Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day).
4. The **Water Systems** staff requested **three employees to be awarded one additional step** in recognition of a successful certification test completion.
  - a. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to approve Jake Nehls to move to g/s H8 [\$29.01/hr] effective April 30. Approved.
  - b. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to approve Jay Pirkel to move to g/s F7 [\$23.59/hr] effective April 30. Approved.
  - c. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to approve Scott Blasing to move to g/s J11 [\$36.25/hr] effective April 30. Approved.
5. Brad Viegut (Baird) made a presentation on the **bond borrowing** to both refinance the 2024 Note Anticipation Notes (\$14,335,000) for the permanent fire station financing and the 2025 capital improvement projects (\$4,250,000). The **recommendation is to approve a parameters resolution** (not to exceed \$19M, not to exceed 5.25% interest rate, maturity schedule of June 1, 2026-2044 [2025 capital over 8 years, fire station over 19 years], with maturity decreases up to \$1,500,000). Adl. David moved, supported by Ald. Lampe, to approve this resolution to the Council. Unanimously approved.
6. Mr. Becker provided an **update on the development proposals from Intrepid Investments**. In light of a reservation voiced by the mayor about the need for the parking availability during the 2028 Main St. reconstruction, the development firm has withdrawn their interest for a condo project in the First St. parking lot and the 111 S. Water St apartment project.
7. Chief Reynen presented a plan for the **emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) system** (traffic signal controls). Technologies have enhanced over the past two years since investigations began on this type of system. The suggestion utilizes vehicle technology that's already included in the outfitting of newer purchases, so hardware will need to be purchased for the traffic intersection signals as well as some of the fire apparatus. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to approve the request to purchase the Miovision Opticom Cloud EVP system from Mid-American Signal for \$119,445. Approved unanimously.

8. As a follow-up to a prior meeting's conversation about the **City's participation in Riverfest Festival expenses**, Mr. Stevens presented a few alternate ideas. Ald. Lampe, an officer of Riverfest, recused himself from any conversation. The one idea that was immediately agreed upon in discussion was a cost sharing with the Festival paying for any amount over an agreed-upon amount. The estimate of 2025 services is approximately \$53,700. There was contemplation for the amount of \$50,000 or \$60,000. Ald. Berg made a motion that the City and the Festival agree to share equally in the first \$60,000 of city services with excess costs exceeding \$60,000 covered by the Festival. Unanimously approved.
9. The only bid for an **official city newspaper designation** was received by Watertown Daily Times (APG Southern Wisconsin). Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Lamp. Approved.
10. Mr. Stevens provided a current **open insurance claims** report for information.
11. A motion was made by Ald. Lampe, supported by Ald. Berg, 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**). Unanimously approved on roll call vote.
12. After returning to open session, Ald. Smith, supported by Ald. Davis, moved to recommend that Council deny the **claim of Intertek-PSI re: Johnsonville Sausage project**. Unanimously approved.
13. An offer has been received for the purchase of **three unimproved lots located at the end of Country Club Lane**. These properties are not considered buildable due to the presence of wetlands and inclusion in a floodplain. The Public Works team is not in favor of selling the northernmost parcel due to public dedication and water access. No city staff voiced opposition to selling the other two parcels. The Plan Commission moved forward a positive recommendation to consider the offer to purchase.
14. A motion was made by Ald. Davis, supported by Ald. Lampe, to convene into **closed session** 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 (**Parcel No 14-291-0915-2132-003; 14-291-0915-2132-004; and 14-291-0915-2132-005**).
15. After returning to open session, Ald. Lampe, seconded by Ald. Berg, moved to direct the city attorney to **negotiate for the sale of 14-291-0915-2132-003 and 14-291-0915-2132-004**. Unanimously approved.
16. Finance Committee adjournment. Ald. Berg moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to adjourn the Finance Committee at 7:03 p.m., and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director

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