

PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

February 5, 2025

5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dana Davis, ChairBrad BlankeSteve BoardEric Schmid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chief David BrowerAndrew BeyerNathan WilliamsSteven Chesebro	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ian Pilak (virtual)

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

There were no comments from the public.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Public Safety minutes from December 4, 2024

- Public Safety Meeting Notes 12.4.24.pdf (0.02 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve by Board, second by Schmid and approved unanimously.

4. BUSINESS

A. Review and take action: Special Event - Jig Jog

- Memo re PSW -Jig Jog.pdf (0.05 MB)
- 2025-01 Application.pdf (1.56 MB)
- 2025-01 Map.pdf (0.23 MB)

MOTION: Motion to approve. (Board/Schmid/Unanimous)

B. Update, no action required: 1015 Meadow Street Raze Order

- MEMO - 1015 Meadow St Raze Order.pdf (1.13 MB)

Positive developments for this property and the surrounding neighborhood. The new owner is actively and visibly cleaning up the property and, consequently, the Raze order has been put on hold.

NO ACTION TAKEN

C. Public hearing for proposed structure within Jones Street public right-of-way

- PH Chapter 457-7 Variance - Stoop Encroachment - January 29, 2025.pdf (0.02 MB)

There were no comments during the public hearing.

D. Review and take possible action: Proposed structure within Jones Street public right-of-way

- [Narrative_ROW Encroachment 304 Jones_new format.pdf](#) (1.14 MB)
- [304 Jones Street Application for Variance Dan Rahfaldt 01032025.pdf](#) (0.86 MB)
- [4 - 86.04.pdf](#) (0.07 MB)
- [3 - 457-7 Obstructions and encroachments.pdf](#) (0.04 MB)
- [Right of Way Revocable Occupancy Permit.pdf](#) (0.02 MB)

DISCUSSION: Both Board and Blanke remarked at the lack of details in the application drawings. Board would like to know the types of materials and would like a better understanding of why a stoop is preferable to steps. Blanke remarked that the drawings do not consider the sloop of the sidewalk and the need for one side of the stoop to be significantly higher than the opposite side to accommodate for the slope of the sidewalk. He would like to know the specific proposed dimensions of the slope including the height of the sides. There was acknowledgement that some of these details will be reviewed and approved during the building permit process. Blanke indicated that the details are necessary to make a good decision about the variance. Overall, there is a desire by the committee to approve the variance, but more information is needed first.

MOTION: Postpone a decision until the next meeting pending more details on the stoop/step specifications and building materials to be used.

(Blanke/Schmid/Unanimous)

E. Review and take possible action: River Drive and Mary Street intersection pavement marking request

- [MEMO River and Mary Marking Request.pdf](#) (1.18 MB)
- [Email.pdf](#) (1.07 MB)

DISCUSSION: Davis visited the location and agreed that there is an optical illusion when driving on Mary Street and approaching the River Drive intersection.

MOTION: Place a “Cross Traffic Does Not Stop” sign under the existing Stop Sign.

(Blanke/Board/Unanimous)

F. Review and take possible action: E. Milwaukee Street and S. First Street intersection signage and pavement marking request

- [MEMO First and Milwaukee Sign Request.pdf](#) (1.13 MB)
- [Attachment A Sign Request Area.pdf](#) (0.88 MB)
- [Email.pdf](#) (0.65 MB)

DISCUSSION: There was agreement that this is problematic intersection with drivers swerving quickly upon realization that they are in the wrong lane. The committee discussed various options from moving the existing sign, adding signs to both sides of the road and restriping the center line.

MOTION: Restripe the Milwaukee Street center line from S. Water Street to S. First Street as part of the annual pavement marking contract. (Schmid/Blanke/Unanimous)

- G. Review and Take Possible Action: Ordinance to Amend Section 410-39 of the City of Watertown General Ordinances.

- [Deepfake Memo.pdf](#) (1.13 MB)
- [Deepfake Prohibition Clean.pdf](#) (0.03 MB)

DISCUSSION: A modified proposed ordinance including some last-minute changes was presented to committee members. The committee discussed the background for this proposed ordinance. The proposed ordinance is limited to the production and distribution of deep fakes that depict a person's specified anatomical parts or depict the person engaged in a specified sexual activity without the individual's consent. Both "specified anatomical parts" and "specified sexual activity" are currently defined in the code. The committee discussed that deep fakes have become more prevalent because phone apps make the production of deep fakes simple. Schmid indicated he was opposed to this ordinance. While he agreed with the sentiment, he did not support the ordinance because he did not believe it to be enforceable and considered it to be an ordinance that is powerless. Chief Brower considers the proposed ordinance to be easily enforceable and he is supportive.

MOTION: Clean up the edits on the newest version of the proposed ordinance and present to the committee at the March meeting for further discussion and possible action. (Davis/Board/Unanimous)

5. ADJOURN

Being no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Blanke and seconded by Schmid to adjourn. Motion was supported unanimously.