PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE COMMITTEE

October 7, 2026

5:05 p.m.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Members Present	Also in Attendance	Citizens Present
• Dana Davis, Chair • Rita Haase • Brad Blanke • Jonathan Lampe (virtual attendance beginning at 5:45)	• Chief Brower • Andrew Beyer • Nathan Williams • Stacy Winkelman	• Bob Rupnow • John Katisch • Melanie Justine • Mike Choinski • Rob Lund • Pastor Ray Bezanson • Mark Kuehl • Tom VanHecke

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

- Bob Rupnow – Now that S. 9th Street is a two-way street, it is dangerous and someone is going to get hurt.
- Melanie Justine – Not in favor of converting 6th street to two-way.
- Mike Choinski – Not in favor of converting 6th street to two-way
- Pastor Ray Bezanson – In favor of moving parking on S. 8th Street from the west side to the east side.
- Tom VanHecke – Not in favor of converting S. 8th street to two way.
- Mark Kuehl – It makes sense to keep the parking for S. 8th Street on the west side.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from August 26, 2026
08.26.2026 Public Safety Minutes.pdf (0.26 MB)

MOTION: Approve the PS&W minutes from August 26, 2026. (Blanke/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

4.**BUSINESS**

A. Review and take action: Special Event - D. Leija Trunk or Treat
- MEMO D LEIJA TRUNK OR TREAT.pdf (0.05 MB)
- 2026-28 APPLICATION WITH EVENT DESCRIPTION.pdf (1.46 MB)
- 2026-28 MAP.pdf (3.58 MB)

MOTION: Approve the Special Event – D. Leija Trunk or Treat.
(Blanke/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

B. Review and take action: Special Event - Cruisin for Critters
   - MEMO CRUISIN FOR CRITTERS.pdf (0.05 MB)
   - 2026-29 APPLICATION_Redacted.pdf (1.29 MB)
   - 2026-29 MAP.pdf (1.27 MB)
   - SPF Pool Eight LLC Permission to use grounds for Car Show 09-21-2026.pdf (0.03 MB)
   - Permission to use parking lot letters 1 09-29-2026.pdf (0.40 MB)

   MOTION: Approve Special Event – Cruisin for Critters (Blanke/Davis/Unanimous Approval)

C. Review and take possible action: S. Eighth Street Parking Restriction
   - MEMO Eighth Street Parking Restriction.pdf (1.13 MB)
   - Parking Restriction Notice to Residents-S Eighth Street.pdf (0.08 MB)

   DISCUSSION: The committee discussed comments received from the public about this matter. There are several multiple family housing units on the west side of the street that would benefit from parking remaining on the west side. But there is a need for Sunday parking for the church.

   MOTION: Change parking restriction on the east side of S. 8th Street to no parking with the exception of 4 spaces directly in front of 213 S. 8th Street (Watertown Advent Chistian Church) from 9 – noon on Sundays. (Blanke/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

D. Review and take possible action: S. Sixth Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion
   - MEMO Seventh Street One-Way to Two-Way Conversion.pdf (1.14 MB)
   - Street Conversion Site Map.pdf (1.21 MB)
   - Street Conversion Notice to Residents-S Sixth Street.pdf (0.08 MB)
   - Parking Restriction Notice to Residents-S Sixth Street.pdf (0.08 MB)

   DISCUSSION: The committee explained the history of this one-way to two-way conversion project and explained the rationale for the change.

   MOTION: Convert S. Sixth Street from Jefferson Street to Western Avenue in the month of May 2027, no later than May 31st with a recommendation to remove parking on the west side of S. Sixth Street between Milwaukee Street and Western Avenue. (Lampe/Blanke/Aye – 3, Nay – 1, Haase). Motion passed 3-1.

E. Review and take possible action: 700 Block S. Sixth Street Parking Restriction
   Motion made as part of Item D.

F. Review and take possible action: Bailey Street Stop Signs
   - MEMO Bailey Street Stop Signs.pdf (1.13 MB)
   - Site Map.pdf (1.30 MB)

   MOTION: Place stop signs at Bailey and 4th Street (4-way), Bailey and 5th Street (3-way T) and Bailey and 2nd Street (3-way T) Blanke/Lampe/Unanimous Approval

G. Review and take action: Amend Section 253-23 Fire Protection Systems ordinance
    - Fire Plan Review ordinance Approved by Legal.pdf (0.03 MB)
    - Fee Schedule Update Fire Plan Reviews.pdf (0.01 MB)
    - Public Safety Committee Plan Review Ordinance Memo.pdf (0.09 MB)

MOTION: Amend Section 253-23 Fire Protection Systems Ordinance
(Haase/Blanke/Unanimous Approval)

H. Review and take possible action: Establishment of Permanent Agenda Items for Public Safety & Welfare Committee Meetings
    - PSW Permanent Agenda Items 9.8.26.pdf (0.02 MB)

DISCUSSION: Davis explained that the purpose of the proposed establishment of two permanent agenda items for Public Safety & Welfare Committee meetings is to provide a clear, transparent, and consistent process for committee members to exercise their procedural rights and bring matters before the committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motions to approve the agenda, reorder items, or remove items from consideration are in order.

- **Rationale**
    - Adding "Approval of Agenda" will provide a designated place where a committee member can make a motion to reorder items or remove items from consideration.
    - Under Robert's Rules the approval of the agenda is an important vote that gives the committee formal control over its business. The chair may draft an agenda, but it is not binding until the members vote on it. It signifies that the group as a whole holds authority, not just the presiding officer.

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A committee member may make a request for a future agenda item. No discussion of requested items may take place.

- **Rationale**
    - This agenda item provides a pathway for a committee member to publicly request that an item come before the committee at a future meeting.
    - Robert's Rules protects the rights of the individual member while honoring the will of the majority. This agenda item provides the member an opportunity to obtain the floor and make their request transparently to the body.

MOTION: Approve the addition of two permanent agenda items to the PS&W Agenda:

- Approval of Agenda: *Motions to approve the agenda, reorder items, or remove items from consideration are in order* placed on the agenda immediately following "Approval of Minutes"
- Requests for Future Agenda Items: *A committee member may make a request for a future agenda item. No discussion of requested items may take place* placed on the agenda placed on agenda immediately after "Approval of Agenda".

I. Review and take possible action: 410-11 C. Motorized vehicles prohibited on sidewalks

- PS&W Escooters and Ebikes Memo.pdf (0.02 MB)
- River Falls E-Bicycle Ordinance.pdf (1.32 MB)
- WAUSAU e bike ordinance amendment-Wausau.pdf (0.59 MB)

DISCUSSION: The committee and Chief of Police discussed concerns about the rapid increase of e-bikes and e-scooters in Watertown. Committee members discussed seeing erratic and unsafe driving of e-bikes, e-bikes on sidewalks and hazardous driving of e-scooters. The consensus of the committee is that they would like to keep the current approach found in the ordinance (e-bikes must follow all bike rules and e-scooters are not permitted on sidewalks or on the streets). However, they would like to see updated definitions added to the ordinance and they would like the ordinance examined for any regulatory gaps. In addition, the committee believes that more signage needs to installed and more education needs to be provided to residents.

MOTIONS #1: Direct the City Attorney and Chief of Police to work together to update the ordinance with 2026 definitions for e-bikes and e-scooters and to identify potential gaps in the current ordinance that need to be filled as soon as practicable.

MOTION #2: Direct the Engineering Dept. to provide the committee, as soon as practicable, with examples of e-scooter and e-bike signs that are available for purchase. The committee is interested in seeing the types of signs that are already available on the market that warn/prohibit/e-bikes and e-scooters. (Lampe/Haase/Unanimous Approval)

J. Review and discuss: Potential Establishment of Residency Requirements for Individuals on the Sex Offender Registry

DISCUSSION: The committee discussed the 1997 law that led to communities across WI passing residency requirements for individuals on the sex offender registry early 2000. About 150 communities in WI have residency requirement ordinances. Watertown does not currently have a residency requirement ordinance. The committee discussed the complexities of the issue. Chief Brower explained that, while adding a residency requirement would be wise, it would require additional staff hours. The committee reached a consensus that they would like there to be a residency requirement ordinance on the books in Watertown. Davis will communicate to the Mayor and City Attorney that it is the desire of the committee to move forward with the drafting of a residency requirement ordinance.

5.**ADJOURN**

Being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m. (Blanke/Haase/Unanimous Approval)