

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 6:00 pm
In-PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETING
Room 2044, City Hall

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
 - A. Present: Ryan Wagner, Steve Board, Ald. Tony Arnett, Ald. Rita Haase, Todd Huhn, Jacob Maase, and Deb Sybell,
 - B. Virtual: None
 - C. Absent: Dave Zimmermann

Other attendees: Mayor Robert Stocks, Stefanie Broere, Linden Peacy, Robin Kaufmann, and John Kadish

3. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order at 6:03 pm.
4. Approval of meeting minutes
 - A. Regular board minutes 4.15.26.

Steve Board motioned to approve

Todd Huhn seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment
 - A. None
6. Business

A. Review and discuss: RDA priorities (Mayor Stocks, Chair Wagner Presentation)

Mayor Stocks and Chair Wagner highlighted three priorities: 1) building a more robust Revolving Loan Fund, both in size and scope/impact 2) exploring options for Business Continuity Funding for downtown businesses and 3) simplifying the process of starting a business in Watertown.

B. Review and take action: Beltz grant application for the Big Pop-up Event

This event is a collaborative effort between Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce, Watertown Main Street, and Watertown Tourism. The event, planned for August 8, 2026, will include local and regional vendors, family-friendly activities, and strong connections to downtown restaurants and shops. Grant dollars will help cover the costs of promotion, logistics, and event infrastructure.

Jacob Maas motioned to approve

Steve Board seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Updates
 - A. Review and discuss: Riverwalk engineering design estimates from Kapur
The Board will explore possible grant opportunities to fund engineering design.
8. Reports
 - A. RDA financials

RDA STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1) ~~400 W. Main St. block demolition, Town Square design etc., and publicizing town square project for possible funding from sources other than the City.~~

2) Facilitating quality development in downtown, and

3) Creating an approach and working to attract development projects downtown.

B. Executive Director report

a. RDA revolving loan program

Deb discussed with the board expanding the scope, diversifying funding and promotion.

b. Industry and Innovation Tours

In partnership with Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce, the City launched what we are calling the Industry and Innovation Tours. These mayoral visits with area businesses are designed to strengthen relationships and explore ways that the city can assist with long-term stability and opportunity. Thus far the mayor has visited Madison College, Watertown Country Club, Sandra D's, Rosy-Lane Holsteins, MetalTek, Glory Global, and the Marquardt.

c. Amtrak

Hiawatha West Service Development Plan includes municipality-identified preferred station locations with intercity passenger rail service (Milwaukee-Pewaukee-Watertown-Madison). The City of Watertown has identified a preferred station location at the 1998-South Site (3rd Street). Many factors are at play for the expansion to become a reality which includes funding at the federal, state, and municipal level.

C. Communication report

9. Adjournment at 7:10 pm

Jacob Maas motioned to adjourn.

Alder Rita Haase seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.