

Common Council Minutes
Tuesday July 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. 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, Police Chief David Brower, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos, Finance Director Mark Stevens (virtual), Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, and City Clerk Megan Dunneisen.

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, July 7, 2026. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Doris Wright, 147 S. Concord Ave.; John Wright, 147 S. Concord Ave.; Lynda Sullivan, 810 Cheyenne Cir.; and Keeley Sullivan, 810 Cheyenne Cir., all spoke in favor of the proposed massage ordinance. Gene Schmidt, 303 E. Haven Dr., spoke regarding the parade. Randy Arbogast, 301 S. Washington St., spoke against the recently adopted TDORA.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Licensing Board minutes from June 2, 2026, Finance Committee minutes from June 8, 2026, Airport minutes from June 10, 2026, Licensing Board minutes from June 10, 2026, Site Plan Review minutes from June 22, 2026, Finance Committee minutes from June 22, 2026, Public Works minutes from June 23, 2026, Licensing Board minutes from June 30, 2026, Tourism minutes from July 9, 2026, Ethics Committee meeting minutes from July 10, 2026, Public Works minutes from July 14, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Ald. Smith made a motion to approve the committee appointment of Joe Dittmann – serving his first three-year term expiring May 2027 (replacing Melissa Lampe) to the Plan Commission, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

The Fire Department Monthly Report for June was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion was held regarding the Ethics Committee's proposed changes to the Statement of Economic Interests form. Additional revisions will be made to update all areas of the form to remove references to "Minor Children."

Ald. Moldenhauer 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 (Walmart Tax Assessment Claim), seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - June 24, 2026 to July 07, 2026, Paid Invoices Report - June 2026, and Cash and Investments - June 30, 2026 were presented.

Council received and reviewed the TDORA Boundary Map, which was inadvertently omitted from the July 7, 2026, Council packet.

LICENSES:

Ald. Berg made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary "Class B" Wine and Temporary Class "B" Beer licenses from St. Therese of Lisieux - St. Henry (Fr. Tim Renz, Agent) for the St. Therese of Lisieux Parish Picnic at 412 N. 4th Street on August 16, 2026 during the hours of 11:00am - 5:00pm, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald Lampe made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary Class "B" Beer license from Watertown Humane Society (Heather VanDam, Agent) for the Watertown Autofest event located at 1741 River Dr. on August 9, 2026 during the hours of 9:30am - 3:00pm, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary "Class B" Wine and Temporary Class "B" Beer licenses from Bartelme-Schwefel Detachment #349 for the Marine Corps League Annual Picnic located at 907 Boomer Street on August 22, 2026 during the hours of 12:00pm - 6:00pm, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor license from Rock River LLC d/b/a The River Tap (Frank Orcholski, Agent) located at 1022 N Fourth Street for licensing year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 26-23 - Ordinance to Amend Section 76-4 Time for Payment of Taxes of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Mayor Robert Stocks From: Finance Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Moldenhauer moved for adoption of ordinance 26-23 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-24 - Ordinance to Amend Section 65-8(F) Disclosure of Interests of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor Ald. Smith From: Ethics Committee, First Reading). Ald. Smith moved for adoption of ordinance 26-24 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-25 - Ordinance to create a portion of Section 500-3(B), Stop Intersections, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-25 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke 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. 9879 - Resolution to Approve the Updated UPS Parking Lot Agreement (Sponsor: Mayor Robert Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9879, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1(Berg); Abstain-0.

Exh. 9880 - Resolution to Approve the Commercial Real Estate Lease Agreement between the City of Watertown and Holz Motors, Inc. (Sponsor: Mayor Robert Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9880, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9881 - Preliminary resolution declaring intent to exercise special assessment powers under Section 66.0703 Wisconsin Statutes (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Arnett moved to adopt resolution 9881, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-2(Berg, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0.

Exh. 9882 - Phase I Hart Street Area Street & Utility Program Design Services with Ruekert & Mielke for \$91,232 (Sponsor: Alderperson Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9882, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Lamoe moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Blanke, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Megan Dunneisen, City 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>