

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 15, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

City Clerk, Megan Dunneisen, called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. This meeting was open for attendance at Watertown City Hall, 106 Jones Street, Watertown WI, 53094 as well as virtually.

OATH OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR

Clerk Dunneisen administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Robert Stocks.

INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR OF NEW AND RE-ELECTED OFFICIALS

Clerk Dunneisen administered the Oath of Office to Ald. Davis, Ald. Berg, Ald. Blanke, Ald. Arnett, and Ald. Moldenhauer.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the following Alderpersons present: Ald. Davis, Lampe, Berg, Bartz, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel and Moldenhauer. City staff present were City Attorney Steven T. Chesebro, Fire Chief Tanya Reynen (virtual), Police Chief David Brower, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Zoning Administrator Brian Zirbes (virtual), 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 any additions or corrections to the minutes of the Common Council meeting held Monday March 31, 2025. There being none, Ald. Arnett moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ald. Arnett made a motion to nominate Ald. Smith for Council President, second by Ald. Berg. Ald. Arnett moved for nominations to be closed in unanimous favor of the sole nominee, seconded by Blanke. Motion to elect Ald. Smith as Council President carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1(Smith).

ELECTION OF PLAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Ald. Smith made motion to nominate Ald. Blanke as Plan Commission representative seconded by Ald. Berg. Ald. Arnett made a motion to close nominations in unanimous favor of the sole nominee, seconded by Ald. Wetzel. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1 (Blanke).

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Stocks opened the public hearing for the Rezone both 100 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0815-0412-029) and 104 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0915-3343-053) from General Business (GB) Zoning District to Central Business.(CB) Zoning District at 7:12 p.m. Comments received from Pat Werner of 200 Cole St. with concerns of space for parking in this area. Karah Pugh spoke on the lack of housing in the area. Sandra Trego spoke in favor of the concept but would like to see the layout of the building looked at further. There being no further comment Mayor Stocks closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Mayor Stocks opened the public hearing to Rezone both 100 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0815-0412-029) and 104 E. Division Street (PIN: 291-0915-3343-053) to a Planned Development (PD) Overlay District - General Development Plan/Precise Development Plan at 7:24 p.m. there being no comment, Mayor Stocks closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Mayor Stocks opened the public hearing for the Amend Chapter 550, Zoning Code regarding the Central Business Apartments land use at 7:24 p.m. There being no comment, Mayor Stocks closed the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Licensing Board minutes from March 12, 2025, Town Square Programming Commission minutes March 19, 2025, Finance Committee minutes from March 24, 2025, Plan Commission minutes from March 24, 2025, Downtown Main Street Reconstruction Task Force minutes from March 25, 2025, Public Works minutes from April 8, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Watertown Fire Department Monthly Report for February and the 2025 Assessment Process were presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Berg made a motion to approve the Council Committee Assignments as follows, Finance Committee - Ald. Dana Davis, Ald. Fred Smith, Ald. Jonathan Lampe, Ald. Ken Berg, Public Works Commission - Ald. Tony Arnett (Chairperson), Ald. Brad Blanke, Ald. Myron Moldenhauer, Ald. Dan Bartz, Public Safety Committee - Ald. Dana Davis (Chairperson), Ald. Myron Moldenhauer, Ald. Jonathon Lampe, Ald. Bob Wetzel, Airport Commission - Ald. Bob Wetzel, Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission - Ald. Jonathan Lampe, Main Street Program - Ald. Fred Smith, Family Center Board - Ald. Dana Davis, Health Board - Ald. Dana Davis, Ald. Fred Smith, Library Board - Ald. Bob Wetzel, Transit Commission - Ald. Fred Smith, Licensing Board - Ald. Dan Bartz, Ald. Myron Moldenhauer, Tourism Committee - Ald. Ken Berg, Board of Review - Ald. Tony Arnett, Ald. Brad Blanke, Redevelopment Authority - Ald. Tony Arnett, Ald. Ken Berg, Bike & Pedestrian Path Task Force - Ald. Bob Wetzel, Ald. Fred Smith, Main Street Task Force - Ald. Myron Moldenhauer, Ald. Tony Arnett, Town Square Programming Committee - Ald. Dan Bartz. Seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the committee appointment of Linden Peacy to the Town Square Programming Commission serving her first term ending in May 2026 (replacing Bonnie Hertel) seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Arnett 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 (Claim of Christopher O'Brien), seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

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

Ald. Lampe made a motion to deny the claim from Christopher O'Brien, seconded by Ald. Davis carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Payroll Summary: March 5 - 18, 2025 and March 19 - April 1, 2025, Paid Invoices Report- March 2025, and Cash and Investments - March 31, 2025, were presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor License from Golden Spoon LLC DBA Golden Spoon Cafe (Argjent Jashari, Agent) located at 1300 Memorial Drive for licensing year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025, with conditions of passed inspections, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Berg made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor License from 3RDSTP&G LLC dba 3rd Street Pub & Grill (Shaniyah Rhodes, Agent) located at 215 S. Third Street for licensing year July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 with conditions of passed inspections, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Bartz made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary "Class B" License for the Whiskey and Wine Walk event hosted by Watertown Chamber of Commerce on April 26, 2025,

during the hours of 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. for location 116 S. Third Street (Rock River Financial), seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Berg made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary Class "B" License for the Bentzin Family Town Square Summer Concert Series Event on June 21, 2025, sponsored by the Watertown Rotary Club during the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. for location 1 W. Main Street, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve the application for a Temporary Class "B" License for the Bentzin Family Town Square Summer Concert Series Event on Sept 6, 2025, sponsored by the Watertown Rotary Club during the hours of 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. for location 1 W. Main Street, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Smith made a motion to Deny the application for an operator's license from Jessica M Reyes due to falsification on the Operator License Application, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 25-06 - Amend Chapter 500-6(2) Vehicles and Traffic (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 25-06 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0

Ord. 25-07 - Adopt Amendments to the 2019 City of Watertown Comprehensive Plan for 1220 Wilbur Street and 1220 W. Main Street to reflect that the future land use category shown from "Institutional" to "Two-Family Residential" on the Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan pursuant to section 66.1001(4)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Plan Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption of ordinance 24-07 on its second 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. 9735 - Resolution to approve vending contract with Lake Country Vending (Sponsor: Ald. Lampe From: Finance Committee). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9735, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9736 - Resolution to Amend the Employee Handbook of Policies and Procedures related to group health insurance changes (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9736, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9737 - Resolution to Approve the Wildlife Management Agreement (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety and Welfare Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9737, seconded by Ald. Lampe 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. Bartz moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 7:52 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>