



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 106 JONES STREET, WATERTOWN, WI 53094

Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Berg, Davis, Lampe, and Smith

Others present: Finance Director Stevens, Attorney Panagopoulos, Park/Rec Director Butteris, Street Operations Manager Winkelman (video), Alder Arnett (video)

1. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
2. Ald. Berg moved, seconded by Ald. Smith, to approve the **Finance Committee minutes from January 12, 2026**; unanimously approved.
3. Mr. Stevens provided historical comparisons of the **2025 and 2026 Watertown tax rates** (broken down by the four taxing entities) and the **2023-2025 mill rates for all cities in Dodge and Jefferson counties**. The equalized rates provide the best comparison. In 2025, Watertown ranks the third lowest city in Dodge and the lowest city in Jefferson. Both rankings have lowered in their positions from the prior year.
4. Park/Rec Director Butteris recommended a promotion for **Ryan Thurow to be hired as the Parks Project Supervisor** at g/s 155C. Ald. Smith made the motion, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to approve this recommendation with an effective date of 2/4/26. Unanimously approved.
5. A **development agreement (DA) between the City and Habitat for Humanity of Waukesha County** was presented for approval for the construction of six zero-lot line twin homes (twelve units) east of Madison College. The City's participation is limited to the infrastructure work extending Wilbur Street one additional block west. It is estimated that each unit will be sold for approximately \$250K - \$275K. A motion to approve the DA was offered by Ald. Berg, supported by Ald. Lampe, and approved unanimously.
6. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Smith, 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 (**Walgreens vs. City of Watertown** [excessive tax claim]). Unanimously approved via roll call vote.
7. After the committee reconvened into open session, Ald. Smith, seconded by Ald. Davis, to adjourn the Finance Committee at 6:35 p.m., and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.