

Common Council Minutes
Tuesday July 7, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:14 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 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, Works Director Andrew Beyer (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 additions or corrections to minutes of the Common Council meeting held Tuesday, June 16, 2026. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Francine Gies of 609 W. Main Street spoke on the Watertown Parade and Josh Mueller of 915 S. 10th Street, owner of Drafty Cellar, spoke in favor of the proposed TDORA.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Plan Commission minutes from June 8, 2026, Site Plan Review Committee minutes from June 8, 2026, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from June 15, 2026, Senior Center Advisory Board minutes from June 16, 2026, Tourism minutes from June 18, 2026, Downtown Main Street Reconstruction Task Force minutes from June 30, 2026, Public Safety & Welfare minutes from July 1, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Fire Department Monthly Report for May 2026 was presented. Employee Recognition was a duplicate add from last month and not discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Berg made a motion to approve the appointments of Melissa Lampe – serving her third one-year term expiring June 30, 2027, to Tourism Board, Laci Cummings – serving her fourth one-year term expiring August 1, 2027, and Carol Quest – serving her twenty-third one-year term expiring August 1, 2027, to Family Connections Board, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-2 (Lampe, Haase).

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summaries - May 27 through June 9 and June 10 through June 23, 2026 were presented.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 26-16 - Ordinance to amend a portion of Section 500-5 One-way Streets and alleys (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-16 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe. Ald. Blanke made a motion to refer back to the Public Safety and Welfare committee, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-17 - Ordinance to Create a portion of Section 500-3(B) Stop Intersections (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance

26-17 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke. Ald. Blanke made a motion to refer back to Public Safety and Welfare committee, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-18 - Ordinance to Create a portion of Chapter 500-9(F)(2) Parking Prohibited in specified places high profile vehicle parking (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 26-18 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to bring Ord. 26-19, 26-20, 26-21, and 26-22 to the floor together, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by unanimous voice vote. Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve Ord. 26-19 - Ordinance to Amend section 220-3 Classes of Licenses and Fees of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Licensing Board, Second Reading), Ord. 26-20 - Ordinance to Amend section 220-9(F) Regulation of Licensed Premises and Licensees of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Licensing Board, Second Reading), Ord. 26-21 - Ordinance to Repeal and recreate section 428-8 Outdoor Open Container Entertainment Event Permit of the City of Watertown General Ordinances Relating to Temporary Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Areas (TDORA) (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Licensing Board, Second Reading). Ord. 26-22 - Ordinance to Amend section 410-52 Possession of Alcohol Beverages on Public Ways of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Licensing Board, Second Reading), seconded by Ald. Arnett. Ald. Lampe made a motion to add the boundary description of the TDORA to Ord. 26-21 being (part 1 west of the river) - East of Washington Street to the Rock River, extending to South of O'Connell Street and north of West Madison Street, (part 2 east of the river) - West of 6th Street to the Rock River, extending to the south of Jones Street and the north of Dodge Street in place of Exhibit A, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1(Davis); Abstain-0. Ald. Lampe made a motion to include a two-year sunset date of July 7, 2028, for Ord. 26-21 to be repealed or replaced, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Davis); Abstain-0. Motion to approve Ord. 26-19, 26-20, 26-21, and 26-22 carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Davis); Abstain-0.

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, First Reading). Ald. Smith moved for adoption of ordinance 26-23 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer. Ald. Blanke made a motion to amend by striking "to the City Treasurer" in section A, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by unanimous voice vote. Motion 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. 9878 - Resolution to combine wards for voting purposes and the reporting of election returns for the partisan primary and fall general elections (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9878, seconded by Ald. Berg. Ald. Berg made a motion to amend by removing Partisan Primary from the resolution and adding only the 2026 Fall General Election in all applicable sections, seconded by Ald. Arnett and carried by unanimous voice vote. Motion 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. Lampe moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 8:44p.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>