

Common Council Minutes

August 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:11 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2025. 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, Wetzell and Moldenhauer. City staff present were Fire Chief Tanya Reynen, Police Chief David Brower, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Streets Superintendent Stacy Winkelman, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Park and Rec Director Kristine Butteris, Health Director Carol Quest, and Library Director Peg Checki

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, August 5, 2025. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Katie Van Der Linden of N8071 High Rd, Francine Gies of 609 W. Main St., Sarah Zarling of 113 College St., Ben Adams of County Rd X, Chris Ross of 432 W. Clover St. Cottage Grove, Rev. Monica Burkert-Brist of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Gene Schmidt of 303 E. Arden Dr., Leslie Autry 201 S. Water St. Apt 200, Elizabeth Fritz of 112 N. Maple St., Georgia Irree of 402 Wildflower Ln., Jude Christensen of 132 Harding St., Marguerita Haase 706 Crestview Dr. spoke on warming shelters.

**Ald. Lampe moved to rearrange agenda items Exh. 9774, 9777 and 9775 to be discussed at this time, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by unanimous voice vote.*

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Finance Committee minutes from July 7, 2025, Public Works minutes from July 8, 2025, Licensing Board minutes from July 9, 2025, Board of Health minutes from July 15, 2025, Finance Committee minutes from July 21, 2025, Park, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from July 21, 2025, Public Works minutes from July 22, 2025, Plan Commission Minutes from July 28, 2025.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Stocks gave recognition to Jacob Higgins with the Police Department for five years and Mindy Busshardt with the Police Department for ten years. The Fire Department Monthly Report for June was presented.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Payroll Summary - July 23 through August 5, 2025, Paid Invoices Report - July 2025, and Cash and Investments - July 31, 2025, were presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Lampe made a motion to approve the application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor License from ADM207 LLC dba Silver Eagle Saloon (Amanda Kostroski, Agent) located at 207 S. Second St. for licensing year July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, conditioned on health and fire inspections being complete, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Bartz made a motion to approve the agent change application for Silver Creek Investors LLC dba Watertown Country Club at 1340 N Water St. from Daniel Rahfeldt to Brent Regis, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to deny the application for an operator's license from Jericka D Hinojosa based on Cat. I of the Watertown Licensing Guidelines, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 25-19 - Amend Chapter 550: Official Zoning Map of the City of Watertown, through the rezoning of 213 S. First Street Parcel Number 291-0815-0421-161 from Multi-Family Residential (MR-8) Zoning District to Central Business (CB) Zoning District classifications (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 25-19 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-20 - Amend Chapter 550: Official Zoning Map of the City of Watertown, through the rezoning of Parcel Number 291-0815-0832-005 from a Planned Office & Institutional (PO) Zoning District to Planned Industrial (PI) Zoning District classification (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Plan Commission, Second Reading). Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption of ordinance 25-20 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-21 - Amend Section 428-11 of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety and Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 25-21 on its second reading, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 25-22 - Ordinance to Create Section 428-1 Riverfest of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety and Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Moldenhauer moved for adoption of ordinance 25-22 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0 (Ald. Lampe recused himself from discussion and voting).

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. 9774 - Resolution to Approve Development Agreement Between City of Watertown, Wisconsin and Gremar, LLC (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9774, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9775 - Resolution to approve RDA Citywide Sign Grant Program and Designate Source of Funding (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Smith moved to adopt resolution 9775, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9776 - Resolution to not conform to expenditure restraint standards for the 2026 Budget (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9776, seconded by Ald. Lampe. Ald. Smith made a motion to refer resolution 9776 to Finance Committee, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9777 - Resolution to approve the warming and cooling center and shelter policy (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety and Welfare Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9777, seconded by Ald. Smith. Ald. Lampe made a motion to amend section S.2 from city leadership to City Council for the annual review motion, seconded by Ald. Berg and failed by roll call vote: Yes-3 (Lampe, Berg, Bartz); No-6 (Davis, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0. Ald. Lampe made a motion to amend the Policy to require an annual report on procedure developed under chapter 6.4 to come back to City Council, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0. Ald. Lampe made a motion to amend the policy in chapter 6.2 to provide notice of change within 24 hours, seconded by Ald. Berg and failed by roll call vote: Yes-4 (Lampe, Berg, Bartz, Blanke); No-5 (Davis, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel, Moldenhauer); Abstain-0. Ald. Lampe made a motion to amend for the triggers, as defined in the procedure for opening the shelter, to be added into the policy, seconded by Ald. Berg and failed by roll call vote: Yes-2 (Lampe, Berg); No-7 (Bartz, Blanke, Smith, Arnett, Wetzel, Moldenhauer);

Abstain-0. Ald. Blanke called the question, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6 (Blanke, Arnett, Wetzel, Moldenhauer, Davis; No-3 (Smith, Lampe, Berg); Abstain-0. Motion to approve with passed amendment carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1(Berg); Abstain-0.

Exh. 9778 - Resolution to adopt the City of Watertown 2025-2030 Parks and Open Spaces Plan (Sponsor: Ald. Lampe From: Park and Rec Commission). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9778, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1(Arnett); Abstain-0

Exh. 9779 - Resolution to appoint Alexandra Panagopoulos as City Attorney (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9779, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Bartz 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 from Advanced Piping), seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Lampe made a motion to reconvene to open session, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Smith made a motion to deny the Claim from Advanced Piping, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Chris Ross of 432 W. Clover St. Cottage Grove spoke on warming shelters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Davis moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Smith, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 9:51 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>