

Common Council Minutes Monday February 20, 2023

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday February 20, 2023. 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, Ruetten, Licht, Schmid, Wetzel and Romlein. Absent: Ald. Bartz and Smith. City staff present: City Attorney Steven T. Chesebro, Fire Chief Travis Teesh, Deputy Fire Chief Rauterberg, Police Chief Robert Kaminski, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Health Officer Carol Quest, and City Clerk Megan Dunneisen. Virtually attending was Assistant Engineer Andrew Beyer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Mayor McFarland inquired if there were additions or corrections to minutes of the Common Council meeting held Tuesday, February 7, 2023. There being none, minutes were accepted as presented.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: A. Plan Commission Minutes from November 14, 2022, Transit meeting minutes from December 12, 2022, Site Plan Review Minutes from December 12, 2022, Plan Commission Minutes from December 12, 2022, Site Plan Review Minutes from January 23, 2023, Plan Commission Minutes from January 23, 2023, Finance Committee minutes from January 23, 2023, Public Welfare and Safety meeting minutes from February 1, 2023, Tourism meeting minutes from February 9, 2023, Public Works Commission meeting minutes from February 14, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

McFarland gave employee recognition to Julia Paulowske with the Police Department for five years, Nora Achilli with the Police Department for ten years, Jodi Buska with the Water Department for ten years, Brad Fox with the Fire Department for fifteen years, Kim Hiller with the Health Department for twenty-five years, and Mark Faltersack with the Park Department for thirty-five years. Health Officer Carol Quest also gave recognition to Kim Hiller.

Assistant Engineer, Andrew Beyer, and Mayor McFarland gave an update on the Main Street Bridge repair. Media Director, Lisa Famularo, gave information on the sunseting of TextMyGov due to low participation. Hopes are to use a different avenue in the future.

Town Square Status Update and the Watertown Fire Department January Report were also discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Romlein moved appoint Jim Freres and Steve Jones to the Zoning Board of Appeals for three-year terms ending February 2026, seconded by Ald. Ruetten, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

(Complete listing of accounts payable is open for public inspection the Finance Department.)

Certified accounts were presented. Ald. Romlein moved to pay all certified accounts, seconded by Ald. Wetzel, and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary for January 25, 2023 – February 7, 2023 and Cash and Investments for January 31, 2023 were presented.

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. 9479 - Resolution to Allocate Fund 12 (Riverfest Funds) to Watertown Riverfest Inc (Sponsor: Mayor Emily McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Ruetten moved to adopt resolution 9479 as presented, seconded by Ald. Licht. Resolution has returned to council for housekeeping clarity. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-1 (Lampe).

Exh. 9486 - Resolution to approve transit system (taxi service) fare changes effective April 1, 2023 (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Licht moved to adopt resolution 9486, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9487 - Resolution to submit Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Construction Grant for 2023 Annual Street & Utility Program Stormwater Improvements (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Ruetten moved to adopt resolution 9487, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9488 - Resolution to submit Urban Nonpoint Source & Storm Water Management Construction Grant for biofilter construction at Yardwaste Site (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Wetzel moved to adopt resolution 9488, seconded by Ald. Romlein and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9489 - Resolution to submit Vibrant Spaces Grant for downtown alley infrastructure improvements (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Davis moved to adopt resolution 9489, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9490 - Resolution to Enter into the Supplemental Letter Agreement for Professional Services Between the City of Watertown and Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (Sponsor: Mayor Emily McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Ruetten moved to adopt resolution 9490, seconded by Ald. Lampe. Resolution for new Fire Station Design. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; 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. Wetzel moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Schmid, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 7:21 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 office the Finance Department. Video recording available at Watertown TV's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/c/WatertownTV>