

Common Council Minutes Tuesday March 19, 2024

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. 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, Blanke, Smith, Schmid, Wetzel and Moldenhauer. Absent were Ald. Board and Bartz. City staff present were City Attorney Steven T. Chesebro, Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief Rauterberg, Police Chief David Brower, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, and City Clerk Megan Dunneisen.

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, March 5, 2024. There being none, minutes were accepted as presented.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Jacob Maas of 416 N. Washington Street spoke on Exh. 9597 - Introductory resolution to preliminary approve the nomination of the Masonic Temple (2 East Main Street) as a locally designated landmark and being in favor of this resolution.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McFarland called the public hearing to Amend Sections § 550-25F(1)(a)[2], § 550-25F(2)(b), § 550-25F(2)(c), § 550-32C(2), § 550-33C(2), § 550-15, and § 550-126A through removal and addition of language to order at 7:03pm, there being no further comment Mayor McFarland closed the public hearing at 7:03pm.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Licensing Board minutes from February 14, 2024, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from February 19, 2024, Senior Center Advisory Board minutes from February 20, 2024, Plan Commission minutes from February 26, 2024, Finance Committee meeting of February 26, 2024, Town Square Programming Commission Minutes from March 6, 2024, Public Safety and Welfare Committee Minutes from March 6, 2024, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from March 11, 2024, Finance Committee minutes from March 11, 2024, Public Works minutes from March 12, 2024, Tourism minutes from March 14, 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Employee recognition was given to Doug Zwieg in the Public Works Department Building Safety and Zoning Division for twenty-five years, Mark Hady Public Works Department Building Safety and Zoning Division for ten years, Charles Schroeder in the Recreation, Park, & Forestry Department for five years, Dokota Lenske with the Police Department for five years, and Julie Jacobson with the Library for five years.

Ald. Blanke moved to approve the appointment of Erica Schneekloth to the Town Square Programming Commission serving a partial three-year term ending May 2026 (replacing Katie Keepman), seconded by Ald. Lampe, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Note - April 2, 2024, Council Meeting will be moved to April 1, 2024, due to the Spring Election
Mayor McFarland gave an update on the Town of Emmet Annexation to include the Town ending negotiations with the City and wanting to proceed with original agreement (property annexed by September 2024).

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Accounts Payable for February 2024 were presented.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - February 21, 2024, through March 5, 2024, and Cash and Investments - February 29, 2024, were presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Lampe moved to approve the application for Temporary Class "B" license from Fiesta Cultural Org at Bentzin Family Town Square for the Dueling Pianos event on Saturday June 29, 2024 from 5pm - 9pm, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Smith moved to deny the application for an operator's license from Jessica L Raatz due to a Cat. I violation in the City of Watertown Licensing Guidelines, seconded by Ald. Ald Board, and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 24-10 - Ordinance to Amend Chapter 428 Public Events, Article II Special Events License, Sections 428-8C.(1), 428-8C.(1)(e)[1], 428-8D and 428-8E., Outdoor Open Container Entertainment Event Permit (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, 1st Reading). Ald. David moved for adoption of ordinance 24-10 on its 1st reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 24-11 - Amend Chapter 228, Article I, Section 228-1 & 228-2 of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee, 1st reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 24-11 on its 1st reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; 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. 9590 - Resolution to approve Fund 05 Budget Modification (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9590, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9591 - Resolution to approve Fund 24 Budget Modification (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9591, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9592 - Resolution to approve transit lease - addition of two vehicles (Sponsor: Ald. Schmid From: Transit Commission). Ald. Schmid moved to adopt resolution 9592, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9593 – Resolution to authorize submittal of 2023 Annual Stormwater Report (Sponsor: Ald. Wetzel From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Wetzel moved to adopt resolution 9593, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9594 - Resolution to Authorize Write off of Uncollected Debts (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9594, seconded by Ald. David and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9595 - Resolution to Authorize Write-Off of Uncollectible Delinquent Personal Property Taxes (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9595, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9596 - Resolution to Update City of Watertown Animal License Fee Schedule (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee) Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9596, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-1; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9597 - Introductory resolutions to preliminary approve the nomination of the Masonic Temple (2 East Main Street) as a locally designated landmark (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Historic Preservations & Downtown Design Commission). Ald. Smith moved to adopt resolution 9597, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and 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. Moldenhauer moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Schmid, and carried by voice vote at 7:32p.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>