



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 07, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

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

Finance Committee members present: Mayor McFarland, Alderpersons Bartz, Davis, Lampe, and Moldenhauer

Others present: Finance Director Stevens, Attorney Chesebro, Streets Ops Manager Winkleman, Public Health Director Quest, Fire Chief Reynen, Tim Hayden, Lisa Schwartz, Park/Rec Director Butteris (video), Media Coordinator Famularo (video), Stephanie Juhl (video), Mason Becker (video), Malayna Halvorson-Maes (McGrath Consultants via video)

1. Call to order. Mayor McFarland called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. A motion was made by Ald. Bartz, seconded by Ald. Davis, to **approve the minutes from March 24**. Approved.
3. The current vending machine company has informed the City that they will be removing services at City Hall. It is recommended that **WTCH Lake Country Vending** be allowed to install a replacement service at no cost to the City. Ald. David moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Bartz, and approved by all.
4. Several modifications to the employee **handbook section on health insurance** were necessary because of the transition from the WI ETF program to Dean Healthcare as of January 1. Administrative staff updated the contents and presented for approval. Ald. Davis made the motion, supported by Ald. Moldenhauer, to recommend the changes to Council. Approved unanimously.
5. The 2025 budget included funding for an updated **pay study**. McGrath Human Resources Group was contracted to complete this study over the last few months. The report located in the meeting packet was reviewed by the lead consultant, Malayna Maes. External market data was solicited from 28 comparable public organizations. The recommendation was for Watertown to establish its compensation philosophy to the average market comparison. Several recommendations have been presented for both the wages and benefits sides of compensation. Mayor McFarland recommended that the Finance Committee implement the pay study into the 2026 budget (approximately \$339K) and work to implement the additional in-range adjustments (total additional cost of approximately \$654K).
6. A motion was made by Ald. Moldenhauer, supported by Ald. Bartz, 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 (**status of claims against the City**). Unanimously approved on roll call vote.
7. After convening into open session, Ald. Moldenhauer moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to recommend that Council deny an **insurance claim of Christopher O'Brien**. Approved by all.
8. Finance Committee adjournment. Ald. Moldenhauer moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to adjourn the Finance Committee at 7:03 p.m., and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director