



## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

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

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Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Berg, Davis (video), Lampe and Smith (video)

Others present: Ald Bartz, Finance Director Stevens, Attorney Chesebro, Public Works Director Beyer, Streets Operations Manager Winkleman, Fire Chief Reynen (video), Park/Rec Director Butteris, Tim Hayden, Lisa Schwartz, Malayna Moes (McGrath Consulting)

1. Call to order. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. A motion was made by Ald. Berg, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to approve the minutes from June 23. Approved.
3. Streets Operations Manager Winkleman is requesting the **promotion of Wayne Boyd**, a 25-yr employee of the Public Works Division, as solid waste foreman. A motion was made by Ald. Berg, seconded by Ald. Davis, to accept this recommendation at a G/S of H6, due to the 5% promotion policy, effective July 9. Unanimously approved.
4. The suggested **use of TID#4 increment** was last discussed by the Finance Committee at its March 24 meeting. At the advisement of our auditors, a resolution to approve the modification of budgets to represent the determination of spending should not be sent to Common Council until after the TID closure audit (scheduled in August). During today's discussion, it was agreed to add the S. Church St. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for sidewalk leading from Kwik Trip to Walmart and to remove the Washington Park diamond renovations from the second priority list. Mr. Stevens will modify the list and bring this back to the Finance Committee after the audit is completed for a final decision and recommendation of budget modification.
5. Judge Sweet requested consideration of an update to Section 38-4 that determines where the **official bond deposit schedule** is kept. A motion was made by Ald. Lampe to approve the recommendation, seconded by Ald. Davis. After Attorney Chesebro commented that the City Clerk is the assigned position to maintain official records of the City, Ald. Lampe amended the motion to indicate that the City Clerk will house the approved bond deposit schedule and copies will be kept in the offices of the Municipal Court and Police Department. The amendment was approved unanimously followed by unanimous approval to recommend the revised ordinance to Common Council for approval.
6. After review by departments that have fees listed on the **General Fee Schedule**, a resolution was presented to update the proposed fee schedule with a two-phase implementation:
  - a. A decrease in solid waste fees effective August 1, 2025
  - b. Adjustments to other municipal fees effective January 1, 2026Ald. Berg made the motion to recommend the resolution as presented, supported by Ald. Smith, and unanimously approved.
7. McGrath Consulting Group rep Malayna Halverson-Moes joined the meeting via Zoom to provide a short recap of the **final report of the compensation study** that was originally presented to the Finance Committee in April. She spent time explaining the comparable organizations and the market analysis.

Mr. Stevens rehearsed his two documents that help provide a global summary of compensation costs for 2025 with what-if calculations for 2026 along with a preliminary snapshot of available funds to afford **2026 compensation expense increases** (wage adjustments, benefit costs, additional personnel) as well as non-payroll expenses.

The guidance from Finance Committee members was to limit spending increases in conformance with the WI DOR Expenditure Restraint Program, move forward with an attempt to implement the Option I of the McGrath pay study, and to include new positions as recommended by the Mayor. Mr. Stevens will work with the McGrath consultant to determine an acceptable approach.

8. The latest iteration of the **Capital Improvements Projects** list was presented for discussion. Ald. Davis provided a few suggested eliminations. The Mayor will review the list for his recommended budget proposal.
9. Ald. Berg moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, 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 (**Indoor Pool**). Unanimously approved by roll call vote.
10. After reconvening into open session, Mayor Stocks moved, supported by Ald. Lampe, to have city staff draft a letter to the Watertown Unified School District administration per the closed session conversation.
11. Finance Committee adjournment. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Berg, to adjourn the Finance Committee at 7:54 p.m., and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director

Note: These minutes are uncorrected, and any corrections made thereto will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.