



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

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

Finance Committee members present: Mayor Stocks, Alderpersons Berg, Davis, Lampe, Smith

Others present: Finance Director Stevens, Attorney Chesebro, Health Director Quest, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Street Operations Manager Winkelman, Fire Chief Reynen, Lisa Schmitz, Mason Becker, Abby Kuehn

1. Call to order. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.
2. Ald. Berg made a motion, seconded by Ald Davis to approve the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting of June 10. Approved unanimously.
3. Street Operations Manager Winkelman informed the committee that, in light of a greater need for another refuse truck than Cady St facilities repairs, the mayor, finance director, and public works director agreed to swap the same budgeted \$350,000 amount for the truck instead of building repairs in the **Solid Waste budget**.
4. The **Solid Waste** Department has found a service provider willing to pay the City a small per pound rate for electronics and small and medium-sized appliances that will replace an existing agreement where the City has been charged disposal fees. Ms. Winkelman will revise the **fee schedule** to be presented in a future meeting so that the changes can be made and advertised soon.
5. As part of the **emergency vehicle pre-emption system**, the WI DOT has provided a draft agreement for the installation of the system at the state-owned traffic control signal located at the **intersection of STH 16 and Fourth St. (CTH R)**. There is no cost to this. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to recommend approval to the Common Council. Approved unanimously.
6. Mayor Stocks recommended the hiring of **Chris Czernaik** to fill the role of **IT Coordinator** at the G/S M8. A motion by Ald. Davis, supported by Ald. Berg, approved the hiring effective July 1. Approved unanimously.
7. Mr. Stevens explained the layout of the **Capital Improvements Projects draft**. The request was for committee members to review and provide input at the next Finance Committee meeting for any suggested modifications for incorporation into the 2026 budget creation.
8. Mr. Stevens reviewed the **global payroll compensation tool** as well as the impact on Fund 01 based on the initial calculations of the Expenditure Restraint Program. It was requested that committee members review these documents in order to build a consensus as to a budget building direction for the departments.
9. The department heads had completed the task of building proposals for **2026 employment position additions**, providing a memo of explanation, compensation costs, and job descriptions for new positions. Nine of the eleven have been assigned pay scale grades. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Smith, to not send the other two positions to the HR consultant for review and grading. Approved 4:1.

Ald. Smith moved, supported by Ald. Davis, to proceed with incorporating the remaining nine positions into the budget creation. Approved unanimously.

10. Ald. Lampe, seconded by Ald. Davis, moved to convene into **closed session** per § 19.85(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (**Parcel No. 291-0815- 0424-040**). Unanimously approved via roll call vote.
11. After returning to open session, Ald. Smith moved, supported by Ald. Davis, to authorize the appropriate city staff to **initiate the purchase of Parcel No. 291-0815-0424-040** for \$40,000. Approved unanimously.
12. Mr. Becker summarized the proposed **Oxbow development** for 100 & 104 E Division St. and introduced the committee to developer representatives from North Town Partners who shared their desire to construct a 68-unit multifamily project.
13. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe, to convene into **closed session** per §19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (**Oxbow Project**). Unanimously approved via roll call vote.
14. After reconvening into open session, it was agreed that the preliminary ideas discussed in the closed session will be used for creation of a developer agreement term sheet.
15. Mr. Becker shared a request to **amend the boundary for TID#8** to bring the portion of the Oxbow Project parcel located in Dodge County into the TID for full capture of the new increment that will be generated by this project. Ald. Lampe moved, seconded by Ald. Davis, to recommend an **amendment of the TID#8 budget** to afford the professional services necessary to expand the TID boundaries. Unanimously approved.
16. Ald. Davis 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 via roll call vote.
17. After returning to open session, Ald. Lampe, supported by Ald. Berg, moved to authorize the City staff to continue negotiation with Watertown Unified School District as discussed in closed session. Approved unanimously.
18. Finance Committee adjournment. Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Lampe to adjourn the Finance Committee at 8:30 p.m., and was carried by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stevens, Finance Director/Treasurer