

Common Council Minutes November 7, 2023

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 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, Board, Blanke, Smith, Schmid, Wetzel and Moldenhauer. Ald. Lampe arrived at 7:50pm. Absent was Ald. Bartz. City staff present were City Attorney Steven T. Chesebro, Fire Chief Travis Teesch, Deputy Fire Chief Rauterberg, Police Chief Robert Kaminski, Assistant Police Chief Ben Olsen, Captain David Brower, Health Officer Carol Quest (virtual), Library Director Peg Checkai (virtual), Finance Director Mark Stevens, Public Works Director Jaynellen Holloway, 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, October 17, 2023. There being none, minutes were accepted as presented.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McFarland opened the 2024 Budget Proposal public hearing at 7:07pm, Ken Berg of 1201 Richards Ave commented on the 2024 budget including revenue sharing, debt service levy, property tax relief, funding for increases, and being opposed to the city administrator study. There being no further comment Mayor McFarland closed the public hearing at 7:13pm.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Bentzin Family Town Square Programming Commission minutes from August 21, 2023, Licensing Board minutes from September 13, 2023, Parks, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from September 18, 2023, Plan Commission minutes from September 25, 2023, Licensing Board Special minutes from September 27, 2023, Plan Commission minutes from October 2, 2023, Finance Committee minutes of October 3 through 12, 2023 (Budget meetings), Library Board of Trustees minutes from October 12, 2023, RDA minutes from October 18, 2023, Public Works minutes from October 24, 2023, Downtown Main Street Reconstruction Task Force minutes from October 25, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Chief Kaminski gave recognition and presented the Life Saving Award to P.O. Jon Wehner.

Capt. David Brower, Assistant Police Chief Olsen, and Mayor McFarland gave Recognition to Police Chief Kaminski on his retirement.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Wetzel made a motion to approve Jennifer Walter – serving first five-year term ending August 2028 (replacing William Kehl) to the Housing Authority and Ryan Wagner – replacing Nate Salas as the RDA representative to the Downtown Main Street Reconstruction Task Force, seconded by Ald. Board and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Lampe arrived at 7:50 pm.

Councilmembers had discussion regarding City budgets for 2024. Ald. Smith moved for the removal of the \$8,000 City Administrator study, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and carried by roll call vote of Yes - 6 (Smith, Schmid, Wetzel, Moldenhauer, Davis); No - 2 (Lampe, Board).

Further discussion on the Fire Station, Maas representatives were present virtually to assist with answering questions. Information was given that the original estimated cost to build the station was not enough. Finance Director Mark Stevens gave on information on potential funding options.

Discussion from councilmembers regarding the Main Street Bridge - State did not put out the bid request this month and is now asking if the city would want to have the project still start in 2024 with having to close the bridge during the winter season or to push the start time back to 2025 and have it completed with no winter interruption. Jaynellen commented that the bridge is inspected every six months. Ald. Blanke made a motion for the project to start as soon as possible, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote of Yes - 6 (Blanke, Smith, Schmid, Wetzel, Davis, Board); No - 2 (Moldenhauer, Lampe).

Ald. Board moved to Convene into closed session per Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel of 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. (Yagow v. City of Watertown), seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote of Yes - 8 (Board, Blanke, Smith, Schmid, Wetzel, Moldenhauer, Davis, Lampe); No - 0.

Ald. Schmid made a motion to Reconvene into open session, seconded by Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

Certified accounts were presented. Ald. Moldenhauer moved to pay all certified accounts, seconded by Ald. Smith, and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - October 4 through October 17, 2023, and October 18 through October 31, 2023. Credit Card Purchases over \$10,000 for September 2023 was presented.

LICENSES:

Ald. Smith made a motion to approve the agent change for American Legion Pitterle - Beaudoin Post 189 from Robert Hamburger to Stephen Zillmer, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to approve Application for a "Class B" Malt and Liquor License from Dani's Pour Decisions LLC DBA Pour Decisions (Danielle Glazar, Agent) located at 715 W. Main Street with conditions of all inspections being completed, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Ald. Smith made a motion to deny the application for operator's license from Jessica Raatz based on CAT I of the City of Watertown Licensing Guidelines and due to probations restrictions, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 23-23 - Amend Section 500-10(D) of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Alderperson Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare, 2nd Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 23-23 on its 2nd reading, seconded by Ald. Board and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; 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. 9546 - Resolution to enter Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Election Commission for the obligations pertaining to the Badger Book electronic poll books and associated software (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Wetzel moved to adopt resolution 9546, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9547 - Resolution to Approve Lebanon EMS Service Coverage for 2024 (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Board moved to adopt resolution 9547, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9548 - Resolution to modify FY 2023 Economic Development Budget (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9548, seconded by Ald. Board and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9549 - Resolution to honor the retirement of Police Chief Robert Kaminski (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland). Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9549, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9550 - Resolution to Authorize Participation in the Cooperative Planning Process Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 66.0307 (Sponsor: Mayor Emily McFarland From: Plan Commission). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9550, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by unanimous voice vote.

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. Schmid moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer, and carried by voice vote at 9:25p.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>