

Common Council Minutes Tuesday March 5, 2024

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5, 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, Board, Bartz, Smith, Schmid, Wetzel and Moldenhauer. City staff present were City Attorney Steven Chesebro, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer (remote), Deputy Fire Chief Anthony Rauterberg, Police Chief David Brower, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Recreation Director Kristine Butteris (remote), and Deputy Treasurer/Clerk Sheri Rohr.

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, February 20, 2024. There being none, minutes were accepted as presented.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: BFTS meeting minutes from January 3, 2024; BFTS meeting minutes from February 7, 2024; Tourism meeting minutes from February 8, 2024; Finance Committee meeting minutes from February 12, 2024; Plan Commission meeting minutes from February 12, 2024; Public Works meeting minutes from February 27, 2024.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

April 2, 2024 Council Meeting will be moved to April 1, 2024 due to the Spring Election

Main Street (Cole Memorial) Bridge Update – Mayor McFarland advised the bid closure date is March 12, 2024. Upon acceptance of a favorable bid, construction is aimed to start in April 2024. Once construction begins, the bridge will remain closed until after state has completed their work, which is estimated to be completed in late fall 2024.

Update on Riverside Park Bathrooms – Mayor McFarland advised the City received two bids for this project. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$692,000. Construction is aimed to start in early April 2024 with anticipated completed in late summer 2024.

Main Street Program Report – Melissa Lampe: presented 2023 downtown highlights and provided pamphlets to Council members.

Watertown Library Information presented in Council packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Board moved to appoint Melissa Lampe – serving first three-year term ending March 2027 to the Historic Preservation and Downtown Design Committee, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by voice vote: Yes-7; No-0; Abstain-1.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - February 7, 2024 through February 20, 2024 was presented

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. 9589 - Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid (Sponsor: Ald. Wetzel From: Airport Commission). Ald. Wetzel moved to adopt resolution 9589, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9587 - Resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of \$3,120,000 General Obligation Promissory Note (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Board moved to adopt resolution 9587, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-0.

Brad Viegut from Baird was present and provided details on this promissory note. He explained the interest rate for this note is lower than what was initially presented last month, moving from 4.42% to 3.29%. Brad further explained this interest rate is driven by Moody's bond rating for the City, which is Aa3 for this type of note.

Exh. 9588 - Resolution Authorizing the issuance of \$14,695,000 General Obligation Promissory Notes and Sale of \$14,695,000 Note Anticipation Notes in Anticipation Thereof (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Finance Committee). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9588, seconded by Ald. Davis and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-2; Abstain-0.

Brad Viegut provided details on this short term note for the fire station. He explained the interest rate for this loan is lower than what was initially presented last month, moving from 4.59% to 3.95%, which is well below projection. Because of the lower interest rate, the total loan amount was able to be reduced to \$14,630,000.

Ald. Smith advised the Council of his disfavor for the fire station project and this resolution, as it has been presented to Council.

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 7:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sheri Rohr, Deputy Treasurer/Clerk

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>