



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025, AT 5:30 PM

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 106 JONES ST, WATERTOWN, WI 53094

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

Others present: Finance Director Stevens (video), Public Works Director Beyer, Water Systems Manager Hartz, Park/Rec Director Butteris, Ald. Bartz

1. Mayor Stocks called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
2. Ald. Davis, seconded by Ald. Smith, moved to approve the **minutes from October 27**; unanimously approved.
3. A service **agreement for the Watertown Humane Society for 2026-2027** was presented for review. Ald. Davis motioned to approve the agreement, seconded by Ald. Smith. Unanimously approved.
4. Mr. Beyer summarized the recent **storm water utility rate study**, last completed in 2019 (2020 was last rate increase). Consultant Ruekert & Mielke created initial alternative rate scenarios to Public Works Commission. The committee requested revisions to the alternatives. The Public Works Commission has recommended adoption of the revised Alternative 2, and Public Works staff agrees with this approach that includes a five-year rate increase schedule. A single-family bill will rise approximately 9% in 2026. This plan will require some equipment replacement deferment, and implementation of the 2024 flood control plan will take more than 40 years. Industry standards (AWWA metric) suggest that a storm water utility's fund balance is 100% of annual operating expenses. A motion was offered by Ald. Davis, supported by Ald. Smith, and approved 3:1.
5. **Water Systems** Manager Hartz presented a request for **step increases in pay** for seven employees who have recently completed certifications and/or licensing. Ald. Smith motioned, seconded by Ald. Berg, to approve the following requests to be effective with the beginning of the pay period beginning October 29.
 - a. Jake Nehls: g/s H9 [\$29.70] to g/s H10 [\$30.39]
 - b. Jay Pirkel: g/s F8 [\$24.17] to g/s F9 [\$29.74]
 - c. Peter Brunner: g/s J4 [\$30.61] to g/s J6 [\$32.23]
 - d. Ryan Miller: g/s J4 [\$30.61] to g/s J5 [\$31.42] (note: current g/s corrected when reviewed by payroll staff)
 - e. Edward Groves: g/s J1 [\$28.20] to g/s J4 [\$30.61]
 - f. Nathan Pate: g/s G1 [\$22.16] to g/s G3 [\$23.42]
 - g. Allyssa Klink: g/s K1 [\$30.23] to g/s K2 [\$31.09]

Unanimously approved.

6. Mr. Stevens explained the **tax collection changes** that will be required **starting in late 2026** for next year's tax bill creation and collections. We will be advertising these changes in this year's property tax bill to provide a year's advance notice to all parcel owners.

- a. The number of payment installments will be modified from three to two. The two due dates are January 31, 2027, and July 31, 2027.
 - b. The City will collect only the first installment for all parcels through January 31, 2027.
 - c. All payments made starting February 1, 2027, will be collected by the Treasurer's offices in the two counties.
7. Ald. Davis, supported by Ald. Berg, motioned 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**). Motion unanimously approved through voice vote.
8. After reconvening into open session, Ald. Davis moved, seconded by Ald. Berg, to convene into **closed session** per § 19.85(1)(e) when deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session (**2026 PD Union Contract**). Motion unanimously approved through voice vote.
9. The meeting reconvened into open session.
10. Finance Committee adjournment. Ald. Berg moved, seconded by Ald. Smith, to adjourn the Finance Committee at 6:59 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.