Common Council Minutes
Tuesday October 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stocks called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:04 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026. 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, Berg, Nitecki, Blanke, Smith, Arnett (virtual), Haase, and Moldenhauer. City staff present were Fire Chief Tanya Reynen (virtual), Police Chief David Brower, City Attorney Ali Panagopoulos, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Streets Superintendent Stacy Winkelman, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, and City Clerk Megan Dunneisen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING

Mayor Stocks inquired if there were additions or corrections to minutes of the Common Council meeting held Tuesday, October 6, 2026. There being none, Ald. Berg moved to approve, seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by unanimous voice vote.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

Melanie Justin of 702 S. 6th Street, Rob Lund of 210 S. 8th Street, Tom Van Hecke 701 S. 8th Street, spoke opposing the change from one-way streets to two-way streets. David Helser of N250 Hwy K spoke on the ground water and gas lines on Dewey Ave. Eric Schmid of 605 Lafayette Street spoke on open records requests and opposing flock. Michelle Berry of 813 S. 10th Street spoke on the event End the Silence.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Licensing Board minutes from September 9, 2026 Plan Commission minutes from September 28, 2026, Public Safety & Welfare minutes from October 7, 2026, Tourism Commission minutes from October 8, 2026, Site Plan Review minutes from October 12, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor Stocks gave a reminder that next council meeting will be held on Monday November 2 in room 0008 (lower level) due to the Election. Mayor Stocks gave employee recognition to Donna Christian Wastewater Department for 25 Years. Baker Tilly gave an Auditor's Presentation of the 2025 Audit.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to move Ordinances to be after Communications and Recommendations, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Moldenhauer made a motion to convene into closed session per §19.85(1)(e) and (g): Deliberating or negotiating 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; Conferring 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 (Mary and Clark Development) (Oak Hill Cemetery Agreement), seconded by Ald. Nitecki and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. made a motion to reconvene into open session, seconded by Ald. and carried by roll call vote: Yes-0; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - September 16, 2026 through September 29, 2026 and Paid Invoices Report - September 2026 were presented.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 26-29 - Amend Section 253-23 Fire Protection Systems of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety and Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-29 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-30 - Amend sections 446-20(B)(3), 446-20 (C)(3), 446-20(D), 446-21(A), 446-28, and 446-29 of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Arnett From: Public Works Commission, First Reading). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 26-30 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-31 - Amend a portion of Section 500-5, One-way streets and alleys, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-31 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-32 - Amend a portion of Section 500-5, One-way streets and alleys, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-32 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-3 (Berg, Nitecki, Haase); Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-33 - Create a portion of Section 500-3(B), Stop Intersections, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-33 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-34 - Create a portion of Section 500-3(B), Stop Intersections, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Lampe moved for adoption of ordinance 26-34 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-5; No-4 (Berg, Nitecki, Smith, Haase); Abstain-0.

Ord. 26-35 - Amend Section 500-9(A) Parking prohibited in specified places, of Chapter 500 Traffic Code of the City of Watertown (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, First Reading). Ald. Davis moved for adoption of ordinance 26-35 on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; 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. 9897 - Resolution to enter into a three-year agreement with the Village of Clyman for Solid Waste and Recycling Collection (Sponsor: Ald Arnett From: Public Works Commission). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9897, seconded by Ald. Haase and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9898 - Resolution requesting exemption from Dodge County library tax (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Berg moved to adopt resolution 9898, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9899 - Resolution Library Tax Exemption Jefferson County (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9899, seconded by Ald. Smith and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9900 - Resolution to approve IGA with the City of Lake Mills for Watertown Media Services (Sponsor: Mayor Stocks From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9900, seconded by Ald. Berg and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0; Abstain-0.

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. Lampe moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Davis, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 9:32 p.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