

Common Council Minutes Tuesday November 4, 2024

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4, 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. Lampe, Board, Bartz, Blanke, Wetzel, and Moldenhauer. Absent: Ald. Davis, Smith, and Schmid. City staff present were City Attorney Steven T. Chesebro, Police Chief David Brower, Finance Director Mark Stevens, Public Works Director Andrew Beyer, Zoning Administrator Brian Zirbes, Strategic Coordinator Mason Becker, Health Director Carol Quest (virtual), 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 15, 2024. There being none, minutes were accepted as presented.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor McFarland opened the public hearing for 1911 Gateway Drive Comprehensive Plan Amendment at 7:03pm, comment from Michael Bloninem of 115 Air Park Drive requesting consulting and better communication to him and area residents on the project. Bloninem spoke on concerns of traffic east on Air Park Drive and the merge left lane. There being no further comment Mayor McFarland closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.

Mayor McFarland opened the public hearing for 1911 Gateway Drive Rezoning at 7:05pm, there being no comment Mayor McFarland closed the public hearing at 7:05pm.

Mayor McFarland opened the public hearing for City of Watertown Zoning Map Corrections at 7:06pm there being no comment Mayor McFarland closed the public hearing at 7:06pm.

Mayor McFarland opened the public hearing for the 2025 Budget Proposal at 7:06pm, Donna Christian City Employee, spoke about concerns of the health insurance increase along with a concern for transparency, equality, and fairness within the city departments. There being no further comment Mayor McFarland closed the public hearing at 7:09pm.

REPORTS

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

The following reports were received and filed: Site Plan Review Minutes from September 9, 2024, Park, Recreation, and Forestry minutes from September 16, 2024, Joint Review Board Minutes of September 17, 2024, Plan Commission minutes from September 23, 2024, Finance Committee minutes from October 1-10, 2024 (2025 Budget), Public Works minutes from October 8, 2024, Tourism minutes from October 10, 2024, Plan Commission minutes from October 14, 2024, Town Square Programming Commission Minutes from October 15, 2024, Public Works minutes from October 22, 2024, RDA Minutes from October 23, 2024 were presented.

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor McFarland gave an update on the E. Main Street Reconstruction timeline - Church to Sharp Corner Park (Market) remaining 2028, Sharp Corner Park (Market) to Irene Street timeline moving from 2029 to 2030.

Mayor McFarland gave an update on the Main Street Bridge including the application for the river draw down being approved and the state and federal level with the next step being the public information meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Board made a motion to approve the Election Inspector Appointments for the term 2024-2025 as presented, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Council discussion regarding City budgets for 2025 - Ald. Lampe made a motion to increase the city contribution to the Town Square by \$3,300 – outflow account 01-55-20-21, inflow account 26-44-62-50 with a matching entry to decrease the contingency fund by \$3,300 account 22-51-81-56, seconded by Ald. Board and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Payroll Summary - October 2, 2024 through October 15, 2024 was presented.

ORDINANCES

Ord. 24-26 - Amend Section 500-3 B. Stop Intersections of the City of Watertown General Ordinances (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare Committee, Second Reading). Ald. Bartz moved for adoption of ordinance 24-26 on the second reading, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 24-27 - Third Party Inspections (Sponsor: Ald. Davis From: Public Safety & Welfare, First Reading). Ald. Wetzel moved for adoption of ordinance 24-27 on the first reading, seconded by Ald. Lampe and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 24-28 - Amend Chapter 550: Zoning Code, through the amendments of language to Sections §550-109B, §550-109D, §550-132, §550-56C; §550-32B(2), §550-33B(2), and §550-34B(2), and §550-120C (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Plan Commission). Ald. Blanke moved for adoption of ordinance 24-28 on the first reading, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ord. 24-29 - Ordinance to Authorize 24 Hour Construction on STH 19 (Main St.) Bridge Over the Rock River in Watertown, WI (Sponsor: Mayor Emily McFarland, First Reading). Ald. Moldenhauer moved for adoption of ordinance 24-29 on the first reading, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Blanke made a motion to suspend the rules to have the second reading of ordinance 24-29, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Ald. Board moved for adoption of ordinance 24-29 on the second reading, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; 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. 9669 - Resolution to Approve 2025 Lebanon EMS Contract (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland, From: Finance Committee). Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9669, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9670 - Resolution to create Fund 30 for TID #9 (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland, From: Finance Committee). Ald. Blanke moved to adopt resolution 9670, seconded by Ald. Bartz and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9671 - Resolution to enter into lease with Passenger Transit Inc for Shared Ride Taxi Service Vehicles (Sponsor: Ald. Schmid From: Transit Commission). Ald. Moldenhauer moved to adopt resolution 9671, seconded by Ald. Board and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9672 - WEDC Small Business Development Grant application (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland, From: Watertown Main Street Program). Ald. Board moved to adopt resolution 9672, seconded by Ald. Moldenhauer and carried unanimous voice vote.

Exh. 9673 - Change Order No. 1 to 2024 Street & Utility Reconstruction Contract with Forest Landscaping and Construction, Inc. for \$51,530.00 (Sponsor: Ald. Board, From: Public Works

Board). Ald. Board moved to adopt resolution 9673, seconded by Ald. Wetzel and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; No-0; Abstain-0.

Exh. 9674 - Resolution to approve Development Agreement between the City of Watertown and Horizon Development Group for Lumin Terrace (Sponsor: Mayor McFarland From: Plan Commission). Ald. Lampe moved to adopt resolution 9674, seconded by Ald. Blanke and carried by roll call vote: Yes-6; 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. Moldenhauer moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Wetzel, and carried by unanimous voice vote at 7:26p.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>