



**ETHICS COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026 AT 1:00 PM**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING – 106 JONES STREET, WATERTOWN, WI 53094 - ROOM 2044**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Each individual who would like to address the Committee will be permitted up to three minutes for their comments*

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Review and take action: Repeal and create Sections 65-8 and 65-9 of the City of Watertown general ordinances

B. Review and discuss: Amendments to the Ethics Board rules of procedures

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

*Persons requiring other reasonable accommodations for any of the above meetings, may contact the office of the City Clerk at [cityclerk@watertownwi.gov](mailto:cityclerk@watertownwi.gov) phone 920-262-4000*

*A quorum of any City of Watertown Council, Committee, Board, Commission, or other body, may be present at this meeting for observing and gathering of information only*

**ORDINANCE TO  
REPEAL AND CREATE SECTIONS 65-8 AND 65-9 OF THE CITY OF  
WATERTOWN GENERAL ORDINANCES**

**SPONSOR: MAYOR ROBERT STOCKS  
FROM: ETHICS BOARD**

THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. §65-8 Applicability and §65-9 Violations and penalties are hereby repealed and created to read as follows:

**~~§ 65-8 Applicability.~~**

~~This code shall be operative in all instances covered by its provisions except when superseded by an applicable statutory provision and statutory action is mandatory or when the application of a statutory provision is discretionary but determined by the Ethics Board to be more appropriate or desirable.~~

**§ 65-8 Disclosure of Interests.**

A. Definitions. The following definitions apply in this subsection relating to Disclosure of Interests:

- 1) "Appointed official" means any officer of the City of Watertown appointed pursuant to the authority set forth in Wis. Stat. § 62.09 and shall include all City of Watertown Department and Division Heads but shall exclude election officials.
- 2) "Elected official" means all officers of the City of Watertown established pursuant to the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 62.09, or its authority, who are elected by the voters.

B. Disclosure of Interests; By Whom Required. The following shall file a Statement of Interests as provided in this subdivision:

- 1) Elected and appointed officials;
- 2) Compensated and uncompensated members of all boards, committees, commissions, subcommittees and ad hoc committees unless any demonstrate to the Ethics Board that they are not involved in the regulation of economic activity, or the expenditure or granting of funds, or the entry by the city into contracts;
- 3) Candidates for elective office of the City of Watertown;

C. Statement of Interests, When To File.

- 1) All persons who file nomination papers for an elective office of the City of Watertown shall at the time of filing of such nomination papers also file a Statement of Interests with the City Clerk.
- 2) Persons to be appointed to City boards, committees, commissions, subcommittees and ad hoc committees shall file the Statement with the City Clerk at least 10 business days before their names are submitted to the Common Council for confirmation.
- 3) Employees who are appointed or reappointed to their positions subject to confirmation by the Common Council shall file the Statement with the City Clerk at least 10 business

(Type meeting date of the FIRST meeting the ordinance will be considered) Ord. 26-XX

days before their appointments or reappointments are submitted to the Common Council for confirmation. All other employees who are required to file the Statement shall file the Statement with the City Clerk within 10 business days after they begin work as City employees.

- D. Annual Filing. Each person required to file the Statement shall annually file an updated Statement with the Clerk no later than the first Tuesday in January of each year, except that this provision shall not apply to candidates for elected office who have filed the Statement with their nomination papers pursuant to subdivision (9)(c) of this section.
- E. Amending the Statement of Interests.
- 1) If, after filing the Statement, the filer becomes aware of errors or omissions in the original Statement, she or he, as soon as possible, shall attach an Amendment to her or his original Statement to reflect accurately the required disclosures.
  - 2) If, after filing the Statement, any elected official or department or division head or deputy mayor becomes aware of any change in the information contained in her or his current Statement, she or he shall amend, as soon as possible, her or his Statement to reflect accurately the change.
- F. Any amendment to the Statement which is filed after the filing of a complaint against the person required to file shall not be a defense to the complaint, but the Ethics Board may, in its discretion, consider the amendment as mitigating circumstances.
- G. Form of Statement. The person filing any Statement of Interests required under this subsection shall file such Statement approved by the Ethics Board and provided by the City Clerk.

**§ 65-9 Applicability.**

This code shall be operative in all instances covered by its provisions except when superseded by an applicable statutory provision and statutory action is mandatory or when the application of a statutory provision is discretionary but determined by the Ethics Board to be more appropriate or desirable.

~~**§ 65-9 Violations and penalties.**~~

~~A determination that a public official's or public employee's actions constitute improper conduct under the provisions of this chapter may constitute a cause for removal from office, termination of employment, suspension, reprimand or other appropriate disciplinary action. As an alternative or in addition to sanctions imposed herein, any individual violating the Ethics Code shall be subject to a nonreimbursable forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 as determined by the City of Watertown Common Council.~~

**§ 65-10 Violations and penalties.**

A determination that a public official's or public employee's actions constitute improper conduct under the provisions of this chapter may constitute a cause for removal from office, termination of employment, suspension, reprimand or other appropriate disciplinary action. As an alternative or in addition to sanctions imposed herein, any individual violating the Ethics Code shall be subject to a nonreimbursable forfeiture of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000 as determined by the City of Watertown Common Council.

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force the day after its passage and publication.

DATE:	<i>First meeting date</i>		<i>Second meeting date</i>	
READING:	1ST		2ND	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
DAVIS				
LAMPE				
BERG				
BARTZ				
BLANKE				
SMITH				
ARNETT				
WETZEL				
MOLDENHAUER				
MAYOR STOCKS				
TOTAL				

ADOPTED     Type second meeting date    

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

APPROVED     Type second meeting date    

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

R E S O L U T I O N

SPONSOR: Alderman Bartel  
FROM: Building & Grounds & Public Welfare

WHEREAS, Chapter 30 of the Municipal Code established the Ethics Board,  
and

WHEREAS, their Board is charged with setting up Operating Procedures for  
the Boards and how it is to handle potential conflicts

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached "Rules of Procedure" be  
adopted and implemented.

Adopted 7 FEBRUARY 1989

*Wil H. Hyslop*  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved 8 FEBRUARY 1989

*David R. Lenz*  
Mayor

DATE	2-7-89	
	YES	NO
SEEBER	/	
READY	-	
MOLDENHAUER	2/	
KUEHL		/
BOLL	/	
CLEMANS	-	
SCHLEICHER	-	
BARTEL	1-	
YENSER	/	
ECKERT	/	
BERG		/
MARON	-	
BIWERSI	/	
MAYOR LENZ		
TOTAL	11	2

(February 7, 1989) Exhibit #4784

RULES OF PROCEDURES  
ETHICS BOARD  
CITY OF WATERTOWN, WISCONSIN

1.01 ETHICS BOARD. The Ethics Board is created by Chapter 30, City of Watertown Ordinance and has the authority to administer the Code of Ethics for elected and appointed public officials and employes of the City of Watertown. It consists of four (4) members, one of whom is an alternate member, appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council.

1.02 OFFICERS. At the initial meeting, and thereafter the annual meeting in the month of November each year, the Board shall elect, by majority vote of its members, a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next annual meeting.

1.03 SCHEDULE MEETINGS. The schedule meetings of the Ethics Board shall be held the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The time, place and subject matter of meeting, including that intended for consideration at any contemplated closed session, will be announced in such form and timeliness as is reasonably likely to apprise members of the public and the news media thereof. Each meeting shall be open for the purpose of receiving inquiries regarding the Code of Ethics for which an advisory opinion is being sought.

1.04 SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings may be held on call of the chairperson. Notice to Board members shall be given at least twenty-four (24) hours before the time of the meeting.

1.05 AGENDA. The Agenda of the items of business for each meeting shall be prepared and published by the Chairperson.

1.06 QUORUM. Three (3) members of the Board shall constitute a quorum. The alternate member of the Ethics Board shall be considered in making a determination whether the Board has a quorum.

1.07 VOTING. A majority vote of the board shall be necessary to pass any motion with the exception that Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law made by the Board at a hearing conducted under Section 30.7(F)(K) of the City Ordinance shall require the unanimous vote of the Board. All votes are to be recorded.

1.08 MINUTES. Minutes of all meetings shall be kept. The Board shall direct the obtaining of a Court Reporter for any hearing conducted under Section 30.7(F)(K) of the Ordinance.

1.09 RESOURCES. The City shall provide the necessary resources, including financial, in order for the Board to conduct its business.

## 1.10 ACCESS TO RECORDS.

### (a) Advisory Opinions:

Records of the Board's Opinions, opinion requests, and investigations of violations shall be closed to public inspection. The Board, however, may make such records public with the consent of the individual requesting the advisory opinion. If an individual who has received a written opinion from the Ethics Board, publishes any portion of the opinion, he or she shall have waived all confidentiality regarding the request, opinion, deliberations and all actions taken by the Board and shall be deemed to have given the Board's consent to release otherwise confidential records. Upon issuing the advisory opinion, the Board shall inform the individual in writing the waiver of confidentiality regarding the above records.

### (b) Records of Hearings:

Certified copies, records and documents of a hearing conducted by the Board shall be closed to the public as per Section 30.7(B) of the City Ordinance.

## 2.01 INVESTIGATION.

(a) The Board shall accept from any person, or make upon its own motion, a signed complaint in writing which shall state the name of the officer of employe alleged to have committed a violation of this chapter and which shall set forth the particulars thereof. The Board shall forward, within ten (10) days, a copy of the complaint to the officer or employe who is accused. If no action on the verified complaint is taken by the Board within sixty (60) days, the complaint shall be void.

(b) Following the receipt or motion of a complaint, the Board may make preliminary investigations with respect to alleged violation of Chapter 30. The Board shall verify the complaint and shall direct that a preliminary investigation be conducted by designated personnel of the Watertown Police Department or other designated individual. No preliminary investigation of the activities of any officer or employe may be initiated unless such officer or employe is notified in writing. The notice shall state the exact nature and purpose of the investigation, the individual's specific actions or activities to be investigated and a statement of such person's due process rights.

(c) Upon completion of the investigation, the investigator shall file a written report with the Board. If, following the investigation, the Board determines there is not probable cause to believe a violation of the Ethics Code has occurred, the Board will dismiss the complaint, with all parties being notified of such action.

(d) If, after such investigation, the Board finds that probable cause exists to believe the allegations of the complaint, it shall conduct a hearing on the matter which shall be held not more than thirty (30) days after such finding. The Board shall give the accused at least twenty (20) days' notice of the hearing date. The designated legal counsel shall prepare and present the allegations to the Board on behalf of the City. Such hearings shall be at closed session unless the accused petitions for a hearing open to the public. The rules of civil procedures shall apply to such hearings. All evidence, including certified copies of records and documents which the Board considers, shall be fully offered and made part of the record in the case. Every party shall be afforded adequate opportunity to rebut or offer countervailing evidence.

(f) During all stages of any investigation or proceeding conducted under this section, the accused or any person whose activities are under investigation shall be entitled to be represented by counsel of his own choosing.

(g) The accused or his representative shall have an adequate opportunity to examine all documents and records to be used at the hearing at a reasonable time before the date of the hearing as well as during the hearing, to bring witnesses, to establish all pertinent facts and circumstances, and to question or refute any testimony or evidence, including opportunity to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses.

(h) The Board shall have the power to compel the attendance of witnesses and to issue subpoenas granted other boards and commissioners under Section 885.01(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

2.02 HEARING. Upon determination by the Board to hold a hearing, it shall set the day, time and place of the hearing and give written notice to the public official or employe. Within ten (10) days of receipt of notice, the public official or employe may obtain continuation to a later hearing date but not more than thirty (30) days after the initial date set for hearing on the notice.

2.03 CONDUCT OF HEARING.

(a) The hearing shall be closed to the public unless the accused petitions for a hearing open to the public. Upon receipt of petition, by unanimous vote of the Board, a determination will be made whether or not to open the hearing to the public. The Chairperson of the Board shall preside at the hearing and all appearances noted.

(b) A transcript of the hearing shall be taken and prepared by a court reporter. The original transcript shall be paid for by the City.

(c) The Chairperson shall read the complaint unless waived.

(d) Opening and closing statements may be made by the parties or their attorney.

(f) As the burden shall be upon the City to prove a violation of the Code, the designated legal counsel shall present its case to the Board first.

2.04 WITNESSES.

(a) The testimony of all witnesses shall be under oath.

(b) The appearance of witnesses may be compelled by subpoenas issued by the Chairperson of the Ethics Board.

(c) Witnesses subpoenaed by the Board shall be entitled to payment of witness fees and mileage by the City.

(d) Each party shall have the right to cross-examine and impeach witnesses.

(e) The Board shall have the right to examine any witness called to testify before the Board.

2.05 RULES OF EVIDENCE.

(a) The Chairperson may make all rulings on procedure and evidence. A ruling challenged by a Board member shall be finally determined by majority vote of the Board.

(b) In making its determination, the Board shall consider only such evidence as is admissible in civil procedures in the State of Wisconsin.

2.06 DETERMINATION. Upon conclusion of the hearing and the Board's deliberation, the Board shall file its decision within five (5) days in writing signed by all participating Board members with Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and a Final Determination concerning the propriety of the conduct of the official or employe and if appropriate, refer the matter to the Common Council or other proper authority with a recommendation for suspension, removal from office or employment or other disciplinary action. A copy of the determination shall be delivered to the official or employe upon the Board filing its decision.

3.01 ADVISORY OPINION.

(a) Upon the written request of a public official or employe, the Board will furnish an advisory opinion in writing regarding the application of the Code of Ethics to that public official or employe.

(c) The Chairperson shall read the complaint unless waived.

(d) Opening and closing statements may be made by the parties or their attorney.

(f) As the burden shall be upon the City to prove a violation of the Code, the designated legal counsel shall present its case to the Board first.

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3.01 ADVISORY OPINION.

(a) Upon the written request of a public official or employe, the Board will furnish an advisory opinion in writing regarding the application of the Code of Ethics to that public official or employe.

(b) The request shall contain a full statement of the pertinent facts and may contain the application of the Code of Ethics understood by the public official or employe.

(c) The request shall be filed with the Chairperson and placed on the next Board agenda. The Board shall decide whether to prepare an opinion or request additional information in writing.

(d) Prior to the Board rendering an advisory opinion, the person who applies to the Ethics Board for an advisory opinion, may, within twenty (20) days of submitting said application, request for an opportunity to present his or her interpretation of the facts at issue and of the applicability of the provisions of the Code.

(e) A Board member may dissent in writing from a Board advisory opinion.

(f) If an advisory opinion is given to a public official or employe and that party is later determined by the Board after a hearing to have violated the Code of Ethics in respect to this subject matter of the advisory opinion, the Board will then consider the advisory opinion in making its recommendation to the Common Council or other proper authority.

4.01 AMENDMENT OF RULES. These rules shall not be changed, amended or repealed unless the amendment is introduced in writing at a regular meeting and the same laid over for consideration at the next regular meeting subsequently scheduled.

4.02 ROBERTS' RULES OF ORDERS. The Rules of parliamentary rules of order shall govern the proceedings of the Board in all cases to which they are applicable, if not inconsistent with any special rule adopted for the government of the Board or contrary to the laws of the State of Wisconsin.

Adopted by the Board of Ethics on the 24th day of January, 1989.

  
Glenn Friedl,  
Chairperson

  
Diane Kutzler,  
Vice-Chairperson

  
Al Krause  
Member

  
Gerald McKee  
Alternate

City of Watertown Ethics Board Rules and Procedures  
DRAFT – March 4, 2026

**I. Meetings**

1. The Ethics Board will meet at least once annually on the second Friday of April.
2. Public notification of all meetings will conform to Wisconsin's Open Meetings Law and other rules prescribed by law.

**II. Members of the Board**

1. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be elected at a meeting of the Board by a majority vote of the regular Board members. Nominees must be current Board members. Officers may be re-elected.
2. There will be an alternate Board member. Pursuant to Section 65-6 of the Code of the City of Watertown the alternate Board member will be a non-voting member of the Ethics Board at all Board functions and meetings unless one of the members of the Board is unavailable. At any Board function or meeting at which a regular member is not present, the alternate member will automatically become a voting member of said function or meeting. The alternate will, at any such function or meeting, take the place of the regular member not present and have full authority to vote as though said alternate were a regular member of the Board.
3. It will be the duty of the Chairperson to conduct the business of the Board meetings and functions.
4. It will be the duty of the Vice Chairperson to take the place of the Chairperson for any meeting or function at which the Chairperson is not present.
5. It will be the function of the City Attorney's Office to record the business of the meetings, to record the votes and the motions thereof.
6. All members of the Ethics Board will have the right, whenever an initial inquiry is made, to confer with a representative of the City Attorney's Office for advice to ensure compliance with state law and City Code.

**III. Board Business**

1. All minutes, findings, and rulings of the Ethics Board will be prepared in written form and filed with the City Clerk. All such records will be available for public scrutiny in accordance with Wisconsin's Public Records Law and other rules prescribed by law.
2. Any member may file a minority report dissenting in whole or part from a Board report within five (5) days of the Board's conclusion of a hearing.
3. Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) will govern the procedures of the Ethics Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Rules, City Code, or state law.

**IV. Ethics Advisory Opinions**

1. The Board will accept a request for an Ethics Advisory Opinion as set forth in Section 65-7 of the Code of the City of Watertown.

**V. Complaint Procedures**

1. The Board will accept a Complaint as set forth in Section 65-7 of the Code of the City of Watertown.