



Watertown City Council
Regular Meeting

Mayor Michael Walters
Deborah Everson
Jim Kasheimer
Fred McGuire
Kay Thul

1/13/2026 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the regular meeting of the Watertown City Council was called to order in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, by Mayor Mike Walters.

Councilmembers present: Mike Walters, Jim Kasheimer, Kay Thul and Deborah Everson

Councilmember(s) absent: Fred McGuire

City staff present: City Administrator Dan Tolsma, Public Services Director Michael Sommerfeld, City Engineer Philip Schrupp, Fire Chief Tom Hanson, Public Services Interim Superintendent Mike Loehrs and Public Utilities Superintendent Logan Pysick

Others present: Kyle Jarvis, Mickey Goetting and Ron Hendley

2. Adopt Agenda

COUNCILMEMBER JIM KASHEIMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

COUNCILMEMBER DEBORAH EVERSON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

3. Consent Agenda Discussion And Approval

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

3.A. December 9, 2025 City Council Work Session Minutes

- 3.B. December 9, 2025 City Council Regular Meeting Minutes
- 3.C. RFA - Watertown-Mayer Education Foundation Charitable Gambling Request
- 3.D. RFA - Public Services Superintendent - Interim Appointment
- 3.E. RFA - Promotion Of Robert Hoen To Public Services Operator II
- 3.F. RFA - 2026 Consultant Fees

4. Open Forum

Mickey Goetting, representing Minnesota BASS Nation asked for a refund for the community center rental they rented for their banquet on January 17, 2026. We waited hoping sales would pick up after the holidays, they didn't, so we cancelled the event last Tuesday and asked for a refund. We understood we would need to make a request to the city council.

Public Services Director Michael Sommerfeld referred to the rental agreement and mentioned that we do not have the authority to give a refund in the agreement, if we followed the agreement, unless council gives us other direction, on a case-by-case basis.

This matter will be brought forward at the next council meeting.

5. New/Old Business

- 5.A. Informational Presentation - Allison Streich - Carver County CDA Executive Director

Allison Streich, Executive Director for the Carver County CDA (Community Development Agency) gave a brief overview of what the CDA does. Their mission is to provide affordable housing opportunities and foster community and economic development.

Allison presented an update on the 25.41 acres of land in Watertown they acquired as a donation from a private developer in 2016 and discussed what their future plans are for this land. Allison also provided an update on units the CDA will be finishing up in the cities of Waconia and Carver, and also mentioned the upgrades to existing CDA properties in Watertown.

- 5.B. RFA - Engine 11 Replacement

Fire Chief Tom Hanson is requesting approval to purchase the pump and body modules for our new engine.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF THE PUMP AND BODY MODULES FROM CUSTOMFIRE APPARATUS FOR THE 2026 REPLACEMENT OF ENGINE 11, UTILIZING THE 4% PRE-PAY DISCOUNT.

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

- 5.C. RFA - State Street Storm Sewer Plans And Specifications

City Engineer Philip Schrupp presented on seeking authorization to prepare plans and specifications for the State Street storm sewer improvements. Engineer Schrupp gave a background that the capital improvement plan has identified failing storm sewer along State Street in front of the Watertown-Mayer Community Learning Center. The school district recently completed upgrades on their property along State Street. Following those improvements the school observed some storm sewer backups that have potential impact to the school operations on their property. Public Utilities has responded to multiple

sinkhole incidents on State Street, further underscoring the urgency of a comprehensive storm sewer replacement.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON MOVED TO APPROVE TO AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF PLANS & SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE STATE STREET STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT.

COUNCILMEMBER THUL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

5.D. RFA - 2026 Facility Study Authorization

City Engineer Schrupp presented on an RFA for the 2026 Facility Study. The capital improvement has identified the need for some comprehensive facility study of three key municipal buildings, the fire station, public works building, and the water plant. The study is essential to assess the current condition, functionality, and future needs of each facility. It will provide the city with clear understanding of necessary repairs, upgrades, and potential expansions along the way, costs and recommended timelines.

COUNCILMEMBER THUL MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE 2026 FACILITY STUDY FOR THE FIRE STATION REMODEL, PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING AND WATER PLANT.

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

5.E. RFA - Wastewater Treatment Facility Clarifier Improvements Authorization For Preliminary Design

City Engineer Schrupp reported that the capital improvement plan has identified the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant. Clarifiers help the plant run efficiently and meet environmental standards. If clarifiers don't work properly, the plant can't produce clean water, which could lead to compliance issues and higher costs. The clarifiers at the city's plant have been in service for approximately 30 years.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH PRELIMINARY ASSESMENT, INSPECTION & PRELIMINARY DESIGN FOR THE CLARIFIER REHABILITATION PROJECT.

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

5.F. RFA - DNR Local Trail Connection Grant Funding Opportunity

Engineer Schrupp presented on the authorization to prepare and submit a DNR local trail connections grant. City staff has identified the Old Mill Park Trail connecting the Luce Line Trail to County Road 10 as a priority improvement segment due to its ongoing deterioration and rising maintenance needs.

The DNR is scheduled to reconstruct a Luce Line bridge during the winter of 2026 and 2027, and the Old Mill Park trail segment which will serve as an important access connection for the project.

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE PREPARATION OF THE DNR - LOCAL TRAIL CONNECTION LRIP GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE OLD MILL PARK PROJECT.

COUNCILMEMBER THUL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

5.G. RFA - 2026 City Of Watertown Organizational Statement (Resolution 2026-01)

City Administrator Dan Tolsma presented the City of Watertown Organizational Statement.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-01 - THE CITY OF

WATERTOWN ORGANIZATIONAL STATEMENT FOR 2026.

COUNCILMEMBER THUL SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

5.H. RFA - Watertown City Council Statement Regarding State Government Fraud (Resolution 2026-02)

Tolsma reported on the purpose of Resolution 2026-02 regarding state government fraud. It is making a joint statement on behalf of the city council, expressing concern and urging state officials to be transparent and for accountability as well. If approved, we would pass it on to our state representatives and state government officials to help make our voice known and our position known.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-02 EXPRESSING CONCERN REGARDING THE STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT OF STATE TAXPAYER FUNDS AND CALLING FOR TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

5.I. RFA - 2026 Fee Schedule (Ordinance 451)

Public Services Director Michael Sommerfeld reported on the changes in the fee schedule for 2026.

COUNCILMEMBER THUL MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 451 APPROVING THE 2026 PERMITS, LICENSES AND FEE SCHEDULE AND TO AUTHORIZE SUMMARY PUBLICATION.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

6. Other Reports

Public Services Director Sommerfeld introduced our new Deputy Clerk-Treasurer, Kelly Wynn to the council.

City Engineer Schrupp reported that the county is still moving forward with the Co. Rd. 27 road this year.

Councilmember Kasheimer publicly address all my gratitude to the Public Works guys for how short staffed they are and the work they are doing and keeping out city streets cleared with the snow. They are incredibly shorthanded and they are doing the best they can.

Public Services Interim Superintendent reported on the ice rink and the problem is because of the warm days and the sun starts melting from the middle out and it just runs right outside the boards. The rink has a protective coating on it and if people decide to go out and skate, then it will tear up the actual coating. We opened the warming house last Thursday and the outside rink is usable. As soon as it gets cold again, we are going to keep trying to get water on the main rink to get it to be skateable.

Councilmember Thul reported she attended the Community Education Advisory Council meeting on December 16th.

Councilmember Everson reported the EDA will be meeting on Wednesday, January 21st at 9:30am. At their December 11th meeting they had discussions about an SRO. They would like to meet again on Thursday, January 22nd with Commander Wolin to be able to ask questions of the Sheriff's Department, and how an SRO would work in our schools.

7. Claims

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLAIMS ROSTER.

COUNCILMEMBER EVERSON SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

7.A. January 13, 2026 Claims With December, 2025 Pre-Paid Claims

8. Adjournment

COUNCILMEMBER WALTERS MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 8:50 PM.

COUNCILMEMBER KASHEIMER SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 4-0

309 Lewis Avenue South; P.O. Box 279, Watertown, MN 55388

Michael Walters, Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Dan Tolsma, City Administrator

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