

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:03 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW ELECTED OFFICIALS & OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor McFarland introduced newly elected Alderpersons Karen Wendt representing District 2, Dan Bartz representing District 4, Cassandra Wagner representing District 6 and Bob Wetzel representing District 8. Clerk/Treasurer Elissa Friedl administered the oath of office for the four new Alderpersons.

ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following present by GoToMeeting or by phone: Ald. Mudler, Wendt, Ruetten, Bartz, Holthaus, Wagner, Schmid, Wetzel and Kilps. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Robert Kaminski; Fire Chief Kraig Biefeld; City Attorney Rose Simon-Silva, City Engineer Jaynellen Holloway and Clerk/Treasurer Elissa Friedl.

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 Monday, April 6, 2020. There being none, minutes were approved as presented.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mayor McFarland called for nominations. Ald. Mudler nominated Ald. Ruetten for the position of Council President, seconded by Ald. Bartz. The Clerk called the roll and Ald. Ruetten was elected Common Council President by vote of Yes: 8, No: 0. Note: Ald. Kilps connection to the meeting dropped at 7:09 and she was unable to participate in the vote.

ELECTION OF PLAN COMMISSION MEMBER

Mayor McFarland called for nominations. Ald. Holthaus nominated Ald. Wendt as representative to the Plan Commission, seconded by Ald. Mudler. The Clerk called the roll and Ald. Wendt was elected Common Council Plan Commission representative by vote of Yes: 9, No: 0.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received during the call. Clerk/Treasurer Friedl stated that no comments were received by mail or email.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following reports were received and filed: Finance Committee 04/13/20; Plan Commission 04/13/20; Public Works Commission 04/14/20. Ald. Mudler noted a correction to the street name River Drive was needed in the Public Works Commission minutes. (Complete minutes are open for public inspection in the City Clerk/Treasurer's office.)

COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor McFarland presented committee appointments of Emily Lessner, 724 Mary Knoll Lane and Kyle Krueger, 722 Oakwood Lane to the Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission and Kelly Kwapil, 1121 Bayberry Drive to the Police & Fire Commission. Ald. Mudler moved to approve these appointments, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor McFarland presented committee appointments of Alderperson as follows: Finance Committee: Mudler, Holthaus, Ruetten, Wagner. Public Works Commission: Mudler (Chair), Holthaus, Wetzel, Bartz. Airport Commission: Ald. Ruetten. Park, Recreation & Forestry Commission: Bartz. Main Street Program: Mudler. Public Safety Committee:

Schmid (Chair), Wendt, Wetzel, Kilps. Family Center Board: Wagner. Health Board: Wendt, Schmid. Library Board: Kilps. Transit Commission: Kilps. Licensing Board: Wendt, Bartz. Branding Committee: Wagner (Chair), Holthaus. Tourism Commission: Wagner. Board of Review: Kilps, Wendt. Redevelopment Authority: Wetzel, Ruetten. Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force: Schmid, Bartz. Ald. Mudler moved to approve the appointments as presented, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Mayor McFarland invited Chief Biefeld to speak about the Fire & EMS annual report being presented. Chief Biefeld noted that the 2019 annual report presents information regarding Fire, EMS and Emergency Management functions of the department. It describes training measures, major incidents during the year, work plans and goals.

Mayor McFarland presented an update on COVID-19. There are six positive cases with another three probable in the city at this time. She updated the Council on the new extension of the State of WI Safer at Home order through May. She said that she and City staff are working to disseminate up to date information to the public as it becomes available via the web site and social media. McFarland indicated that she has been advocating for the City's needs through the COVID-19 emergency at every level of government including calls with the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office and the League of WI Municipalities as well as conversations with the offices of Rep. Jagler, Sen. Fitzgerald, Rep. Sensenbrenner and Sen. Johnson. The City is also in regular contact with the hospital and local health care providers regarding COVID-19 cases and local needs.

McFarland reported that the yard waste site has opened as well as the Street Department yard for drop off of large items and electronics. The disc golf course will open Friday. The Parks Department is also planning to open the Riverside Park and Clark Park tennis courts for limited singles play. City offices remain closed to the public but continue to be staffed and offering services. McFarland indicated that City staff have been offered/issued face coverings to ensure safety at work as well as at home. She said there is still a need for face coverings and gowns especially for the hospital. Chief Biefeld is a point of contact and distribution for this.

Ald. Ruetten inquired if there is any talk of antibody tests. McFarland replied that the focus right now is on adequate testing supplies. Ald. Wetzel inquired about revenue loss due to COVID-19. McFarland said a very preliminary estimate indicates approximately \$2.2 million in lost revenue for the City but it is difficult to estimate as we are just entering what would normally be a major revenue generating season. Ald. Schmid asked Atty. Simon-Silva how the City can begin to "soft-open". Atty. Simon-Silva responded that she does not advise that the City violate the current State order but wait for any changes to come from the State or any future court decisions. Ald. Mudler asked Chief Kaminski what his department is experiencing on patrol. Kaminski answered that he receives complaints daily regarding businesses and groups of people violating the State order. His officers respond with an effort to educate. He said for the most part, businesses are complying but one business repeatedly violating the order has been referred to the County for further action.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Certified accounts in the amount of \$369,352.73 were presented. Ald. Mudler moved to pay all certified accounts, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-0; Abstain-1 (Ruetten). (Complete listing of accounts payable is open for public inspection in City Clerk/Treasurer's office.)

REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Reports presented: Cash Balances 03/31/20; Historic Preservation & Downtown Design Commission 3/18/20; Licensing Board 4/15/20; Main Street Board 3/17/20; Municipal Board of Canvass 4/13/20; Payroll Summaries 3/25-4/7/20; Reserve Balances 3/31/20; Transit Commission 4/14/20. All reports were accepted as presented.

LICENSES

Beverage Operator Applications, Exhibit A. Ald. Ruetten moved to approve Exhibit A Operator Licenses as presented, seconded by Ald. Mudler and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Agent change for Kwik Trip #444, 1184 N. Fourth Street, Kyle J. Kunert, Exhibit B. Ald. Mudler moved to approve Exhibit B Agent Change as presented, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by unanimous voice vote.

ORDINANCES

Ord. #20-13, to amend Chapter 550, Zoning Code through the addition of language and an illustration to Section 550-123B: Fencing Standards, Definitions. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Plan Commission.* Ald. Schmid moved for adoption of this ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Mudler and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Ord. #20-14, to amend Section 500-9(C), "Parking Prohibited In Winter Months" of Chapter 500, "Vehicles & Traffic". *Sponsor: Ald. Raether. From: Public Safety.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption of this ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Exh. #8987, Resolution to approve purchase of ambulance. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance Committee.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Schmid. Ald. Ruetten noted this purchase is budgeted and long overdue. Ald. Wendt inquired about the age of the ambulance being replaced. Chief Biefeld indicated the old ambulance is from 2013 and will remain part of the fleet of four ambulances as the Department sometimes has three to four calls at the same time. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8988, Resolution to approve purchase of EKG monitor for Fire Department. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance Committee.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Schmid. Ald. Wendt asked how long these monitors last. Chief Biefeld indicated the one being replaced is over ten years old and last year the Department had to purchase one because an eight-year old unit broke down. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8989, Resolution to approve purchase of outdoor warning siren. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance Committee.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8990, Resolution for extension of declaration of emergency. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Holthaus and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Schmid).

Exh. #8991, Resolution to contract with Ayres Associates to perform study of upper dam training wall. *Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Public Works.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten. Ald. Ruetten asked if this was for repair or a survey to determine future repairs. Engineer Holloway answered that the contract is to study the safety of the wall and the potential effect downstream if the wall were to fail. Ald. Wendt asked if the City owns the dam and asked why the dam isn't cleared off. Holloway indicated that the City does own the dam but contracts with an operator. She said there tends to be a very brief window where the water is low enough and the current allows a boat or barge to reach the dam. She said that for the last 18 months the River has been high and has not allowed for safe removal of the logs. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8992, Resolution to approve the 2021 annual streets design change order. *Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Public Works.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Mudler and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8993, Resolution to renew Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI) license. *Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Public Works.* Ald. Holthaus moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8994, Resolution to rehabilitate Xylem/Flygt Wastewater Influent Pump #6. *Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Public Works.* Ald. Ruetten moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #8995, Resolution to grant temporary easement to WE Energies 811 S. First Street. *Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Public Works.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Holthaus and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. #8996, Resolution to grant permanent easement to WE Energies parcel 291-0815-0931-001. *Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Public Works.* Ald. Holthaus moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Exh. #8997, Resolution to update 2020 payroll resolution – reclassification of Building, Safety & Zoning Department Building Inspector. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance Committee.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Ruetten and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Kilps).

Exh. #8998, Resolution to update 2020 payroll resolution – reclassification of Engineering/Building, Safety & Zoning Department Administrative Assistant. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance Committee.* Ald. Mudler moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Holthaus and carried by roll call vote: Yes-8; No-1 (Kilps).

Exh. #8999, Resolution to authorize purchase of unleaded and diesel fuel at a contract per gallon price. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland. From: Finance Committee.* Ald. Holthaus moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Mudler. Ald. Ruetten inquired why there is no amount specified for the contract. Street Superintendent Franks replied that prices change daily and right now the City is on a pay as you go basis for fuel. He has talked to the supplier since prices have fallen and inquired about locking in a price. Franks indicated he will watch prices over the next 120 days and if he feels prices are beginning to rise, he will lock in a price. Ald. Schmid asked how much this will save. Franks answered that a preliminary estimate is \$39,000 but some of this savings will be offset due to the current practice of single riders in each vehicle during the COVID-19 emergency. Motion carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Exh. #9000, Resolution to approve land purchases for property located at 217 W. Main Street, 219 W. Main Street, 221 W. Main Street, 223 W. Main Street and 113 S. Washington Street, City of Watertown, Jefferson County, Wisconsin. *Sponsor: Ald. Kilps. From: Library Board.* Ald. Kilps moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS PRESENT

No comments were received during the call. Clerk/Treasurer Friedl stated that no comments were received by mail or email.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Ruetten moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by voice vote at 8:04 p.m.

Elissa Friedl, Clerk/Treasurer

(Complete video of Council Proceedings on DVD.)

(DISCLAIMER: These minutes are uncorrected; any corrections will be noted in the proceedings at which these minutes are approved.)