

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Mayor McFarland called the regular meeting of the City of Watertown Common Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

### ROLL CALL

Roll call showed the following present: Ald. Mudler, Tortomasi, Ruetten, Larsen, Holthaus, Raether, Schmid, Maron and Kilps. Also present: Police Chief Robert Kaminski, Fire Chief Kraig Biefeld, City Attorney Rose Simon-Silva, Zoning Administrator Jacob Maas 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 Common Council meetings held Tuesday, December 17 and Thursday, December 26, 2019. There being none, minutes were approved as presented.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Public Safety & Welfare Committee, 12/18/19.** Comments from public. None. Minutes of 11/20/19 meeting. Motion carried to approve minutes as presented. Request for 2 hr. parking on west side, first two spaces of 100 block of S. Seventh St. Motion carried to recommend ordinance to Common Council. Request for parking concerns with two 30-minute parking spaces on 200 block of E. Main St. Comments were made regarding previous actions that have improved the parking situation here and it was agreed this would be monitored for future issues. Municipal Parking Lot limitations, area between S. Second & S. Third St., facing Market St. (Ord. 500-6,(5),(n)). Motion carried to add eight parking spots, four in each of the two eastern-most aisles, on the northernmost end closest to the Market Street sidewalk. Motion also carried to add a second ADA compliant parking spot to the lot, located as nearer to sidewalk access as determined by Street Dept. and Engineering Dept. recommendations.

### COMMUNICATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Mayor McFarland presented appointments to the Historic Preservation & Downtown Design Commission: Dionne Kelm, 3<sup>rd</sup> term; Barry Ashenfelter, 1<sup>st</sup> term; Steven Board, 2<sup>nd</sup> term. Motion by Ald. Maron, seconded by Ald. Raether to approve these appointments carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

Mayor McFarland presented the City of Watertown New Housing Fee Report. Zoning Administrator Jacob Maas explained that per Wis. Stat. 66.10014, the City has to do a new report for elected officials. This includes all fees towards new home construction, remodeling, plat fees, impact fees, dedication fees, permit fees, etc.

Mayor McFarland presented the 2019 Construction Totals.

### REPORTS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Reports presented: Payroll Summary-12/04-12/17/19 & 12/18-12/31/19; Redevelopment Authority-12/18/19; Site Plan Review Committee-12/23/19; Transit Commission-12/17/19; All reports accepted as presented.

### ORDINANCES

**Ord. #20-1**, amend Chapter 319 Article II was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland.* Ald. Larsen moved for adoption of this ordinance on its first reading, seconded by Ald. Mudler and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

### RESOLUTIONS

**Exh. #8920**, to authorize a settlement agreement with Wal-Mart with regard to ongoing property tax assessment litigation was presented. *Sponsor: Mayor McFarland.* Ald. Raether moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Mudler. No action was taken on the motion. Ald. Tortomasi explained that at the last meeting he hadn't had time to prepare but has

since done research and stated many cities have been successful in defending their assessments. Ald. Maron agreed with Ald. Tortomasi and added that this would shift the tax burden from businesses to individual property owners. Ald. Ruetten questioned the cost the City would bear to go to trial. Mayor McFarland stated that the City is responsible at minimum for the insurance deductible for each case (each assessment year). Motion was made by Ald. Schmid, seconded by Ald. Maron to table this resolution to the January 21, 2020 Common Council meeting. Motion carried by voice vote: Yes-5; No-4 (Mudler, Ruetten, Larsen, Raether).

**Exh. #8921**, to approve removing naming of the Town Square from the April, 2020 Ballot was presented.

*Sponsor: Ald. Maron. From: Redevelopment Authority.* Ald. Maron moved for adoption, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by roll call vote: Yes-9; No-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, Ald. Raether moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Schmid and carried by voice vote at 7:34 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.)*