

THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS
OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, WILSON COUNTY, TN

August 19, 2025

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met on August 19, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

Alderpersons Present: Howell Roberts, Steve Casey, Laura Cromer, Kyle Stacey, Caleb Barrett and Mayor Mike Jennings.

Aldersperson Absent: April Pearson

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led with prayer.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve 7-15-25 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rachel Scantland was present with concerns that she witnessed during school traffic. Rachel stated that there is a lack of communication between the emergency agencies, an ambulance was trying to get to a call at the High School and no one was aware of which direction it needed to go. She feels like if there was better communication between the agencies involved the police, parents and emergency crews would be more prepared on calls. Rachel would like to see better procedures and process for future emergencies.

Mayor Jennings will look into Rachel's concern and advised to reach out to Joey Cooper, WEMA Director and share with him to see what the process of calls being dispatched is.

Tim Dowd was present, he has been volunteered to fix the Three Forks Park sign. The letters are carved onto the wood and would like everyone's thoughts on how to save the letters to have installed on the new wood.

Mayor Jennings stated he wished he knew who installed the original sign and the two park entrance signs, they need to be re-done also.

Kyle Stacey has a contact that may be able to help.

Sarah Goble and Heather Butler were present to discuss Chamber Events that are coming up and their food truck regulations.

They are planning to have a designated section for food trucks that are present for Chamber Events and limit to 1-3 trucks. The section will be in front of the old City Hall building and the area that is beside the gazebo. All Food Trucks must have valid food service permits and comply with all local, state, and health department regulations and the City of Watertown Permit. The Food Trucks must supply their own equipment and power source. Any Food Truck that directly competes with any other business will not be approved and they must keep their space clean, professional, and respectful during the event. They presented a map showing where the food trucks would be set up, up to 3 or less.

Mr. Dowd stated in the past there has been a problem with the use of the outlets and has been an expense for Watertown Historic to repair. He suggested having locks installed on

the outlet plugs, if someone needs to use they would need to sign out the key and if damage occurs we will know who did the damage.

Steve Casey stated the issue at the last event was a food truck had parked in front of WBT parking lot and the street became a one lane street. Steve suggested for future events to know what size their food truck/trailer is. Also, may be good idea to have cones put up the night before in front of the old City Hall Building.

Heather stated that the vendors are suppose to park their trailer and move their truck to an official parking space.

Howell Roberts suggested to have the food trucks all park in one section.

Sarah asked if bleachers could be moved to the gazebo area the day before the Festival on August 30th so people will have somewhere to sit to listen to the music.

Sarah stated the Train Robbery will be held September 20th, this will be the 25th Anniversary. They are planning on using the same plan as the previous Train Robbery Event held in the Spring. The Desperados will be having John Wayne's grandson present for the event and have asked the business owners and residents to dress up.

Cody Blythe spoke with the Council concerning an issue they are having with residents flushing wipes. The wipes do not disintegrate and hang in the lines. When the guys go jet the lines the wipes hang in the lines 200-300 feet and make it difficult to un-clog the line. The other day they had a major blockage that caused a lot of issues and time consuming to get fixed due to wipes being flushed. Cody asked if there is any way to get message out to customers to NOT flush wipes. If the lines are stopped up on the customer side, it is their responsible to fix but the wipes are causing issues on the city side constantly. Once the main service line gets stopped up this causes issues for everyone.

REPORTS

Fire Report

There were no questions on the Fire Report, total of 36 calls. 18 within the City and 18 in the County.

Dale Smith stated that he received quote for replacement pump for the Industrial Park Pump Station and discussed with the Mayor, the pump has been ordered.

Dale agreed with Cody that the wipes being flushed is a problem for the sewer system, he will be sending letters out to the homeowners in violation.

Chief Henderlight was tied up on a call but there were no questions or concerns on police report that was provided.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings stated he has hired Tamara Oakley to begin working in the office on August 25th, she will be working 30 hours per week and be on 90 day probation.

Mayor Jennings stated the Comptroller's Office has approved the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. The budget was conditionally approved due to we still have an issue pending with TBOUR. Mayor Jennings and J.C. York had to attend a hearing on July 17th concerning

AWWA report which we did submit by deadline. We received order yesterday stating the City is out of compliance due to a third party did not submit the report.

Mayor Jennings stated the sewer rehab project needs to start making progress, the residents have been inconvenienced long enough on Commerce Avenue.

Mayor Jennings has signed the Notice to Proceed on water tank and should have job completed by mid-November, one of the questions asked is what color we want to paint the water tank? After discussion motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Steve Casey to approve painting the water tank Watertown Purple with a white W. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated during preconstruction meeting Steve Jones advised him of two other grant opportunities. They are for a lead abatement grant and a planning infrasture grant, one is a no match grant and the other is \$10,000.00 match.

Mayor Jennings recommends we apply for both grants and hire Amy Napoli with Greater Nashville Regional to take care of the grant applications for a fee of \$750.00

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to hire Amy Napoli with Greater Nashville to make both grant applications. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated Rye Engineering was the only company to submit request for qualification for the water meter flow meter installation. We have to accept their qualifications subject to them providing the City a contract.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to accept the Request for Qualification from Rye Engineering for the water system flow meter installation, subject to the approval of contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated we have a monthly conference call on August 21st for progress report and updates on the Turntable Project.

Mayor Jennings stated Jeff Tunks is preparing a surplus list for football equipment.

Mayor Jennings stated several years ago we received a complaint on the burn pile that people were taking items to the burn pile that couldn't be burned and received notice from Tennessee Environment of Conservation. The City took care of that issue by monitoring items and changed the hours and the guys would burn every so often. Last month the guys were burning the brush and had a concerned citizen to complain to the State that the City was burning the brush pile. The State said there is a regulation that says we can burn our own brush but we can't burn anyone else's.

Mike questioned how can anyone tell the difference? The State sent a response letter advising they were not going to proceed any further, they made notice of the violation but not going to pursue violation any further. The letter was very vague leaving us with more questions on what we can or can't allow.

Mayor Jennings asked for guidance on what we should do, we have citizens wanting to use and one person is causing the issue. After much discussion the council decided for Mayor Jennings to write a letter to the State asking for rules, regulations and guidelines of what we need to do to keep the brush pile open and not receive any violations.

Laura Cromer stated she has had several food truck vendors' state that Watertown is the most expensive place to have food trucks. Laura has researched surrounding cities and both City of Mt. Juliet and City of Lebanon have reduced their fees. Their cost is now \$100.00 per year, this is for per year, day, or month.

Steve Casey stated we need to look at changing the exception in ordinance for twice a year, this is confusing to everyone involved to keep track of. Steve suggested changing the two exceptions to the Spring and Fall Yard Sales, those days are big events for food trucks. Also, Steve suggested waiving fee for anyone over the age of 65 years, retirees selling baked goods more as a hobby and not as a business.

Howell Roberts feels like when vendors started having to pay all these fees we lost a lot of the food truck vendors that set up on a regular schedule and the one food truck that stayed had to increase prices to pay for the fees.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Laura Cromer to reduce the food truck permit fee to \$100.00 annually, the two exceptions will be the two yard sale events, health inspection and proof of insurance will remain the same. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated several years ago we did a lot of work to the community center room and stopped renting room out to the public. We only use for city meetings, traffic school, court, chamber and planning meetings. There has been a request from a group of ladies that want to do quilting. We do allow the senior citizens to use for their meetings once a month.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve the quilting ladies to use the room two Wednesdays per month as long it doesn't conflict with any other official functions that the City has occurring in the meeting room. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the City will be participating in the Suicide Prevention Awareness Project in the month of September, it will be located on the square where people can have ribbons in memory of loved ones they have lost due to suicide.

9/11 Observance will be held September 11th at noon.

The next meeting will be held September 23rd at 6:00 P.M.

Council Members

Howell Roberts- No Comments

Steve Casey-No Comments

Laura Cromer- No Comments

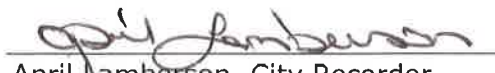
Kyle Stacey asked the status on getting the old City Hall Building cleaned out. Mayor Jennings stated few of the guys have not been feeling well and have been concerned on what they have been breathing while working in the building. It's really too hot to be in there now trying to do anything, hopefully next week will bring cooler temperatures. Cody Blythe stated they need to have a dumpster in the alley to throw the trash in.

Caleb Barrett- No Comments

Motion made by Laura Cromer and Kyle Stacey to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.



Michael R. Jennings, Mayor



April Lamberson, City Recorder

