

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

October 21, 2025

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met on October 21, 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.

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led with prayer.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve 9-23-25 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-COMMENTS

Sarah Goble with the Chamber was present to give updates for upcoming events. Halloween on the Square will begin at 5:30 P.M. at the shops and Halloween contest will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the gazebo. Josh Brown with State Farm has donated \$50.00 cash prize to every category, Brandi Thomas with The Local Collective has donated a \$50.00 gift certificate for the group.

Sarah stated Wassail Walk, late night shopping and Christmas Tree Lightning will be held December 4th. The Christmas Parade will be held December 6th with Nick Beres being the Grand Marshall. The Parade will begin at 3:00 P.M. starting at the Round Lick Church. Sarah will discuss with Chief Henderlight concerning the parade traffic, no street closure or bleachers are needed for the December events.

Mason Smith and Ashton Roach were present with Cumberland University Nursing Program, as part of their Community Health Class they are completing a project focused on a health disparity in the Community of Watertown. They are interested in organizing something to promote the health for the Watertown Community with having a canned food and healthy food give away plus having an informational table. They would like to have the event on November 1st from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

Laura Cromer suggested having on November 15th, Miss Diane Haun is hosting an event for Jake Harris Blessing Box that is a great cause for our Community to help families out when they are in need of food and household items.

Steve Casey suggested having the same day as the Fire Department Fish Fry, it's a public central location with plenty of parking and can be well advertised as a combined event.

Mayor Jennings stated the City is glad to have this project and suggested to choose the date that works best for them and we will help in any way we can.

Mason and Ashton will coordinate with Chief Haun for November 1st and any items left over can be donated to the Blessing Box.

Tim Dowd was present needing guidance on repairing of the park sign. He has been working on repairing the sign and it is not repairable since the wood is rotted.

Mr. Dowd suggested for everyone to give some thought on how to fund a new sign and put on agenda for next meeting. The estimate he has found is \$1500.00.

Kyle Stacy has a contact that he can get a quote from as well.

Mr. Dowd stated there is another sign at the park that needs to be looked at for replacement.

Mayor Jennings stated that we may need to look at replacing all the park signs and may fall into conjunction with a sign for City Hall.

Randy Anderson with Mid-TN Renovations will be hosting their 4th annual Family Fun Day on November 1st from 11:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at the park. They will be having inflatables, corn hole tournaments, raffles, chili cook off and food will start around 4:00 P.M. They will provide certificate of insurance and have asked for bathrooms to be open.

Randy requested to have their Christmas on the Square Event on the Square on December 20th from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Santa will be there and they can team up with the Police Department as they did last year.

Steve Casey asked would they close the outer section and section by gazebo as they did last year? Randy stated that they will be at same location as last year and will not start setting up until the businesses are closing for the day around 12:00.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Laura Cromer to approve November 1st as Family Fun Day at the park and December 20th for Christmas on the Square. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings thanked Randy for hosting the events for the Community.

REPORTS

Sewer Report

Dale Smith reported he had an issue with wipes on Edna W Grooms Lane, one of the pumps had to be pulled due to a blockage and the pump station had to be cleaned to remove the buildup of wipes. Dale spoke with the property owner and advised him to ask tenants to not be flushing wipes.

Police Department

Chief Henderlight was present, no questions or comments for the Chief.

Fire Department

Chief Haun presented fire report with a total of 46 calls, increase of 10 calls from last year this month.

Blake stated for many years they have had few personnel that has their medical license, they have three people now that will soon be licensed. Next month will be the first time ever when the Charter was established in 1928 that the Fire Department will have a full staff that all have their medical license. Blake is very proud of the department for their accomplishment.

Howell Roberts asked how many people we have that are licensed to fly the drone?

Chief Henderlight stated we have three employees that have their drone licenses. Blake stated they have one member on the Fire Department that has their drone license.

Laura Cromer thanked the Police and Fire Department for helping with the Yard Sale and being involved in our Community.

Cody Blythe presented a quote from B.J.'S Trailers in the amount of \$2,350.00 for a utility trailer. They would like to have the trailer for hauling mowers, brush, tables & chairs for events and Christmas Wreaths. The trailer is 6x4x14 with a spring lift with one year warranty.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve utility trailer purchase for \$2,350.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Rich was present from the Library, he presented proposal to the County few weeks ago and wanted to share with City. The proposal is to buy the property behind the Library when it's available to purchase at market value. The Library would like to purchase since they have seen increased use of the library and could be used for a parking area for events. Ryan has been discussing price with current owner, the property is assessed at \$187,300.00 which gives the market value price of \$468,250.00. He has reviewed prices for demolition and gravel companies to estimate total cost of the project. The total cost would be \$513,250.00. The proposed date is fall of 2026 or the year of 2027. This property would be in the County's name, the plan is for the Library to buy a portion of property back at a later date for an expansion. A survey and appraisal will be done on the property.

Chris Ferrari was present with an update on the Train Museum, a board has been established and 501c3 (non-profit organization). This will work in conjunction with the Steam Engine and Excursion Train. The Steam Engine is going to change in a dynamic way what the train is all about in our town, when the train comes for events now it brings 500 people to town but when the Steam Engine starts it can bring anywhere from 500-1500 additional people. They have been working on communications between Tennessee Central, Nashville Steam , Train Museum and City of Watertown to get prepared and been working on developing Watertown Tourism and Marketing.

The Steam Engine Open House will be November 1st.

Mayor Jennings stated Turntable monthly meeting was held on October 16th and the next meeting will be December 18th. The Nashville Eastern Railroad Authority entered into an operating agreement with the Federal Railway Administration and City of Watertown. The Federal Government had to have this agreement before we could go any further on the project.

Jeff Tunks was present to discuss parks and recreation program and updates. A rough estimate to install lights on the small ballfield would be \$2,500.00, we would need to pay for three lights, wire and MTEMC for hanging the lights for us. Bob and the guys can dig the ditch to save money.

Mayor Jennings recommends this project and use the ARP funds to pay for. The City uses donations, sponsorships and concessions to fund the Parks and Recreation Fund, \$75,000.00 was set aside to be use for projects or matching grants from the ARP money.

Laura Cromer asked while MTEMC was here could we replace the bulbs on the big field?

Jeff stated that this has been discussed if the same wiring is used the cost would be still be around \$10,000.00 just in lighting per field. We would have to ask MTEMC or Shannon Speck the cost or what needs to be done.

Steve Casey stated LED's could be installed or there is a conversion that can be done.

Steve stated the ARP funds need to spend by end of 2026 and the grants he has been looking at for park expansion allow to use land value of property owned for matching funds. He would like to use some of the ARP funds for bathroom updates, lighting for the fields and arena.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve installing lights on the small ballfield not to exceed \$2,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff stated the Middle School is redoing the gym floors. The cost will be \$5,000.00 and they have asked for the City to contribute to the project. Jeff suggested the City paying \$1,000.00 since we use the gym for basketball games.

Mayor Jennings stated our teams use the gym and the school doesn't charge any type of fees to use and that amount seems fair.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Steve Casey to approve paying \$1,000.00 to the Middle School for redoing the gym floors. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff stated the Junior High Baseball has been using the fields and have volunteered their ball team to do work at the park. Over the next few weeks they will be clearing the tree line and painting the dugouts. If anyone has any suggestions please let them know.

Jeff stated they have added Southside along with Tuckers to be in the basketball program. The season will start December 6th.

Jeff stated the Football League won all of their playoff games and will be playing October 25th, the same day as Basketball Drafts. The drafts have been changed to later time in the day to accommodate everyone that may be playing both sports.

November 8th will be the Football Banquet at 3:00 P.M. at the Middle School.

Mayor Jennings thanked Jeff Tunks and his family for all they do for our Community.

Mayor Jennings stated that he had budget meeting with Steve Casey and Laura Cromer and went over the first 90 days of budget and everything looks good. The local sales tax is exceeding what was budgeted and the beer tax sales are already at 50%.

The interest payment is due for the Sewer Project November 1st and will be wiring the payment on October 30th.

Mayor Jennings stated the Sewer Project is making progress and the Water Tank Project has started. The sandblasting has begun on the interior of water tank, the system is operable with temporary storage. The project should be completed within 45 days. The contractor has ordered materials and is expected to start in November for the water plant and the flow meters with Rye Engineering has begun their process as well.

Mayor Jennings stated a member needs to be elected to the JECDB, Steve Casey is now serving on the Board and his term will expire in January. The position is referred as Position Number 11 and belongs to a Council Member from the City of Watertown.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to re-elect Steve Casey to serve on the JECDB. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be November 18th.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Howell Roberts stated that he thought the yard sale went well with just few problems with traffic wanting to go both ways and few people blocking the sidewalks. He didn't see any issues with having the Beer Garden, looked like everyone obeyed the rules.

Mayor Jennings stated the City has an ordinance that people are not allowed to leave any premises with alcohol in hand.

Laura Cromer stated that wasn't happening from anyone from the Beer Garden that the Chamber sponsored. Laura stated Del Monaco was set up few weeks ago behind the red building and people were seen on the square area with their drinks in hand.

Steve Casey asked if any progress have been made on the old City Hall Building? Mayor Jennings stated we will talk about getting back to work on the cleanup since the weather will be getting cooler.

Laura Cromer stated that Bob Morgan has mentioned every time the bleachers are moved for events that it's causing damage to them. Laura has found three row mobile bleachers for \$5,000.00. It has been great to have the bleachers on train days for people to have somewhere to sit. Laura asked if we can research pricing and maybe the Chamber and City can go in together to purchase few sets of bleachers.

Mayor Jennings asked Laura to explore this option with the Chamber and he can add to agenda when the time comes.

Jeff Tunks stated that wheel kits can be purchased for the current bleachers.

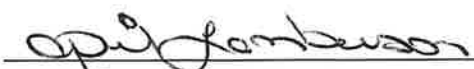
Kyle Stacy- No Comments

Caleb Barrett- No Comments

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Caleb Barrett to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.



Michael R. Jennings, Mayor



April Lamberson, City Recorder

