

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

November 18, 2025

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met on November 18, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led with prayer.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve 10-21-25 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-COMMENTS**

Tim Dowd was present to ask the Council to consider options for funding sign at the park and roof at the Atwood House is leaking. He does not have estimate at this time but would like for this to be on next month's agenda. Mr. Dowd thinks \$3000.00 may cover the repairs. The labor will probably be more costly than the materials.

Mr. Dowd is stepping down from being Historic Watertown President and introduced Jacob Swayze, he has volunteered to be President for Historic Watertown. He will be getting bids for the repair in the next few days.

Mayor Jennings stated the repairs may need to start before the December meeting, he suggested to appropriate \$3000.00 toward the repairs.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Laura Cromer to appropriate \$3000.00 as a contribution to Historic Watertown for repairs to the Atwood House roof. Motion carried unanimously.

Jacob Swayze stated that the intersection on Highway 70 and Statesville Road is getting more dangerous daily and wondered if a stop light could be installed.

Mayor Jennings stated that the City has been requesting a light for years and always told that we are not eligible. A traffic study has been requested several times, this is a State Highway and was suggested for him to reach out to State Representatives with the concern. It may help to hear the concerns for safety from individual residents. This would be at the City's expense, a light cannot be installed without the State's approval.

**REPORTS**

Blake Haun presented fire report with 43 calls, 20 within the City and 23 in the County.

Three more recruits have been added to the roster.

Howell Roberts asked about vehicle being out of commission? Blake stated a light bar is being fixed. The lights that were on the vehicle when put in service needed to be fixed the correct way and they agreed

to fix at no expense. The 67 Ford needs attention but feel like the other vehicles that are used more frequently needs to be repaired first, this vehicle is more of a reserve vehicle at this time and not used as a in-service vehicle.

Joe Decker is still actively working on grants and grant applications for the Fire Department. Mayor Jennings had received information concerning a \$20,000,000.00 grant that will be available soon.

The Blessing Box will be using the Fire Department as a collection and distribution location for Christmas, no date has been set at this time.

The event with Cumberland University went well and lasted longer than they had expected, was a great success for them & the Community.

#### SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated no major expenses or issues, no questions or comments for Dale.

#### POLICE REPORT

Mayor Jennings asked Chief Henderlight if the Dodge Charger was declared surplus months ago why are we still driving and spending money on it? Chief Henderlight stated no money has been spent but the two officers that are attending the academy have been driving the vehicle to and from the academy.

Steve Casey stated the Charger was declared surplus and was still deciding on where to advertise to sale. Chief Henderlight stated in the past sealed bids or Gov.Deals were used.

Mayor Jennings stated the County will be having a Surplus Sale the first part of December and can ask if we can add to their sale and include the Suburban and Charger.

The Suburban was declared surplus for the Fire Department and then undeclared to give to the Water Department, the Water Department employees have advised the vehicle is not a good use for them.

Mayor Jennings recommended to declare both vehicles surplus and add to the County's Surplus Auction.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to declare the Dodge Charger and Suburban surplus property and ask the County to add to their Surplus Sale the first week of December. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the Police Department have two vehicles that need to be accepted.

Chief Henderlight stated they received a Ford Taurus donated by Dickson County Sheriff's Department few months ago, it was checked out and everything is good on it.

Chief Henderlight stated the Police Department has been on the Brentwood Police Department's waiting list for any vehicles. They have donated a Ford Explorer with 97,000 miles with brand new tires, brakes and fully serviced and equipped. They have policy that requires to cycle out their vehicles when they reach 90,000 to 95,000 miles.

Caleb Barrett asked if the vehicles would be marked like the Tahoe's? Chief Henderlight stated the cost would be \$1500.00 per vehicle. He wasn't going to ask for any additional funding since they are light bar vehicles.

Caleb asked how many cars are being used at the Police Department and what would the use of the additional cars be for? Chief Henderlight stated they would be used to spread out the use, wear and tear on using the same vehicles 24/7 to cover all shifts. The car that was donated from Dekalb is mainly used for codes enforcement or as a backup vehicle.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper by Steve Casey to accept the Ford Taurus from Dickson County and Ford Explorer from Brentwood as donations. We need to evaluate the Taurus for high mileage to determine if we need to keep for long term use. Motion carried unanimously.

Howell Roberts suggested getting rid of the vehicles that we are not using and keep the ones we benefit from.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Jeff Tunks gave update on the work on the ball field, the dugouts were painted and ditch line was cleared. The paint cost was \$1100.00 with a 30% discount being used. Jeff would like to request the City to pay \$800.00 from the ARP funds toward the cost and the School has some funding to go toward the cost since they use the fields. The other dugouts, bathroom and press box will be painted. Someone will be working on the bathroom plumbing at no charge.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve paying \$800.00 from the ARP funds for paint to be used at the park. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff stated they have had over 500 kids to sign up to play basketball which will be 60 teams playing. They will be using all three gyms in Watertown, Southside and Tuckers. The season will begin December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Jeff stated he is still working with Shannon Speck on the project for lights on the small field for installation, all materials are here to get started.

Chris Ferrari was present with update on Train Museum, marketing communication between all parties involved is going great. A link has been added to the Watertown Website for ticket purchases, the schedule for next year has already been posted for the Excursion Train. Chris had met with Jason Johnson with Wilson County Tourism to discuss marketing ideas and developing future opportunities for national marketing. In the future they can allocate some of their budget for Watertown marketing and advertising. Chris also met with the new Chamber Members to focus on the business aspect of Watertown.

Howell Roberts asked when will the Community see any work being done on the Turntable?

Mayor Jennings stated the City has the Award from the Federal Government, but we do not have the funding in hand yet due to we have to go thru all the process they require. We have monthly meetings, but the next meeting will be in December since we have made progress on the requirements. At the last meeting we were told we should be able to start bidding the project in February.

Laura Cromer asked Chris how much money does the City receive from the Train Ticket Sales?

Chris stated the City does not receive any funds for the Train coming to Watertown from the ticket sales.

Mayor Jennings wanted to thank Bob Morgan and his crew that came in to fix a major water leak on Veteran's Day. Their hard work is much appreciated.

Mayor Jennings stated the Sewer Rehab Project is still progressing, after payment request #16 for \$172,159.00 we still have available \$1,674,309.98. The interest earned amount is \$174,000.00.

Mayor Jennings stated he had spoken with Steve Jones concerning the Water Projects. The water storage tank is being disinfected this week and will be returned to full service. The start of the WT Project was on hold until the tank is back in service, the contractor will be able to start after Thanksgiving to begin work on the replacement of piping. The pumps are not on site yet, so that work will not be completed until next year.

Mayor Jennings stated that in Mid-Summer we will need to look at how many streets can be paved and what the cost will be.

Mayor Jennings gave a budget report, in the park, water and sewer fund we have more revenues than expenses. The General Fund will start bringing in more property tax revenues end of December and hopefully the sales tax will be up during the holiday season.

Mayor Jennings had spoken with the State concerning the burn pile, the State advised open burning is prohibited unless you satisfy one of the exceptions to prohibition. There is an exception for wood waste (tree trunks/limbs without leaves). This exception does not include vegetation (leaves, grass trimmings, evergreen needles, shrub trimmings, etc.) If you burn only natural wood, the burn pile would need to be located more than 200 feet from anyone else's occupied structure to avoid the requirements of TCA 68-201-115. Mayor Jennings stated in other words people can bring wood and limbs but nothing can have leaves still attached. After discussion it was decided to think about and discuss again next month for a solution.

Mayor Jennings stated a few years ago the State cut out short line funding for a year because of a lawsuit that was eventually won, but a year of funding was lost. They came back and funded twenty million for five years. That time is now expiring and the communities that wants the State to appropriate twenty million in the next budget will need to approve Resolution.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve Resolution in Support of Recurring Funding for the Tennessee Short Line Railroad Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated we have few people outside the city limits that are allowed to purchase water at the fire hydrant located on Sparta Pike, they are charged an outside city rate. We have three people that have not paid their bill, we can purchase a meter for \$900.00 to use at fire hydrant to monitor. The people will now need to take pictures before and after getting water and send to City Hall. The new policy will state if someone don't pay on time a late fee will be added, second time without paying they will be banned from purchasing water permanently. No one can be added to purchase water until they have Council approval.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to adopt Policy for the City of Watertown Water Department for Sale of Water to Outside City Customers, with changes or updates can be added at a later time if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated there has been some sewer issues in town and have found out that several houses are tied on the same sewer tap. The guys went to figure out the issue and wipes in the line was found but was hard to determine from which house. The resident called a plumber and was told the issue was on the City side. The resident was planning to be at meeting to discuss the issue and plumber expense, she may be at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be November 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

April Pearson- No Comments

Caleb Barrett-No Comments

Kyle Stacey- No Comments

Laura Cromer stated the Christmas Parade will be December 6<sup>th</sup> and Wassail Walk will be on December 4<sup>th</sup>, all is on social media.

Steve Casey stated Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at WBT from 10:00 to 12:00 and Modern Revival from 12:00 to 2:00 on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Also they will be making another appearance after the Parade at the Gazebo for pictures.

Howell Roberts stated that Bob Morgan and the guys are needing another Service Truck.

Mayor Jennings stated there is a truck that will be at the County's Surplus Auction that Bob is planning on taking a look at. Mayor Jennings stated if the truck is something that will benefit us the County can transfer to the City at no charge. This can be done between governments without having to take bids.

Kyle Stacey stated the street roller needs engine repair, Kyle will get some estimates.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper by Howell Roberts to adjourn meeting.

  
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Michael R. Jennings, Mayor  
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April Lamberson, City Recorder

