

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

December 16, 2025

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met on December 16, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Alderman Absent: Caleb Barrett

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order and led with prayer.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve November 18th minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-COMMENTS

Zachery Dell was present who resides in the Statesville area who has built a new home and has been hauling water from the hydrant located at Subway. He recently failed to pay for the usage and would like to ask for forgiveness since he will not be past due in the future. Mr. Dell has paid his bill in full and would like to continue to purchase water, he will be able to tie onto Wilson County Water soon. Wilson County Water has installed more water lines to service the area that will provide water service to him.

Mayor Jennings stated a policy for the water hydrant use will be put in place later in the meeting and thanked Mr. Dell for attending meeting.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Henderlight stated they were able to provide 80 meals and drinks to families in Watertown on Thanksgiving Day. The Police Department will be having Shop with a Cop December 15th thru December 19th. They have 10 families that have signed up so far, they will provide toys all week and any toys that is left will be taken to the event Randy Anderson and Family will be hosting on the Square on December 20th. Chief Henderlight stated they were able to have the two programs due to sponsors and donations that were made by local Businesses and the Community. All donations have been greatly appreciated for such a great cause.

FIRE REPORT

Blake Haun was unable to attend meeting, he had sent report by email. A total of 42 calls, 15 calls inside the City and 27 calls within the County.

SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated he had two State Inspections and everything went well.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Jeff Tunks was present to request a storage building to be used to store baseball-softball equipment. Jeff has received prices from Black's Metal for 8x8 building for \$2600.00 or a 10x10 building for \$3400.00.

Jonathan Smith stated nets, pitching machine and all equipment could be stored to be protected from the weather.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Laura Cromer to purchase a 10x10 storage building not to exceed \$3800.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated that the City's Sports Leagues are a great success because of the hard work and time that Jeff and Jonathan provide. We have 600 kids playing basketball, 350 kids played in the baseball-softball Spring League, 150 kids for the fall league, 150 kids for the Soccer Season, 75 Football Players and 53 Cheerleaders.

Howell Roberts stated it's amazing the work that they provide for the Community and is greatly appreciated.

Jeff stated after the Spring Baseball-Softball Signups he will be stepping down and Johnathan Smith will be taking the league over.

Laura Cromer stated that she had two people from Southside Area that was praising Watertown and Jeff for allowing and accepting Southside to have the opportunity to play in the Basketball League. They wanted to thank the City of Watertown, Jeff Tunks and Jeff Luttrell for making this happen.

Johnathan has a contact that he is going to meet with on Thursday at 4:30 to discuss lights on the big ballfield. They want to discuss options of which type of lights would make the fields brighter with using less lights.

Jeff stated they are waiting on Shannon Speck's schedule for hanging the lights on the small field, all equipment is on site when ready for installation.

Chris Ferrari stated it's been a great year and a lot has been accomplished for the Train Museum, everything is moving forward with great response with donations and fundraisers. The board has approved a few things for next year to start hosting the trains with signage and having people onsite to welcome passengers. They want to start doing some museum activities such as pop up museum events, have displays, plans and drawing for citizens to view. Also, want to start working on some educational events such as field trips to get schools and libraries involved. They will continue working towards the building and approval process to keep progress moving toward a start date. On the promotional side they are working with Tennessee Central on developing souvenir books to include everyone with maps, advertisement and information to include Tennessee Central, Watertown, Train Museum and National Steam Engine.

Mayor Jennings stated a Zoom Meeting will be held Thursday concerning the Turntable, the design and bidding process should begin soon.

Mayor Jennings stated the Charger and Suburban have been sold as surplus property. The Charger sold for \$2500.00 and the Suburban sold for \$800.00.

Carol Ann Hosey was present requesting reimbursement for a plumbing expense that she had to pay for a sewer issue that she believes is an issue on the City. She had an issue with sewer in her back yard, she had the City to look at a few times and was told the issue was due to wipes being flushed. Carol Ann

advised they do not use wipes and had to be coming from another resident. A plumber was called and it was determined a piece of plastic was in the main service line causing the issue that was on the City side of sewer line. The plumber advised that the piece of plastic was about 5 feet on the main sewer line, which is located past her tap. The plumber was Arvin's and the charge was \$1100.00.

Cody Blythe stated her sewer line runs behind her house on Beckwith and is tied into the resident up the street, sewer line runs from Beckwith to Euclid. They had jetted the line several times and ran the camera 300 feet and only found wipes.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve reimbursement to Mrs. Hosey in the amount of \$1100.00 for the plumbing bill. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated we have been discussing water policy for water hydrant users, Steve Casey has suggested some modifications to current policy. Mayor Jennings stated that the City has provided this service for many years for customers that do not have water service for their homes and need to haul water to provide services for their homes. It has just become a problem due to two customers failing to pay their bill for services. These customers have been banned from services and have caused new rules and regulations that was voted on last month.

Steve Casey stated that April Pearson has been able to provide a meter that can be used for customers to sign out and return to City Hall. Steve's proposal is that we use the meter provided and meter has to be checked out from City Hall, this way we can monitor the readings.

Steve feels like customers will still have to obey the honor system by taking pictures of meter readings before and after and water loss will occur.

Mayor Jennings stated Bob Morgan ordered a meter to be installed that will have a measuring device that will monitor the readings. The customers would take pictures of the readings before and after getting water so we can have accurate readings. This process would eliminate people having to come in during business hours since most people have to haul water after working hours or weekends when City Hall is closed.

There were two hydrant water customers present and they stated if they had to come during business hours this would cause them not being able to haul water since they have jobs during the day.

Mayor Jennings suggested trying the meter being installed and have customers send in their readings and see how this process works for a month and discuss more at the next meeting. The meter will be locked to the hydrant to prevent being stolen. The police can move the mobile trailer with camera to monitor for few months to help with monitoring anyone that does not have permission to use the hydrant.

Mayor Jennings stated the work on Commerce Avenue is near completion, there is approximately 700 feet of 18 inch sewer that still needs to be installed and crossing of Round Lick Creek. Once installed and tested then the contractor will begin changing over the services and undertaking final cleanup.

Mayor Jennings stated the Water Tank Project has been completed.

Mayor Jennings stated we are 46% through the budget year, Parks and Recreation is \$15,000.00 above budget, Water and Sewer is about \$90,000.00 above budget and the General Fund is over \$100,000.00 below budget. Mayor Jennings will be double checking numbers over the next few weeks to make sure some of the expenses have been classified properly.

Laura Cromer proposed having an Ad Hoc Planning Committee to coordinate community events and logistics to provide a proactive solution to address safety concerns and streamline city services. The recommended structure provides a clear path for collaboration and communication across key organizations and city departments. The Committee would consist of 9 members, City Council Member, City Recorder, City Foreman, Police & Fire Chief, President for Historic Watertown, Watertown Railroad Museum, Chamber and Tennessee Central Railway Museum. The meetings will be held every two months. The committee responsibilities would be event scheduling and awareness, logistics coordination, city services planning, safety and risk assessment and communication hub. The Committee may consider many additional things including adding defined communication protocols which would establish clear, written protocols for how event organizers should submit their plans to the Committee and the required lead times for city services to respond (30 DAYS FOR MINOR EVENTS, 90 DAYS FOR MAJOR STREET CLOSURES.)

Steve Casey likes the additional recommendations but would like to add that if someone comes to the Council with an event week out instead of the 30 day period they would not be approved with such a short notice. With having the committee this will help with communications and things will run smoother for all the organizations. Steve feels like the City will need to be stricter with guidelines.

Motion made by Kyle Stacy and proper second by April Pearson to approve Ad Hoc Civics Planning Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated a Council Member needs to be elected to serve on Committee.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to appoint Laura Cromer to serve on the Ad Hoc Civics Planning Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings recommended Christmas Holidays being December 24th, December 25th and December 26th. December 24th and December 25th dates are holidays already approved, December 26th would be additional. Mayor Jennings recommended for the Police Department the officers working would get paid, not to have every officer working on December 26th. Mayor Jennings had not budgeted the extra holiday in the budget so would need to limit officers for the 24 hours on the 26th.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Laura Cromer to approve the additional holiday. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be January 20th at 6: 00 P.M.

Mayor Jennings stated the Christmas Parade was wonderful with a great crowd, he has heard many comments on how many people participated, attended & enjoyed.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Howell Roberts-No Comments

Steve Casey-No Comments

Laura Cromer-No Comments

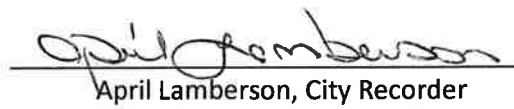
Kyle Stacey-No Comments

April Pearson-No Comments

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



Michael R. Jennings, Mayor



April Lamberson, City Recorder

