

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

February 19, 2026

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, Tennessee met on February 19, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Alderpersons Absent: April Pearson and Steve Casey.

Mayor Jennings called the meeting to order and led with prayer.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve January 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-COMMENTS**

Cody Blythe received several quotes for a dumpster to use for cleaning the old City Hall Building. Rapid Removal quote for a 20 yard dumpster would be \$600.00 for a 30 day period, Tennessee Roll Off quote for a 30 yard dumpster would be \$600.00 for 30 day period and Mark Brown would charge \$450.00 for a 30 yard dumpster for 30 days and charge additional \$60.00 per ton to haul to landfill. Republic Services will be sending quote in the next few days.

Mayor Jennings asked Cody to have quotes prepared and will send out to Council for review and will add to agenda for next month to discuss.

**FIRE REPORT**

Blake Haun presented fire report with a total of 64 calls in January, 26 in the City and 38 within the County.

Blake stated the Fire Department has been awarded a grant through the Tennessee Fire Marshall's Office in the amount of \$40,000.00. This grant will be used to replace some components on PPE, helmets, gloves, fire hose and skid unit for the Brush Truck. Also a Rescue Squad Rescue Grant from last year will be final soon and can be used for swift water emergency equipment, rope rescue, and vehicle extraction equipment.

Blake stated the Fire Department will have a Pancake Breakfast in the Winter Months from 8:00-11:00 and will return to the Fish Fry /BBQ in April beginning at 11:00 and ends around 5:00 -6:00. This event is held the first Saturday of each month.

Laura Cromer thanked Blake and the Fire Department for assisting an elderly person during the winter storm that needed a heater.

#### SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated Wascon came and didn't find any major issues with the pump on Cornwell Avenue. They brought a vacuum truck and cleaned out the inside of the well. The pump station had some debris and wipes which they cleaned out and hopefully will remedy the issue.

Mayor Jennings reminded Dale to prepare proposal for his contract that ends June 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### POLICE REPORT

Mayor Jennings stated Chief Henderlight is out from surgery but is doing better and we wish him a quick recovery. A police report was emailed and if any questions or comments let Chief Henderlight know.

#### RAILROAD MUSEUM

Chris Ferrari stated the first train for the year was in town last weekend and received a lot of good comments and reports. Chris would like to get a meeting set with the City, Nashville Steam and Tennessee Central to start having discussions about the Turntable scenario.

#### CIVICS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Laura Cromer stated a meeting was held on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The trash cans that are stored behind the Atwood House that are used for events are needing to be replaced, we use to have 20 and now are down to half due to getting old. We need to be thinking about purchasing new trash cans with wheels and can discuss with Historic Watertown.

Also discussed at Civics meeting is a need of a storage area to store cones, trash cans and barrels, maybe a secure fenced area behind the City Shop.

There was some discussion concerning Easter Egg Hunt, will know more information by next meeting.

The Desperados will be here in May and will need the center area closed at 5:00 P.M. on Friday so they can set their props up.

Laura stated was a great first meeting and will be good for the Community.

Mayor Jennings advised Laura to let him know when items need to put on agenda for discussion and votes.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings stated he has reviewed budget report through February 16<sup>th</sup>. The Parks, Water and Sewer Fund are in the black and the General Fund will look better after the rest of property taxes are received by end of February.

#### PROJECT REPORTS

J.C. York stated there are several water projects going on at this time. One project involves changing out pumps and motors, some of the work has been completed that consisted of a line stop being installed so meter can be changed out. The second part will need to be discussed and voted on later in meeting. The check valves have been changed out and some piping and gate valves inside the plant had to be taken care of first before could get to the pump. This project is 50% complete.

The project that consisted of water tank being cleaned and painted is completed. The inspection is scheduled for Monday.

The project concerning water loss has started with installing some new flow meters. One tap has been made at the tank that had the easiest access. All of the water mains are not located on the road easements so Rye Engineering and Steve Jones are looking for better locations for installing the remaining taps/meters.

J.C. stated we have two water tanks in town, the one located at the water plant (in the ground) will be the one that will be worked on. The tank is 45,000 gallons and exists so we can pump into and add chemicals that are needed. The two pumps that are there have not been changed out in a long time, one pump is only pumping half of what it should be pumping, this repair is included in the grant. In the process of looking at how long the pipe that is needed to install the new pumps, it was found that the pump cases are bolted to the wall. We have two options, the first option is the tank will need to be taken down completely dry which would mean we're out of water and have to purchase from Wilson County for a short period for cleaning, disinfecting and installed back. The second option would be we can have a disinfecting diver go down in tank and have bolts cut loose and not be out of service. This work can be completed in half a day time period.

The quote from SE Diving is for \$7,500.00. A required state inspection cost is \$1,200.00 and the remaining cost is for cleaning, cutting and removing the hardware that needs to be removed.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve quote from SE Diving in the amount of \$7,500.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated he received update from Steve Jones. The Water Tank Project has been completed and paperwork has been submitted to SWIG for release of funds to pay the contractor.

The work is ongoing at the Water Treatment Plant with some valves being installed and the pumps are on order. A SWIG inspection is scheduled for Monday for progress report, project is on schedule at this time.

Conrad Construction has been tying in services but are behind schedule on the Sewer Rehab Project. They hit a gas main on Commerce Avenue earlier in the day and spent most of the day trying to get fixed. Steve Jones suggested scheduling meeting with Brian Conrad and Mayor Jennings to discuss progress and delays on project.

Mayor Jennings stated a team meeting was held to discuss the Turntable progress this morning. We are on track and have made a lot of progress. The required reports have been approved but now have to be approved by another division. The steps are review, execute the documents to have grant obligated, final design work, budget cost and construction will begin. The grant hopefully will be obligated by the spring. The next meeting will be April 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Christopher Lawless was present to discuss annexation request and an update to the plan of services on the Parkerson Property. This was originally approved January of 2023 and additional property was annexed June of 2025. The new annexation would be an additional .018 acres that is located on the back

side of property. There will be no additional road frontage, this would only add square footage to the City Limits. The lots will be a little larger than originally proposed.

The Plan of Services will be an update, the current hasn't lapsed from 2025. The time frame would be through June 2027 to accommodate services. They are currently working on getting a letter of credit to the City of Watertown to hold the rights of installing water and sewer lines for this project. The Planning Commission does recommend the additional annexation.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve annexation of Parkerson Property that consists .018 acres on first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve Plan of Services. This is an extension of two years from today's date to provide water and sewer services if they need the additional time. Motion carried unanimously.

Christopher stated when the Building Codes and Permit Fees were adopted to be effective July 1, 2025 that remodels was not included. He recommends adding this and fees be more for commercial than residential remodels. The County starting charging fees for remodels in 2023. Christopher will prepare proposal and have Council review for discussion at next month's meeting.

Mayor Jennings stated we have had a request from Mr. Poston who resides on Linwood Road that would like to purchase water from hydrant in the seasonal months for farm use. He has been advised of new policy and rules. The new policy has been working very well and Mr. Poston would like to be granted approval for request.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve Mr. Poston to purchase water from hydrant. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated when budget was approved in July it included a \$1.00 raise for all employees and he had promised to review after first of year to see if additional raise could be given to the employees. Mayor Jennings feels comfortable to recommend an additional .50 raise for all employees to begin the next pay period beginning the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve .50 raise for all employees to begin February 26<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated it's going to be more and more of a challenge for us to keep our employees. This County is growing and always looking for employees to work at other surrounding cities and counties that pay more. We are not able to compete with the larger municipalities that have more revenues than smaller agencies. Mayor Jennings stated that it's very important that we do what we can to show our employees that they are appreciated and will try to do everything possible that can be done for them. He will look at next year's budget also to see if any additional raises can be given. Our employees are very dedicated and will try to stay competitive for them.

Mayor Jennings stated there is a vacancy on the Beer Board. This Board is a 5 member board and for some time has only had 4 members. Mayor Jennings recommended Drew Heering to serve on Beer Board.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Laura Cromer to confirm the recommendation for Drew Heering to serve on Beer Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated he received a complaint about a car being able to be parked in front of the concrete slab that allows passage from Main Street to the Sidewalk. This is located on the south side of the square, in front of the Flower Shop. The person who spoke to Mayor Jennings about the concern would like to be able to use that area to walk across the drainage ditch area and would like to have some rails on either side. This area is hard to get across to go to the bank, flower shop, drug store or any business on that side of square. Mayor Jennings talked with Bob Morgan on some ideas and maybe can have as a No Parking area, reline the parking space or take away that parking spot so the ramp is an open area. Parking spaces on the square area are very important and limited. Mayor Jennings would like to discuss with the Chamber and Historic Watertown to get their suggestions.

Mayor Jennings stated before the meeting Howell Roberts brought to his attention that there is some breaking of the concrete that can cause a walking hazard. Howell stated that there is a sharp edge that busted a tire where the concrete is broken.

Caleb Barrett asked if this area is the City's responsibility or the Business Owner's?

Jacob Swayze, Historic Watertown President was present he was told that the CPA had installed that portion. The issue is right by the Flower Shop and is busted at the corner and some of the metal grate is exposed. He suggested to cap the entire drainage ditch and have some access points, that the drainage ditch is a safety issue for citizens trying to go from the sidewalk to street. The parking space wouldn't have to be eliminated and the whole section that is capped could be raised to keep cars from driving on.

Mayor Jennings stated will get more input, history and estimates and will discuss more at the next meeting for a solution.

Laura asked if Bob can look at this issue for a temporary fix until a decision is made on the best way to fix?

The next meeting will be March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M.

High School Basketball Tournament will be held February 21<sup>st</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Howell Roberts-No Comments

Laura Cromer stated at the Civics Meeting it was discussed that there is some old sports equipment stored that needs to be declared surplus. This consist of baseball, football and old trophies that cannot be used anymore. There is a place that will take old trophies as donations to be reused. Laura asked for some suggestions and thoughts and can be added to agenda for next meeting?

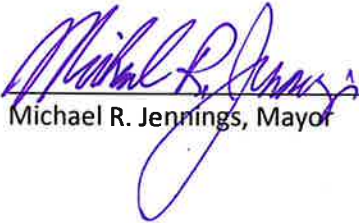
Laura asked the status on the Ever bridge posters being distributed to the businesses?  
Will find out more information and bring update back to next meeting.

Laura stated there is a child at Lebanon High School that is not doing well and asked for prayers for the family, friends and community that will be going through a loss the next few days.

Kyle Stacey- No Comments

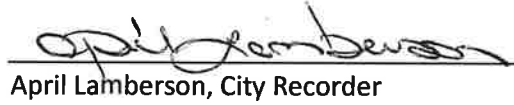
Caleb Barrett-No Comments

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



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Michael R. Jennings, Mayor



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April Lamberson, City Recorder