

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

April 14, 2026

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, Tennessee met on April 14, 2026 at 6:30 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Alderpersons Absent: Caleb Barrett and April Pearson.

Mayor Jennings called the meeting to order with welcoming everyone and led with prayer. A quorum was present.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve March 17th minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-COMMENTS

No Public Business or Comments.

SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated he has entered the sewer plant in a plant optimization program with the intent to receive improvements at the facility. This is a federal funded program with reimbursement, he believes will be a 100% reimbursement program. Dale will attend an orientation class this week and quarterly reports will have to be submitted.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Henderlight stated the Police Department has issued 21 code violation letters this week, residents have 10 days to comply or further action will be taken.

Chief stated that tractor trailer trucks are beginning to park at the Optix Building located on Sparta Pike causing an issue with blocking the view of cameras and vehicles trying to enter the highway. Chief will try and figure out the best solution especially since this area affects the school zone.

FIRE REPORT

Blake Haun stated Fire Department had a total of 46 calls last month, 12 inside the city and 34 within the County.

Blake stated the pump testing went well last month, during the test they work the fire pumps to get certified. While performing pressure tests that revealed a few issues with valves, he has received a quote for \$2700.00. Blake will look at budget to see if the repairs can be done soon or need to wait after June 30th.

RAILROAD MUSEUM

Chris Ferarri had sent the Council economic and impact information to review. One of the reasons they have been developing this whole idea is what can be done to help the city from an economic standpoint.

The information was gathered from impact and state tourism studies. The goal is getting more people here during the week other than the Train Events. The train engine coming adds another element with more people coming to town to visit the Museum.

Howell Roberts would still like to see a nice sign to be installed in front of City Hall that people can see driving by that can advertise things that are happening in town.

Mayor Jennings stated we will revisit discussion of getting a sign.

Chris stated that they are working to develop plans that will bring large number of people here to visit Watertown and will be advertising nationally.

Mayor Jennings asked the status of the Steam Engine time frame?

Chris stated the next step is to perform steam test in April or May, once that is passed a track test is done. They haven't set a specific date but maybe the first or second quarter of next year to be operational.

CIVICS COMMITTEE

Laura Cromer stated a meeting will be held on April 20th.

ONLINE PUBLIC COMMENT

Aimee Harmon, Chamber President wanted to publicly thank the City for numbering the parking spaces for the Vendors and Mile Long Market was a great successful event.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings stated the last budget report looks good in all funds. The Bond Payment will be paid May 1st for the Sewer Rehab Project.

Mayor Jennings stated Turntable meeting is scheduled for April 16th.

Mayor Jennings met with Steve Jones, Brian Conrad, Bob Morgan and Dale Smith on Monday concerning the status on Sewer Project. Brian Conrad advised them that the entire project will be completed by June 30th. They have put binder on the road today where they initially built the ditch line, after that settles they will go back and shave the road to pave. They still have 1,000 feet of line to install on the Hall property and need to cross the creek two more times, once behind the city shop and behind Steve Brown's property.

Mayor Jennings stated we had someone to run over a fire hydrant on Pearl Avenue, a police report was taken showing the driver was insured and claim has been made.

Mayor Jennings stated since we have a completion date from Conrad Construction that we may can start discussing street paving mid-summer.

Steve Casey suggested starting a priority list and Mayor Jennings stated need to start exploring funding possibilities.

Mayor Jennings stated the balance in the LGIP account is \$1,554,767.70 for the Sewer Project and account is accruing interest.

Mayor Jennings stated that we have several residents that would like to have the burn pile open. At this time there is a drought situation and we have limitations from the State that we can burn limbs but not vegetation. Mayor Jennings has discussed with Blake Haun if it would be a possibility to have burn pile open two or three days a week by appointment only and have someone from the Fire Department there to monitor. Mayor Jennings stated will discuss with Bob Morgan and Cody Blythe to see about coordinating dates and times with the Fire Department to burn.

Kyle Stacey stated when he read the regulations from the State that he understood there's a section about the distances.

Mayor Jennings stated no action tonight but will try to get back open soon for the residents.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings had presented the Audit ending June 30, 2025 for approval.

Motion made by Kyle Stacy and proper second by Steve Casey to accept the June 30, 2025 audit. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the City had bought all the acreage on the other side of creek back in the nineties. The house was sold and the helipad and tiny tots ball field are located there now. There's a pond that the City has always maintained, recently have found out that the City doesn't own. The Delinquent Tax Attorney has discovered that the 5.01 acres has delinquent taxes with a different ownership. The owner lives in Watertown and would like for the City to have ownership since thought the City already owned the property.

Mayor Jennings proposed the City pay the delinquent taxes thru May 31st in the amount of \$2,400.90, do title search not to exceed \$250.00 and survey in the amount of \$2,850.00 to \$3,350.00.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Steve Casey to approve spending \$6000.00 to pay delinquent taxes, title search and survey on Old Statesville Road Property. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated J.C. York needs to purchase a Chlorine Analyzer for the Water Plant. This Analyzer is suggested by the State of Tennessee, this will tell us how little chlorine can be in the system and remain effective. The price is \$13,465.34 and need to be completed by end of month.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to approve purchase for analyzer in the amount of \$13,465.34. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated he received email from TBOUR on March 5th advising him that the City was on the docket for a meeting on March 12th, seven days notice. Mayor Jennings responded back asking to move to the next available date since he already had seven cases scheduled for court. The State advised he could join virtually if his schedule permitted and they would not reschedule the meeting.

The State then advised that the email was intended solely as notice that Watertown will be included on the Agenda. No Action is required from the City at this time.

Mayor Jennings advised on April 2nd he received an Order signed by the Chairman of TBOUR that he needs to hire a third party to do a capitalization policy, a review of debt management policy, creation of a five year capital asset budget, a review of relevant utility fees including connection or tap fees and that the Council is in compliance with the relevant training requirements and a review of leak adjustment policy. They have requested all this to be done by April 30th.

Mayor Jennings stated that a Rate Study has been completed, water and sewer increase, all fees have been increased and leak policy adjusted, everything that was requested by the State last year has been completed so why would we need to complete again at the City's cost?

Mayor Jennings is going to respond to the order and request a 90 day extension so he can provide all the paperwork that we have already completed from previous order.

The next meeting will be May 26th at 6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMEBERS

Howell Roberts- No Comments

Steve Casey stated the Baseball Team is doing really good and have a great chance in making it to the tournaments, if get a chance go and show support to the team.

Laura Cromer asked about who keeps up with the food trucks staying in compliance? The Food Truck Vendors should keep their permits posted in their trucks and know when expired but if not they will be notified and cannot set up until permit is renewed.

Laura stated that she had a parent ask about doing concessions and gate fees when the Baseball and Softball Middle School uses the City's fields? The parent said their coaches said the City said they were not allowed to. The parents said when they go to other schools they are charged gate fees but here the parents have to do extra fundraisers. Mayor Jennings stated as far as he knows no one has said that but there are times when the school and community league are playing at the same time and the city's league concessions are open and outside concessions are not allowed during this time.

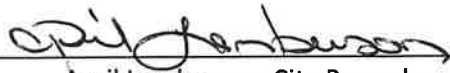
Laura asked the status on the Everbridge posters? At a previous meeting it was discussed that the posters would be put at all the businesses to get the word out for residents to scan the QR code. Steve Casey had stated he would pay for but Michael Stoffel has made the posters at no charge. Laura would like to see the posters distributed to all the businesses and get the word out to the Community.

Kyle Stacey asked Chief Henderlight if he had any updates on what needs to be done to fix the 911 button at the Police Department? Chief Henderlight will call A T & T to get a quote for repairs.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Laura Cromer to adjourn meeting. Motion carried unanimously.



Michael R. Jennings, Mayor



April Lamberson, City Recorder

