

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

June 16, 2026

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, Tennessee met on June 16, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Mayor Jennings called the meeting to order with welcoming everyone.

Mayor Jennings led in prayer.

Mayor Jennings stated we are approaching the 250th Birthday of our Country, he has been presented with a copy of Declaration of Independence that has enough room for signatures. Each Government has been given one which has been donated by Major David Wilson Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. There will be an event for reading the Declaration of Independence on July 4th at 9:00 A.M. at the Wilson County Courthouse. They have asked people to read for the 13 Colonies and Mayor Jennings has been asked to read one. Mayor Jennings stated they will have a float in our Fourth of July Parade, they will be in costume and have requested to be in the no squirt zone.

Mayor Jennings stated that Jeff Joines has been very instrumental in helping Watertown with our Turntable. Jeff's father, Mr. Don Joines recently passed away, he served on the County Commission in 2009-2010 while Jeff was deployed to Iraq. Mr. Joines was a fine and honest gentleman that was a great man to be involved in Government. Mayor Jennings asked for everyone to remember Jeff and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve May 26th minutes.
Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS-BUSINESS

Ryan Rich was present representing the Watertown Library, he stated in July there will be two events. The Tennessee State Park will be at the library to do an animal adventure with the children on July 17th at 11:00. They will be taking up three parking spaces to park their vehicles and equipment. Also a story time on the gazebo will be held on July 20th and will not interfere with anything.

Vicki Frazier would like to have an inflatable on July 8th on the grassy area behind the parking lot of drive thru, they will be having Church of the Nazarene Bible Study at the Depot. This is open for all the kids and it will be from 6:00 to 7:00. Miss Vicki will provide a Certificate of Insurance.

Vicki wanted to thank the Council for the donation that was made to Historic Watertown for repairs to the Atwood House roof. After the roof repair was completed there were some funds left they can use to fix the ceiling and any additional maintenance work.

Caleb Barrett was asked by Tim Burns, Youth Pastor at Water's Edge to ask permission to use the Park Pavilion and outfield of the softball field July 7th thru July 9th from 12:00 to 4:00 for a Day Camp.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Caleb Barrett to approve Waters Edge to have Day Camp on July 7th thru July 9th and will provide Certificate of Insurance with City as additional insured. Motion carried unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Henderlight was not present, there were no questions or comments on police report that was emailed.

Kyle Stacey stated that AT & T has requested additional information for the repair of emergency button at Police Department and will keep everyone updated.

FIRE REPORT

Chief Decker stated that they had a handover on May 31st with Chief Haun. Blake pulled his last shift on the night of the 31st with about 15-16 people at the Fire Department that stayed with Blake until the end of shift. At 11:00 they rode around town as a last ride sharing stories, history of fires and memories at midnight they shook hands and did a tradeoff.

Mayor Jennings asked about the breakdown of grant that was included with fire report? If there was anything that was needed from the Council. Chief Decker stated was informational to keep the Council updated, both grants were 100% State of Tennessee Programs.

Laura Cromer had someone ask from the Community who was the Assistant Fire Chief now? Chief Decker stated that no decision has been made at this time.

Kyle Stacey stated the Police and Fire Department have lights out inside their building and need to look at switching out to LED Lights when they are needed to be replaced. The backup generator system works but their system is not linked to everything. At some point can we have an electrician look at moving so the emergency power works for at least two of the bay doors due to now they're currently hand operated?

Mayor Jennings will ask the County Maintenance Department to look at.

SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated the sewer plant generates sludge we dispose of and in the past it's been taken to the Smith County Landfill with Wilson County helping us. We had to switch over to Republic Services when Smith County Landfill lost their ability to take special wastes and now the cost keeps increasing with Republic Services. Dale is going to look at doing land application of solids that will be more cost effective and could help with some phosphorus removal. We have permits now that requires sludge to be taken to landfill. Dale will work on applying for new permits for land application.

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT

Jeff Tunks was present to discuss installing new lights on the ballfield. There are about 48-50 that can be replaced with LED Stadium Lights. The price of the lights are \$11,000.00, labor, other materials and taking down the current lights using a lift would be extra. Jeff proposed that his company could do the whole project for \$25,000.00 and suggested the lights be purchased by the City to receive tax exemption. The lights will be installed at a higher level and brighter.

Mayor Jennings stated the old lights could be sold as surplus property.

Mayor Jennings stated the proposal is to purchase the LED lights and install on both fields using the existing wiring and can use ARP funds. This will be a great improvement and investment.

Steve Casey asked Jeff if any more research has been done on how to set the angles on the new lights to have adequate coverage?

Jeff stated they will have a laser that will be able to detect what areas each pole will light.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve installing new lights on the ballfield to not exceed \$25,000.00 with ARP funding. Motion carried unanimously.

Jeff installed two poles on the basketball court and one at the playground, his thought is if there are any lights left over from the little ballfield to put at least one at the playground due to playground always being used. If possible he will try and have more lighting at the basketball court with some type of timer.

RAILROAD MUSEUM REPORT

Chris Ferrari had talked with Nashville Steam and the plans are to do a steam test in mid-July. There will be media coverage, as long as the test is passed they can start with putting a schedule together for the next steps. Chris had talked with Terry Bebout and he is very supportive of the box car and caboose projects. Chris stated the newest edition of the Whistle Post will be coming out soon, this edition is focused on Watertown that includes a nice welcome letter from Mayor Jennings.

CIVICS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Laura Cromer stated they will have a list prepared by next meeting for the events that will be held the next 6 months to be discussed and approved.

The July 4th Parade will begin at 4:00, lineup at 3:00. There will be a squirt and no squirt zone. A Veterans Float will be a new addition this year, anyone with any connections are more than welcome to be part of parade. Eugene Grooms will be the Grand Marshall.

The October Festival to be held on October 17th has changed names to Fall Foliage for Train Event.

It was discussed if more seating could be available around the pavilion and transportation from the pavilion to the square for train events. Laura stated she doesn't know what condition the Trolley is in but maybe that could be an option.

Mayor Jennings stated that he would love to see the Trolley back up and running.

Laura reminded everyone of the Carthage Church of God having tournament on June 27th.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings stated he doesn't have any budget amendments for tonight but will for the July meeting. The Budget Report looks good in all funds.

The next Turntable Meeting will be June 18th.

Mayor Jennings received an update from Steve Jones on the Sewer Project. Mayor Jennings had asked if the date of completion is still set for June 30th. Steve stated Brian Conrad has advised that they are on target to have the sewer online and then there will be some additional cleanup. The cleanup is estimated to take another 30-45 days and then they will be completely finished.

Mayor Jennings suggested to open the burn pile every Wednesday from 1:00-4:00 with one of the guys monitoring while we work on long term solution.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to open burn pile on Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Casey stated the charge for music videos is currently \$1500.00 and is extremely low for the industry and suggested changing to \$2500.00 or \$3,000.00. If less than 48 hour notice is given an additional \$1,500.00 fee is added for late notification.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to change standard fee for music videos to \$3,000.00 and additional \$1,500.00 for 48 hour or less late notification. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated there is a vacancy on the Board of Zoning Appeals and he recommends the appointment of Karen Casey as a full time member and the appointment of Eugene Grooms as an alternate member.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to appoint Karen Casey as a full time member and Eugene Grooms as an alternate to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Motion carried unanimously.

Jacob Swazy was present to discuss the Founder's Day Event to be held in September. Jacob would like to use the pavilion and the green space to the right and left of the pavilion to keep all in one space. This would give easy access for people that want to participate in the scavenger hunt. They will have tons of festival games, inflatables and face painting. There will be tables and chairs set up on pavilion for people to eat in a shaded area. Jacob can put a tent up nearby for anyone that would be wanting to use pavilion for the Farmer's Market on the day of Event.

Mayor Jennings stated since an event will be held that it can be reserved with advance notice.

Jacob presented a map of the 5K race. The start and finishing of the race will be at the end of South Central and Main Street. The race will go down to Waters Avenue, Silver Street, Forrest Street, then back down Waters Avenue to Main Street to Commerce Avenue, Woodland Street, Cornwell Avenue back to Main Street down to Elementary School with turnaround in parking lot to come back down West Main Street to the finish line. Map attached to minutes.

Jacob has discussed with Chief Henderlight details for safety, as the runners clear an area that section will be opened back up. There will be an officer at the cross streets to help with flow of traffic and Historic Watertown will be paying for the officers working.

Caleb Barrett asked would there be an issue using Waters Avenue with residents coming from their homes and for safety reasons.

Steve Casey stated Waters Avenue is a busy street and suggested instead of looping around and using Waters Avenue as two-way. When you come down Forrest come down another block and come up Maple Street back to Main Street would be more beneficial. The distance would still be the same for the race.

Motion made Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve proposal as presented for Founder's Day Event for use of the pavilion and area beside of pavilion. Historic Watertown to provide Certificate of Insurance for Event showing the City as additional insured. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings stated the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 includes \$1.00 per hour increase for all employees beginning with July 2nd pay period. Mayor Jennings recommended to make City Clerk Position a Full Time Position. The cost of health insurance has increased by \$83.00 per employee. Chief Henderlight asked to move some line items around but total budget remains the same for police department.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve Ordinance #2026-03 for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget on First Reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated the Tax Rate Resolution is a certified tax rate, the certified tax rate changed from \$0.6027 to \$0.3417 per \$100.00 of assessed value. This is designed to bring in the same amount of money as last year.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve Ordinance #2026-04 to establish a Property Tax Rate to fund 2026-2027 Fiscal Year Budget on First Reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings presented a Resolution calling for Election to elect three Aldermen in the November 3rd Election.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve Resolution requesting the Board of Election Commissioners to call an Election on November 3, 2026 for the purpose of electing three Aldermen. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated Early Voting will begin on July 17th and will need to schedule next Council Meeting early. The next meeting will be July 14th at 6:00 and Special Call Meeting will be June 22nd at 6:00 for budget items only.

Mayor Jennings stated TML will be having conference July 9th thru July 13th in Kingsport, he doesn't think he will be able to attend this year. If anyone else would like to attend let him know so arrangements can be made to attend.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and Kyle Stacey to approve for any government member that would like to attend TML Conference to include registration fees and room charges. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Howell Roberts – No Comments

Steve Casey stated there are signs posted not to drive on the concrete at the pavilion and he has seen vehicles parked on the concrete area. Can we look at installing some type of bollard posts to stop this from happening?

Mayor Jennings stated would need to be something permanent.

After discussion it was decided to research some options and bring back to next meeting. Cody will put some barrels up temporary.

Laura Cromer suggested looking at hiring a part time grant writer. There's a lot of opportunities that the City can benefit from especially with the upcoming Turntable Project.

Mayor Jennings stated if anyone is interested to give us a proposal.

Kyle Stacey stated the old fire truck will fit in the bay area at the Old City Hall Building if the shelves can be moved over that the oil change people use. The truck can be moved in the ally when the oil changes are being done. The brakes need to be fixed and few other repairs.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Laura Cromer to approve moving the old fire truck into the bay area at the Old City Hall Building. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Decker suggested moving the oil changes to the Fire Department that would be much easier and more convenient than having to move old truck in and out of the bay area. As long as they don't have to expose of any oil and give notice in advance of when they need the use of building. Also he can supply an area for their supplies.

Kyle asked what would be involved in making the Trolley functional or move from its current location?

Mayor Jennings would like to see the Trolley back functionally, he has always thought the Trolley was unique for our Community and was used in the past to take people from the train to town that needed assistance.

Kyle asked if we can get functioning and safe to use could that be adapted into using for train concept or use for transport from the train to the square. Kyle will look at to see what repairs need to be done.

Caleb Barrett would like to see the codes being enforced more, he has noticed a lot of overgrown yards and junked cars.

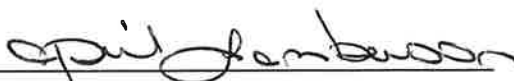
Mayor Jennings had spoken with Christopher Lawless, we already have joint planning contract with the County where they handle our Zoning and will be taking over our codes enforcements. If we have to file suit Tim Davis will handle for the City.

April Pearson-No Comments

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



Michael R. Jennings, Mayor



April Lamberson, City Recorder

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

June 22, 2026

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, TN met on June 22, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. for a Special Called Meeting at the Watertown Community Center.

The purpose of meeting is to consider, and take action on, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 and the Appropriation Ordinance. To consider, and take action on, the Tax Ordinance, and if necessary, to consider, and take action on a Continuation Budget, and any Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Mayor Jennings called Public Hearing at 5:45 P.M. No one was present to comment on the Proposed 2026-2027 budget or tax rate.

Mayor Jennings closed the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor Jennings called the meeting to order.

Mayor Jennings stated the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget needs to be passed on second and final reading. The budget includes a \$1.00 per hour raise for all employees and no tax increase. The only change from first reading is \$25,000.00 was added for the ballfield lights to be paid from ARP funds.

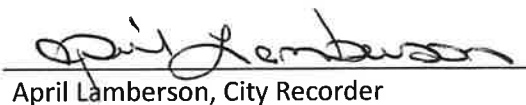
Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Howell Roberts to approve Ordinance 2026-03 to adopt a Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Howell Roberts and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve Ordinance 2026-04 for property tax rate for \$0.3417 per \$100.00 of assessed value for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year on second and final reading. Motion carried unanimously.

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

