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

September 28, 2026

The Board of Mayor and Alderpersons of the City of Watertown, Wilson County, Tennessee met on September 28, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. at the Watertown Community Center.

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

Mayor Jennings called meeting to order with welcoming everyone and led in prayer.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve August 18th minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-COMMENTS
Mayor Jennings recognized Senator Mark Pody to present Proclamation in Memory of John Jewell. Senator Pody stated State Representative Clark Boyd has been involved with preparing but was not able to attend meeting. Senator Pody presented Proclamation to honor the memory of John Jewell, an outstanding member of this Community. John started his career as a college recruiter for Cumberland University before moving into the broadcasting industry. John then became WEMA director and court officer for the Wilson County Sheriff's Department before entering retirement. John was a community leader as he served as Fire Chief for the Watertown Volunteer Department. John served on Wilson County and Watertown Planning Commission, Railroad Authority, Historic Watertown, and helped with many events such as Jazz Festival. John leaves behind an indelible legacy and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors.

Mayor Jennings stated every Community needs someone like John Jewell, as everyone heard the things in the Proclamation of all the things John did for our Community. John's brother Bill was Fire Chief and served on City Council for many years and the Jewell family has a deep history of public service and have always been greatly appreciated. John will be greatly missed. There are several vacancies that need to be filled that all was served by John which says a lot about John, he definitely left a legacy.

John T. Jewell stated on behalf of the Jewell Family that this Community meant a lot to his dad and everything that everyone has done for him, his dad enjoyed every minute. John T. stated they learned at a young age to be involved in your community, didn't understand what that meant earlier in life but now understands what his dad meant. Everyone that knew his dad knew what he was about, this community meant everything to him. John always would say if a lot did a little than a little don't have to do a lot. If everyone would join together and help in any way they can, that would be an honor to him to volunteer like he loved to do.

Bill Jewell stated John did a lot of things people don't know about, he would see a need and would make sure it was taken care of.

Kayla Martinez was present to discuss a proposal to bring awareness to Kabuki Syndrome, a rare genetic condition. They would like to propose an annual Kabuki Syndrome Awareness Walk and activities at the Park October 23, 2027, as well as a request for Community Support in the month of October for 2026.

They would like to have lime green ribbons and lighting thru out the town and banner for the gazebo. They will have flyers and a newspaper article to introduce her son Julian and explain Kabuki Syndrome and the purpose of the awareness effort. They would like to decorate the gazebo with a lime green backdrop and ribbons, for a goal to create a photo spot where people can take photos and share on social media to help spread awareness. Their goal is to help the Community learn about Kabuki Syndrome, support families that are affected by this rare condition, raise awareness and support research. By working together everyone can show that rare diseases and the families living with them are seen, supported and valued.

Mayor Jennings stated we have some time to discuss and plan for the 2027 Awareness Walk and the City will support and help in anyway they can. He suggested to talk with Bob Morgan if they need help with hanging any banners or ribbons. Mayor Jennings stated that it may be expensive to change the lighting from purple to green at the tracks but maybe you can look into getting some green paper to cover the lights. Kayla will look at options and will get with Laura Cromer to discuss the 2027 Awareness Walk with the Civics Committee.

Mayor Jennings asked if Kayla would send him some information and he will prepare a Proclamation for Julian. He stated he was glad to have him present at meeting and be a part of the Community.

Debra Fisher was present with concerns about water in her kitchen not being clear and leaving white spots on her sink, she is having to change refrigerator filters constantly. She also stated she has sulfur smells at times. J.C. York has already took samples and didn't find anything.

Mayor Jennings will follow up with J.C. York.

Debra wanted to publicly thank Andrea Johnson for helping her locate her missing dog, she really appreciated.

REPORTS
POLICE
Chief Henderlight wasn't present, his report was sent out to Council for review.

FIRE
Chief Decker stated the Fire Report had a total of 38 calls, medical calls were an increase and fire calls were down.

Chief would like to purchase RMS Software System, a record management system. This system takes care of assets, inventory, nightly check-offs, fleet maintenance, work orders and training. This would be an all in one system. They have been looking at new software for some time and the cost would be $1,736.00 per year.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to approve purchasing RMS Software System in the amount of $1,736.00 per year. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief stated they are needing new tires on the Dodge pickup, and they have a WEMA employee that has swapped out some tires and would like to sell. They are good tires with a lot of trend left on them and are asking $350.00 for the set. Chief wanted to make sure this purchase would follow under the purchasing policy.

Mayor Jennings stated as long as there is money in the budget it's okay to make purchase.

Chief Decker stated the Fire Department served 200 plates at the Founder's Day Event and this weekend will be the Fish Fry.

Chief Decker stated it was discussed at the Civics meeting to look into using Gator at the Yard Sale, the request was sent to the personnel that handles the vehicles.

Steve Casey asked if department is fully staffed?

Chief Decker stated they have 15 active members and a recruit class starts next Monday.

Kyle Stacey asked if any quotes have been received on hooking up the door that would work with the generator?

Chief Decker will check on and will check with Chief Henderlight about the electrical box.

SEWER REPORT

Dale Smith stated the sewer line in the creek has been fully disconnected from the sewer system. With having no rain Dale hasn't had opportunity to see what kind of effects it has had yet, hopefully will have a positive effect on the sewer system.

Mayor Jennings stated the project has been completed and a walkthrough is scheduled for October 13th at 9:30 for the check list. At the next meeting will be the time for discussion on liquidated damages.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Jeff Tunks stated he had talked with Steve Casey about the lightning for the fields, they are waiting for some cooler weather before starting the installation.

Jeff stated basketball sign-ups have started, have had 160 kids to sign up so far.

Jeff stated that Jonathan Smith keeps saying this is their last year for doing the league so if you see him encourage him to stay, he's doing a great job with the league. The championship games are tonight.

Jeff stated football is over this weekend and the girls flag football went undefeated. Soccer is over and have few ideas in the works for the league.

Mayor Jennings stated the Purple Warriors League has been a great hit and hopes it continues.

RAILROAD MUSUEM REPORT

Chris Ferrari stated the model train museum will be launched in November with a groundbreaking event with the box car. The caboose restoration project should kick off in the spring. Stephen discussed at the last meeting the update on the steam engine and have hit the 12 month period, in 12 months or so should be seeing the steam engine in town. They have moved from a strategic planning phase to the action phase. Chris has met with Chief Henderlight to start discussing the emergency management and security and met with Jason Johnson from Wilco to work on marketing and promotions.

Kyle Stacey stated he has been looking at the trolley and the inside isn't anything too bad to overhaul. The back panels have all come apart and he has someone that can make acrylic panels that can be removable instead of having the rubber mats. Mechanical wise will need a fuel pump, gauges and need to check the brakes and transmission.

Chris stated the plan is to check further on what needs to be done and see what the cost will be and discuss further, would be great to have back running.

Chris asked if the City was going to move forward on getting sidewalk looked at now or later?

Steve Casey stated he is getting another bid that does concrete work and Bob Morgan is getting bid as well.

CIVICS PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT
Laura Cromer stated the Mile Long Yard Sale is going as planned and would like to request to use the bleachers where the stage will be at.

Jeff Tunks volunteered to move 2 sets of bleachers from the Junior High.

Jacob Swazey discussed at meeting wanting to use the inside parking spots for the Founder's Day Event, she advised him to email the Council since meeting was scheduled after the event.

Laura stated that having some type of utility vehicle would be great to use for events, if the City would consider purchasing in the future. Also if some rope, tape or cones could be purchased to be used to mark things off for events for safety purposes.

Laura stated hydration stations were discussed to be set up especially with the train coming. More people will be in town and a station would be good to have on the hot days.

OLD BUSINESS
Mayor Jennings stated a Council Member needs to be elected that will serve until November 2028. Nominations will be made and will take 4 votes to be elected.

Caleb Barrett nominated Bill Parrott.

Laura Cromer nominated Brant Martin.

Steve Casey stated he thinks both nominees would be great but has one concern with the timing of appointment. Mr. Parrott is already on the ballot for early voting and if he is elected his name will remain on the ballot. If elected tonight his term would end 2028 and if elected during early voting the term would end 2030. What situation will we be in if he's elected and he's one of the three top candidates with the votes?

Mayor Jennings stated both are good candidates and it's hard to find people that want to serve as public servants with no pay. He thinks if Mr. Parrott is elected and he gets elected on the ballot, he would have the choice to serve the 4 year term and then would leave us with vacancy.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Howell Roberts-Brant Martin	Kyle Stacey-Bill Parrott
Steve Casey-Brant Martin	Caleb Barrett- Bill Parrott
Laura Cromer-Brant Martin	Mayor Jennings-Brant Martin

Motion Carried 4-2 for Brant Martin to be elected to serve on Council with term ending in 2028.

Mayor Jennings stated he has known Bill Parrott for a very long time and is certainly not a vote against him.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Laura Cromer to approve on second and final reading Ordinance #2026-07 to amend the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 by making additional $1500.00 appropriation to the Library. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated a City Judge needs to be appointed. He recommends Karen Casey who is local and lives in community.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to accept recommendation to elect Karen Casey as City Judge. Motion carried 5 in favor and with Steve Casey Abstaining.

Mayor Jennings stated Julie Robinson resigned as City Judge last month but he would like to recommend her as the City Attorney. Julie has a law degree and is local.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to accept recommendation to elect Julie Robinson as City Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated we received notification from the Federal Government that the $1.6 Million Turntable Grant has been accepted and awarded. Mayor Jennings stated that we had a commitment from the County last year for $300,000.00 and it expired June 30th and will be brought back to the November County Commission meeting for approval. There is also a private individual who has pledged a substantial amount of money.

Mayor Jennings stated he has discussed with contractor on sewer project due to delay in getting the project completed, there will be some liquidated damages to discuss. There has been some discussion to apply that money to some of the street paving.

Mayor Jennings stated that the SWIG water grant has been completed with $30,000.00 left over to spend. The contractor and engineer has recommended that we spend $22,775.00 to install a new metal roof, soffits, fascia boards and install gutters at the well house. It will grout the two well heads, perform necessary grade work, seed and straw at the well house. Also changing out the remaining old 6 inch flange bolts in the piping at the plant. We need to approve a change order for this work to be done.

Motion made by Steve Casey and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve requested change order for the work to be done at the well house and plant. Motion carried unanimously.

Kyle Stacey discussed wanting to add a secondary crosswalk that is from the old coffee shop location to the new coffee shop location. It's where the steps are going up to the sidewalk that is currently a

parking spot. If someone parks there you are unable to use the steps to get on the sidewalk. He doesn't recommend to get rid of current crosswalk, just add and move it over and put an X on the old parking spot. We don't have to take the whole parking spot, just take the area of distance.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to approve adding to crosswalk and blocking off the section of parking spot. Motion carried 5-1. Caleb Barrett voting No.

Motion made by Laura Cromer and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve to move bleachers on Friday to the stage area for the Mile Long Yard Sale. Motion carried unanimously.

Caleb Barrett stated he has had several residents complaining of speeders on Main Street and Elm Avenue and if we could look at the option of speed bumps.

Mayor Jennings stated many years ago it was voted to not install anymore speed bumps but that can be overturned. He asked do we want to wait and vote on after we do street paving? Mayor Jennings stated in the packet there is some information on radar speed signs. We can purchase four speed signs for $12,500.00 similar to the one located on Highway 70, can discuss more next month.

Caleb stated the speed limit sign in front of his house is still behind the new electric pole, will ask Bob to take care of.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Jennings stated he received information from the Comptroller's Office concerning our Municipal Boundary. The Comptroller has asked to review the City Limits. Christopher Lawless has reviewed what they have and doesn't match the Comptroller, he will work on how to get corrected.

Mayor Jennings stated he has asked the School System to allow the City to annex the new Middle School so the City can provide sewer.

Mayor Jennings stated we received conditional budget approval letter from Comptroller's office but we didn't use the correct form. We need to provide within 45 days of the date of letter, form needs to be submitted by October 15th. Also we need to approve on their ordinance that will take two readings.

Motion made Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to approve budget ordinance on first reading. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated he has Surplus Application to renew by November 1st, we need to change Joseph Decker as Fire Chief and add Jeff Tunks for the Parks & Recreation.

Motion made by Caleb Barrett and proper second by Kyle Stacey to approve application with changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings stated we have another opportunity to apply for water grant by October 31st. Chris Barber with Greater Nashville Regional advised they would waive the application fee. There is no cost to apply and would be a 5% matching grant. If awarded we would still need to vote to accept.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to approve Greater Nashville to apply for water grant. Motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting will be October 13th at 4:30 due to Early Voting starting on October 14th.

Watertown Middle School will hold a Groundbreaking at 6:30 on October 13th.

Steve Casey stated he will have someone at the next meeting to discuss the restrooms at the park.

Mayor Jennings stated the property at 112 Tennessee Blvd has been sold. When the Industrial Park was purchased and developed the City reserved the Right of First Refusal to buy anything that comes available for sale. The property has sold for $3.9 million, the City will need to waive or reject.

Motion made by Kyle Stacey and proper second by Steve Casey to waive right of first refusal so they can close on property. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jennings thanked everyone that attended and participated in the 9-11 Observance.

Mayor Jennings stated Yard Sale is October 3rd and Founder's Day Event went well.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMMENTS
Caleb Barrett-No Comments

Kyle Stacey asked if the drain can be changed out in front of the old coffee shop there has been a few people to fall, maybe install a metal grate. We can have Bob Morgan to discuss with Kyle to see what needs to be done.

Kyle stated at some point in the near future we need to figure out to fix the existing drains on the square.

Laura Cromer-No Comments

Steve Casey asked if we can make sure the guys put the water meter lids back on when they read meters.

Howell Roberts asked what can be done about parking at the new restaurant, with all the businesses on that side of street they are having issues getting to their businesses. He had to park at the library to go to drug store.

Laura stated on Friday they counted 7 business owners that were parked in the center of the square, they should park elsewhere and leave open for customers.

Steve Casey stated there are a limited number of parking spots on the square and majority are being used by the business owners. We need to encourage the owners to park behind the stores and leave the square for customers. Steve will draft a letter than can be sent out to the business owners.

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

Michael R. Jennings, Mayor

April Lamberson, City Recorder