

APRIL 22, 2025



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025, 7:00 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on April 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
- B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- E. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- F. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

1. ROLL CALL

Council President Sideris called to order a regular meeting of the City Council at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors Caroline Bays, Lisa J. Feltner, John G. Gannon, Nicole Gardner (via Zoom), Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk, and Doug Newton, Municipal Policy Analyst. Councilor John M. Airasian was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

David Stokes – 30 Lawrence Street – Stated that he is a member of the Watertown Cable Access Corporation’s Board of Directors and requested a favorable vote for the resolution to support “An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming”. He remarked that community media (WCATV in Watertown) plays a vital role in connecting the community by providing people with programs that promote a variety of voices from residents telling their stories through video and podcasting as well as informing people with news programs that cover local government meetings, schools’ athletics, and other important community events. While sharing appreciation for the City Council’s strong support of WCATV, he stated that the issue of funding has significantly changed as traditional cable subscriptions steadily decrease, which is where community media programming receives most of its funding. The current bill on Beacon Hill presents a more sustainable funding model for the future, and a vote for the resolution on this agenda will encourage more endorsements for state legislatures to prioritize that new funding model.

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Spoke on the issue of funding a second ambulance in town. He stated that the advanced life support staff is overloaded every day in a stressful and difficult job. He remarked that we must give our gratitude to the Watertown Fire Department and facilitate what it needs to carry out its mission. Response times are a life and death matter, and a second ambulance must be prioritized before breaking ground on major expansion of housing.

Susan Fish – 46 Palfrey Street – Voiced support of staffing a second ambulance in Watertown. She remarked that she is very concerned with relying on ambulance companies located in other towns, which results in longer response times, and cited a conversation she had with a neighbor that waited 15 minutes for an ambulance arrival in response to a suspected heart attack. She concluded that this is a vital issue that should be discussed in an open meeting with full public participation.

Rita Colafella – 56 Cuba Street – Recognized the City Manager’s effort in planning the budget as she believes it is following best practices and is not pennywise. She stated that Watertown needs to look at ways to increase revenue, both from residential and commercial levels. While the lab sector isn’t currently adding to revenue, there is a lot of space to rent which could be used for medical or educational enterprises. She also added that there should be inquiries to see if businesses can donate solar panels to offset costs of electricity in town.

Clyde Younger – 199 Acton Street – Voiced appreciation for the continued effort to advance the education of the town’s children by investing in teachers, curriculum, and infrastructure improvements. He stated that the district has emphasized critical thinking skills and lifelong learning, and that the measure of effectiveness of the schools can be seen when Watertown students are accepted into excellent universities such as Harvard. He remarked that Harvard, Watertown’s neighbor, is now under threat by an administration drunk with power. The Trump administration sent a warning to Harvard and all higher learning institutions to enact reform.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

A. Minutes from City Council Meeting April 8, 2025

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris remarked on productive Watertown Middle School visioning sessions and that Ai3 is moving along with the planning process to present a design for the school.

6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution in Support of an Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming

City Manager Proakis remarked that this item is in response to vocal support from cable access of a state bill that is being considered. He stated that the circumstance is that the steady decrease of traditional cable subscribers has led to the inability to fund cable access as it had before. The state legislature has a bill for streamline providers (streaming service providers) to pay their fair share of the use of public infrastructure, ensuring that local media stations are funded and continue to provide foundational democratic rights information.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the resolution and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Palomba stated that he is not familiar with streaming services, and asked who will pay the 5% increase noted in the resolution.

City Manager Proakis replied that when funding for cable access was established in the 80's, a portion of the cost of cable would go to fund cable access. This resolution is in support of a portion of the cost of streaming services like YouTube TV, would go to fund cable access.

President Sideris reiterated the support for WCATV with their work in providing Watertown with programing and coverage, and made note of how vital a resource they were during covid and with remote accessibility in general.

The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

B. Resolution Amending Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditure Limits for Revolving Funds

City Manager Proakis stated that every year the City must authorize the expenditure limits for each revolving fund. It isn't necessary to spend all the money in the revolving fund, but

the cap must be established. Descriptions of each fund are present in the attached document.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 expenditure limits and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$455,800 from the Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Projects Accounts

City Manager Proakis stated that this transfer reflects timely items that they would like to pull out of future borrowing to enhance the functionality, safety, and efficiency of essential facilities. The first item is for renovation of office spaces in City Hall and the Parker Annex Building, the second is for replacement of overhead doors at the main and north fire stations, and the third is for replacement of a door for the zamboni at the ice rink.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the transfer and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked what energy efficiencies we gain with replacement of a door for the zamboni.

City Manager Proakis replied that, to his knowledge, the current door isn't completely functioning which leads to heat escaping which results in energy inefficiency. There isn't anything particularly special about the door, but it needs to be properly functioning to not waste energy.

The motion passed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Reorganization Plan by Administrative Code – Receipt of Administrative Reorganization Plan submitted by City Manager, Referral to Committee for further action pursuant to Section 6-2 of the City Charter

City Manager Proakis stated that the budget presentation included a small reorganization plan regarding the human services department. Section 6-2 of the City Home Rule Charter requires reorganizations to be referred to Council, which is what this item is requesting.

President Siders stated that this item gets referred to the Committee on Personnel and City Organization.

- B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Human Rights Commission

City Manager Proakis requested the reappointments of Elizabeth Bruise, Corey Barr, and Gabriel Camacho to the Human Rights Commission for terms to expire April 1, 2028.

President Sideris stated that this item gets referred to the Committee on Human Services.

C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Planning Board

City Manager Proakis requested the reappointments of Janet Buck and Abigail Hammett to the Planning Board for terms to expire February 15, 2028

President Sideris stated that this item gets referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

D. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

City Manager Proakis requested the reappointment of Melissa Santucci Rozzi for a term to expire February 15, 2030 and Samuel Odamah as an alternate member for a term to expire February 15, 2027.

President Sideris stated that this item gets referred to the Committee on Economic Development and Planning.

E. City Branding and Logo Update

City Manager Proakis provided background behind the efforts regarding the City of Watertown's branding and logo. About two and a half years ago, they began working on a strategy to create a consistent city image that could be used in an interdepartmental way. He stated that Watertown's 1870s seal was used inconsistently, and different departments had their own marks and logos they used separately. The goal of this effort was to foster collaboration among departments and create a unified branding message.

Efforts included upgrading the city's website and creating a high-resolution version of the city seal. They also discussed a general scheme for colors and fonts for official documents. Consultant Sebastian Ebarb, who had worked on city seals for Boston, Newton, and Natick, was hired to help. The decision was made to create a simplified city logo for general use while maintaining the seal for official documents.

Sebastian was contracted to create a city logo, a 311 logo, and a style guide for \$9,500. Options were presented and City Manager Proakis provided feedback. City Manager Proakis clarified that they had only two direct interactions with the vendor, who was recommended by others. They selected a waves logo and hired Sebastian as a part-time temporary employee to support implementation. Over nine months, he worked 56 hours on 311 content, costing less than \$4,500. The relationship ended this February when the logo was not pursued further.

He then stated that, for \$14,000, Watertown received a style guide, 311 content, and integrated branding with existing wayfinding signs. The logo and style guide were shared with the City Council in spring 2024, leading to two meetings of the Committee on Personnel and City Organization. The committee endorsed the idea of a logo but did not vote on it. In March 2024, the committee suggested restarting the logo process with community involvement.

City Manager Proakis then remarked that the logo has become a distraction and

estimated future costs for a public committee process could be \$30,000 to \$50,000, and stated that he has items that take a much higher priority on the budget to do list than continuing in that endeavor.

He then outlined five actions he plans to take that he believes are clearly within the purview of his role as City Manager.

- Implement the city style guide: This includes colors, fonts, and branding elements like concentric circles and colored boxes, already used in presentations and the city budget.
- Enhance the city seal: Simplify and standardize the seal for better readability and consistency across documents.
- Update branding materials: Apply the style guide to email signatures, city vehicle markings, and business cards.
- Launch new colors and style guides: Integrate the refined seal into updated branding materials.
- Install wayfinding signs: Use signs that reflect the City Council's previous work to create a welcoming message at the city borders.

He called out that the Fiscal Year 2026 budget does not include funds for a new logo due to budget constraints. He believes the Watertown can move forward using the existing style guide and other elements from their \$14,000 investment without needing a new logo.

City Manager Proakis then pivoted subjects and announced an update to electric vehicle chargers. Watertown had previously provided free charging stations in an effort to provide those who cannot charge at home to charge their car, but the intention was never to encourage those who can charge at home to use that service. Now all stations will charge a fee to charge your car (25 cents a kilowatt hour), though this revenue is not represented in the FY26 budget. Over the rest of the year, the administration will monitor that revenue and apply it into the FY27 budget. The station will also implement an “idle charge” which will charge a dollar for every 15 minutes a car stays in its spot after 30 minutes of it being fully charged.

8. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS

There were no requests.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Palomba announced that he is holding two annual meetings, one on April 30 and one on May 1.

10. PUBLIC FORUM

Clyde Younger – 188 Acton Street – Continued his previous statement by requesting that City Council consider a resolution supporting Harvard. Watertown has played a central role in the revolution, and so he suggested that it also plays a central role in enlisting

support of all Massachusetts cities and towns to stand up to the current administration.

11. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Piccirilli made a motion to adjourn and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on May 13, 2025.



Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building, 149 Main Street
List of Documents

1. Support of An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media – Item 6A
2. FY25 Expenditure Limits for Revolving Funds – Item 6B
3. Transfer of Funds FY25 CC Reserve – FY25 Capital Projects – Item 6C
4. Administrative Reorganization Plan – Item 7A
5. Request for confirmation of reappointments to the Human Rights Commission –Item 7B
6. Request for confirmation of reappointments to the Planning Board – Item 7C
7. Request for confirmation of reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Item 7D
8. Statement from Clyde Younger

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22,
2025 CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**



City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on April 22, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
 - B. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
 - C. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
 - D. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
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- 1. ROLL CALL
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- 3. PUBLIC FORUM
- 4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from City Council Meeting April 8, 2025
- 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
- 6. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
 - A. Resolution in Support of an Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming
 - B. Resolution Amending Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditure Limits for Revolving Funds
 - C. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$455,800 from the Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Projects Accounts
- 7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER
 - A. Reorganization Plan by Administrative Code – Receipt of Administrative Reorganization Plan submitted by City Manager, Referral to Committee for further action pursuant to Section 6-2 of the City Charter
 - B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Human Rights Commission
 - C. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Planning Board

- D. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals
- E. City Branding and Logo Update
- 8. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
- 9. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 10. PUBLIC FORUM
- 11. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	___X___	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X(via zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X(via zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to adopt the minutes from City Council Meeting April 8, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X(via zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve the resolution to support "An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media".



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 29

R- 2025 - 29

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ACT TO MODERNIZE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY MEDIA PROGRAMMING

WHEREAS: Accessing government meetings is essential to our democracy, and local media outlets like WCATV are foundational to providing such a service through cable and live stream, thereby expanding civic engagement, and improving government transparency; and

WHEREAS: The funding for community media stations is diminishing as cable subscriptions and the local revenue derived therefrom declines; and

WHEREAS: Streaming services have become more prevalent, but are not similarly required to pay for the use of the public infrastructure - utility poles, conduits, and wires - on which they rely to sell their services and derive a profit; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts legislature's 194th session is considering a bill to hold streaming providers responsible for paying their fair share for the use of public infrastructure, thereby ensuring that local media stations like WCATV are funded, and can continue to provide the foundational democratic right to information.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Watertown City Council supports our State's delegation to pass An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 22, 2025.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

An Act to Modernize Funding for Community Media Programming

H.91 and S.41 – FACT SHEET

Background:

- Traditional cable, delivered through public rights of way, is regulated through franchise license agreements negotiated at the municipal level. Cable alternatives, such as streaming entertainment, most often delivered via the same infrastructure, are not subject to those same regulations.
- Streaming entertainment operators rely on local infrastructure to sell their products to millions of Massachusetts residents, yet pay nothing to use that infrastructure. Holding these companies responsible for paying their fair share would greatly benefit all citizens of MA and the municipalities where they reside.
- In Massachusetts, cable contracts are negotiated locally. In these agreements, cable companies agree to remit up to 5% of their gross annual revenue back to the city or town where they do business, to support local programming.
- Massachusetts boasts the highest concentration of community media or PEG centers in the country - over 250 outlets provide local video content daily.
- Cable subscriptions in MA have declined over 50% in the last five years, and revenue for community media efforts has declined, in turn. Many federal lawmakers are seeking to deregulate industries like cable and broadband, meaning funding for community media could abruptly disappear entirely in the very near future.

Summary:

- Following the model of cable franchises, the bill would impose an annually-negotiated fee of up to 5% on streaming entertainment operators as compensation for their use of public rights of way.
- The monies collected would fund community media efforts across the Commonwealth and perhaps spawn new growth in communities without cable service and, therefore, no community media.
- The bill would help MA municipalities fund expenditures related to hybrid municipal meetings, data infrastructure improvements, school technology programs, and more.
- This bill is NOT a tax on the internet or on Massachusetts residents. Assessments on entertainment (cable television, digital downloads, movie theaters, or movie rentals) are not new. This bill updates the law to include new entertainment options that have entered the marketplace in the past decade and are rapidly growing in popularity.
- Community media injects hundreds of thousands of dollars into the local economy each year and employs hundreds of individuals.
- More than 30 US states currently tax digital goods in some form. MA is not one of them.
- Without community media, the cost of providing video services would fall to individual municipalities, likely causing local tax increases.

Help us to provide a viable future for community media in Massachusetts. Please co-sponsor and support H.91 and S.41 today!

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X(via zoom)___	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	___X___	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	___X___	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	___X___	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	___X___	_____	_____

Motion to approve amending Fiscal Year 2025 expenditure limits for revolving funds.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 30

R – 2025 - 30

A RESOLUTION AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2025 EXPENDITURE LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

WHEREAS, revolving funds are established pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½ for the purpose of managing fees and revenues received by the City for specific programs, allowing such fees and revenues to be expended for those programs without the need for further appropriation; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, City revolving funds have been subject to annual reauthorization; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Modernization Act, Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, includes revisions to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½, requiring that revolving funds be established by ordinance and eliminating the per board and total limitations on the size of these funds; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable City Council previously adopted Ordinance 2017- 47 which established eight revolving funds of the City;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Title III, Administration, Chapter 32, Finances, Section 08F, Authorized Revolving Funds, is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 32.08.F therein as follows:

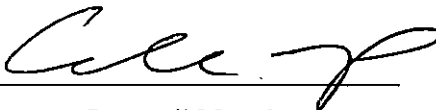
REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM OR PURPOSE	DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS TO BE CREDITED TO FUND	REPRESENTATIVE OR BOARD ENTITY AUTHORIZED TO SPEND
<i>Commander's Mansion</i> to pay costs associated with rental and use of the Commander's Mansion	Fees and receipts from rentals and use	Director of Community Development and Planning

<i>Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force</i> to pay costs associated with the operation and equipping of the crime task force	Fees and receipts for task force rental and operations	City Manager
<i>Senior Center</i> to pay costs associated with programs and activities provided at or by the Senior Center	Fees and receipts for program participation	Senior Center Director
<i>Library Copier</i> to pay costs of copier maintenance, materials, and equipping	Fees from copier usage	Libnuy Director

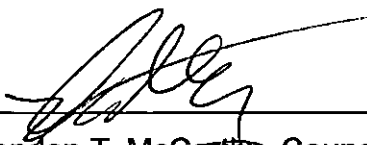
<i>Faire on the Square/Other City Events</i> to pay costs associated with Faire and other City event activities	Fees and receipts received from Faire and other City event participants	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Farmers' Market</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of the Farmer's Market	Fees and receipts from participation in the Farmer's Market and grant revenues	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Animal Control</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of the Animal Control Program	Fees and receipts from the Animal Control Program	Director of Public Health
<i>Public Arts</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of Public Arts and Culture in Watertown	Fees and receipts from public art creation and grants revenues	Director of Community Development and Planning

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following fiscal year spending limits for such revolving funds are hereby amended:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Commander's Mansion	\$290,000
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force	\$1,000,000
Senior Center	\$35,000
Library Copier	\$25,000
Faire on the Square	\$65,000
Farmers' Market	\$60,000
Animal Control	\$25,000
Public Arts	\$90,000


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 22, 2025.


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large
Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



Megan Langan
City Auditor

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Auditor

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6460
www.watertown-ma.gov
mlangan@watertown-ma.gov

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: Megan Langan, City Auditor 

DATE: April 14, 2025

RE: Proposed Resolution – FY25 53 E1/2 Revolving Funds Expenditure Limits Amendment

As you are aware, the Honorable City Council adopted the attached Ordinance 2017 - 47 at its meeting on June 27, 2017. The Municipal Modernization Act, Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 requires that revolving funds established pursuant to G.L. c.44, Sec. 53E1/2 be established by ordinance, which was completed by the adoption of ordinance 2017-47.

Prior to the passage of the Municipal Modernization Act, the City would annually vote via resolution a spending cap for 53 E1/2 revolving funds.

Upon review of the City's revolving funds at the close of the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2025, the need to increase the expenditure limits has been deemed necessary for the following funds: Faire on the Square/City Events, Farmers' Market, Animal Control and Public Arts. Throughout the year, additional revenue sources have been established for the aforementioned funds through expanded programming as well as grant awards. For your information and review, attached is a spreadsheet outlining 4 years to date of revenue and expenditure activity for the 53 E1/2 revolving funds. Additionally, the proposed amended Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditure Limit for the revolving funds are indicated on the attached spreadsheet.

I respectfully request your approval of the proposed resolution amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Expenditure Limits on four of the eight revolving funds.

cc: George J. Proakis, City Manager



Watertown Town Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President

Michael F. Dattoli,
Councilor At Large

Aaron P. Dushku,
Councilor At Large

Susan G. Falkoff,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Angeline B. Kounelis,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Kenneth M. Woodland,
District D Councilor

ORDINANCE # 47

O-2017- 47

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REVOLVING FUNDS

WHEREAS, revolving funds are established pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½ for the purpose of managing fees and revenues received by the Town for specific programs, allowing such fees and revenues to be expended for those programs without the need for further appropriation; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, Town revolving funds have been subject to annual reauthorization; and

WHEREAS, the recently enacted Municipal Modernization Act, Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, includes revisions to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½, requiring that revolving funds be established by ordinance and eliminating the per board and total limitations on the size of these funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the City Known as the Town of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Title III, Administration, Chapter 32, Finances, is hereby amended by inserting new Section 32.08 therein as follows:

§32.08 Revolving Funds

(A) There are hereby established in the Town of Watertown pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds, from which the specified department head, board, committee, or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from without appropriation in accordance with the limitations set forth in this ordinance.

(B) Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund.

(C) No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.

(D) The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by the Town Council or any increase therein as may later be authorized by the Town Manager and Town Council in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 44, §53E½.

(E) Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this ordinance shall be credited to the General Fund.

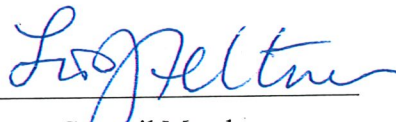
(F) Authorized Revolving Funds

REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM OR PURPOSE	DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS TO BE CREDITED TO FUND	REPRESENTATIVE OR BOARD ENTITY AUTHORIZED TO SPEND
<i>Commander's Mansion</i> to pay costs associated with rental and use of the Commander's Mansion	Fees and receipts from rentals and use	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force</i> to pay costs associated with the operation and equipping of the crime task force	Fees and receipts for task force rental and operations	Town Manager
<i>Senior Center</i> to pay costs associated with programs and activities provided at or by the Senior Center	Fees and receipts for program participation	Senior Center Director
<i>Library Copier</i> to pay costs of copier maintenance, materials, and equipping	Fees from copier usage	Library Director
<i>Faire on the Square</i> to pay costs associated with Faire activities	Fees and receipts received from Faire participants	Town Clerk
<i>Farmers' Market</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of the Farmer's Market	Fees and receipts from participation in farmers' market	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Animal Control</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of the Animal Control Program	Fees and receipts from the Animal Control Program	Director of Public Health
<i>Affordable Housing Development</i> to pay costs associated with the creation and/or preservation of affordable housing	Fees and receipts received in connection with affordable housing development	Director of Community Development and Planning

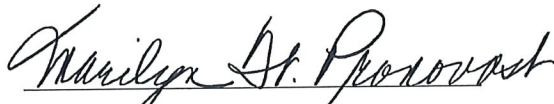
(G) Procedures and Reports. Except as provided in G.L. c. 44, §53E½ and this ordinance, all applicable state and local laws and regulations that govern the receipt, custody, expenditure and payment of Town funds shall apply to the use of revolving funds established and authorized by this ordinance.

AND, BE IT FURTHER ORDERED by the Town Council, that the following fiscal year spending limits for such revolving funds are hereby established:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Commander's Mansion	\$230,000
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force	\$1,725,000
Senior Center	\$25,000
Library Copier	\$20,000
Faire on the Square	\$10,000
Farmers' Market	\$46,000
Animal Control	\$10,000
Affordable Housing Development	\$265,000


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against and 0 present on June 27, 2017.


Marilyn W. Pronovost, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

**CITY OF WATERTOWN
53 E 1/2 REVOLVING FUNDS
AS OF MARCH 31, 2025**

	COMMANDER'S MANSION REVOLVING FUND		ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE REVOLVING FUND		SENIOR CENTER REVOLVING FUND		LIBRARY COPIER REVOLVING FUND		FAIRE ON THE SQUARE/ CITY EVENTS REVOLVING FUND		FARMERS' MARKET REVOLVING FUND		ANIMAL CONTROL REVOLVING FUND		PUBLIC ARTS REVOLVING FUND	
FY 2022 REVENUE	\$	242,170.95	\$	865,755.15	\$	4,090.00	\$	10,547.77	\$	23,090.00	\$	24,129.00	\$	16,065.00	\$	15,000.00
FY 2023 REVENUE	\$	252,433.53	\$	342,724.69	\$	11,456.42	\$	11,463.01	\$	30,165.00	\$	38,042.50	\$	16,045.00	\$	28,098.00
FY 2024 REVENUE	\$	213,820.06	\$	83,072.27	\$	9,775.00	\$	15,206.96	\$	43,565.00	\$	67,309.50	\$	17,005.00	\$	60,792.75
YTD FY 2025 REVENUE	\$	129,025.00	\$	57,828.81	\$	12,323.50	\$	12,366.22	\$	61,411.00	\$	21,220.55	\$	12,200.00	\$	83,524.43
FY 2022 EXPENDITURES	\$	243,978.38	\$	563,661.66	\$	9,244.42	\$	10,355.54	\$	31,774.60	\$	25,058.81	\$	6,724.10	\$	-
FY 2023 EXPENDITURES	\$	271,347.75	\$	355,303.76	\$	11,646.70	\$	16,869.90	\$	26,843.90	\$	36,144.10	\$	13,400.72	\$	32,843.82
FY 2024 EXPENDITURES	\$	228,970.72	\$	58,869.61	\$	12,495.91	\$	15,614.44	\$	22,866.37	\$	35,572.19	\$	13,612.96	\$	43,747.18
YTD FY 2025 EXPENDITURES	\$	79,307.47	\$	63,929.67	\$	8,699.00	\$	8,216.81	\$	49,522.82	\$	40,224.67	\$	13,518.36	\$	56,582.87
CURRENT CASH BALANCE	\$	91,900.05	\$	532,975.35	\$	7,974.38	\$	5,491.99	\$	36,227.42	\$	25,106.36	\$	57,442.99	\$	54,241.31
FY 25 AUTH. EXPEND. LIMIT	\$	290,000.00	\$	1,000,000.00	\$	35,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	50,000.00	\$	50,000.00	\$	20,000.00	\$	60,000.00
PROPOSED AMENDED FY 25 EXPEND. LIMIT	\$	290,000.00	\$	1,000,000.00	\$	35,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	65,000.00	\$	60,000.00	\$	25,000.00	\$	90,000.00

RESOLUTION #

R-2025-

A RESOLUTION AMENDING FISCAL YEAR 2025 EXPENDITURE LIMITS FOR REVOLVING FUNDS

WHEREAS, revolving funds are established pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½ for the purpose of managing fees and revenues received by the City for specific programs, allowing such fees and revenues to be expended for those programs without the need for further appropriation; and

WHEREAS, traditionally, City revolving funds have been subject to annual reauthorization; and

WHEREAS, the Municipal Modernization Act, Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, includes revisions to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E ½, requiring that revolving funds be established by ordinance and eliminating the per board and total limitations on the size of these funds; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable City Council previously adopted Ordinance 2017-47 which established eight revolving funds of the City;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Title III, Administration, Chapter 32, Finances, Section 08F, Authorized Revolving Funds, is hereby amended by inserting a new Section 32.08.F therein as follows:

REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM OR PURPOSE	DEPARTMENT RECEIPTS TO BE CREDITED TO FUND	REPRESENTATIVE OR BOARD ENTITY AUTHORIZED TO SPEND
<i>Commander's Mansion</i> to pay costs associated with rental and use of the Commander's Mansion	Fees and receipts from rentals and use	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force</i> to pay costs associated with the operation and equipping of the crime task force	Fees and receipts for task force rental and operations	City Manager
<i>Senior Center</i> to pay costs associated with programs and activities provided at or by the Senior Center	Fees and receipts for program participation	Senior Center Director
<i>Library Copier</i> to pay costs of copier maintenance, materials, and equipping	Fees from copier usage	Library Director

<i>Faire on the Square/Other City Events</i> to pay costs associated with Faire and other City event activities	Fees and receipts received from Faire and other City event participants	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Farmers' Market</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of the Farmer's Market	Fees and receipts from participation in the Farmer's Market and grant revenues	Director of Community Development and Planning
<i>Animal Control</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of the Animal Control Program	Fees and receipts from the Animal Control Program	Director of Public Health
<i>Public Arts</i> to pay costs associated with the operation of Public Arts and Culture in Watertown	Fees and receipts from public art creation and grants revenues	Director of Community Development and Planning

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following fiscal year spending limits for such revolving funds are hereby amended:

Authorized Revolving Funds	Fiscal Year Expenditure Limit
Commander's Mansion	\$290,000
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force	\$1,000,000
Senior Center	\$35,000
Library Copier	\$25,000
Faire on the Square	\$65,000
Farmers' Market	\$60,000
Animal Control	\$25,000
Public Arts	\$90,000

Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of __ for, __ against and __ present on April 22, 2025.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 22, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	__X__	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	__X__	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	__X__	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	__X(via zoom)__	_____	_____
EMILY IZZO	__X__	_____	_____
ANTHONY PALOMBA	__X__	_____	_____
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	__X__	_____	_____
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	__X__	_____	_____

Motion to approve a transfer of funds in the amount of \$455,800 from Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Projects accounts.



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION# 31

2025 – R – 31

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2025 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE TO VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2025 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS ACCOUNTS

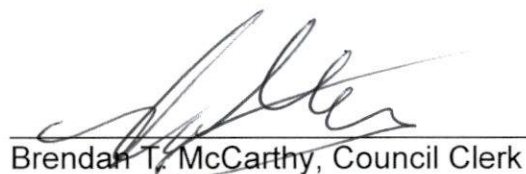
BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$455,800 from the Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Reserve to be transferred to various Fiscal Year 2025 Transfer to Capital Projects accounts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said transfer is forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector.



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 22, 2025.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 15, 2025

RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds Request

Attached is a formal request from City Auditor Megan Langan for the transfer of \$455,800 from the Fiscal Year 2025 City Council Reserve to various Fiscal Year 2025 Transfer to Capital Projects accounts. These funds are intended to support critical infrastructure improvements, as outlined below:

- Renovation of the Auditor's Office to accommodate the new Communications Team space.
- Design process for the Parker Building.
- Replacement of overhead doors and operators at both the Main and North Stations.
- Replacement of the Zamboni room door at the John A. Ryan Skating Rink.

This investment will enhance the functionality, safety, and efficiency of essential city facilities.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled on April 22, 2025.

Thank you for your consideration.



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Auditor

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472-4410

Megan Langan
City Auditor

Telephone: (617) 972-6460

Facsimile: (617) 972-6563

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR 

DATE: APRIL 15, 2025

RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$455,800 from FY25 City Council Reserve to various FY25 Transfer to Capital Projects accounts.

A transfer in the amount of \$295,000 is being requested to Transfer to Capital Projects Public Buildings. \$95,000 will be utilized to begin construction on the old Auditor's Office space which is being renovated into the new Communications Team space in accordance with the Watertown Space Study Department Relocations. The remaining \$200,000 will be utilized towards the design process for the Parker Building, which will ensure that the project stays ahead of schedule.

Additionally, a transfer in the amount of \$130,800 is being requested to Transfer to Capital Projects Fire to fund the replacement of the overhead doors and operators at the Main & North Stations.

Lastly, a transfer in the amount of \$30,000 is being requested to Transfer to Capital Projects City to fund the replacement of the Zamboni room door at the John A. Ryan Skating Rink. While this item is currently slated for FY27 in the CIP, the doors have stopped working this year creating a work hazard for the Rink employees as well as creating energy inefficiencies within the building.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT: \$ 455,800

FROM: FY 2025 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE \$ 455,800
0111152 - 570780

TO: FY 2025 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS PUBLIC BUILDINGS \$ 295,000
0193059-596509

FY 2025 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FIRE \$ 130,800
0193059-596510

FY 2025 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS CITY \$ 30,000
0193059-596502

I hereby certify to the availability, authority of funding source, mathematical accuracy
and appropriate fiscal year.

4/15/25
DATE

Meyn J. J.
CITY AUDITOR



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 14, 2025

RE: Administrative Reorganization Plan

Attached please find excerpt pages from the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget that was submitted on April 8, 2025.

I will bring this up under Communications from the City Manager at the April 22, 2025 City Council Meeting and respectfully request the matter be referred to Committee for further review and consideration.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF WATERTOWN

Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465
www.watertown-ma.gov

TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

DATE: April 8, 2025

SUBJECT: FY 2026 ORGANZATIONAL CHANGES – EXPLANITORY MESSAGE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 6, Section 6-2 of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter, I herewith present the attached Administrative Reorganization Plan for the administrative reorganization of City departments by administrative code. This Administrative Reorganization Plan shall be subject to the referral, public hearing, report, and approval process as specified in Section 6-2 of the Home Rule Charter as further explained below.

1. Reorganization Plan by Administrative Code – City Charter Process

As noted above, this Administrative Reorganization Plan is being submitted pursuant to Article 6, Section 6-2 of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter. This provision of the Charter authorizes the City Manager to “from time to time prepare and submit to the city council reorganization plans which may, unless prohibited by general law or the charter, reorganize, consolidate, or abolish any existing city agency in whole or in part, establish new city agencies, and prescribe the functions of any city agency.”

The process for consideration of such a reorganization by administrative code is as follows:

- A. The City Manager may submit a reorganization plan to the City Council with an explanatory note
- B. Upon receipt of the plan by the City Council, City Council shall refer plan to an appropriate standing committee for study and report.
- C. Within thirty days of such referral, a public hearing on the plan would be held either before the standing committee or the full City Council.
- D. Within fourteen days following conclusion of the public hearing, a report of the standing committee would be filed, either approving or disapproving the plan.
- E. Upon the ninetieth day following City Council receipt of the plan (unless the plan itself specifies a later date) the plan becomes effective unless disapproved by the City Council.
- F. A reorganization plan submitted by administrative code may not be amended by the City Council but shall either be approved or disapproved in the form as submitted.

2. Explanatory Note

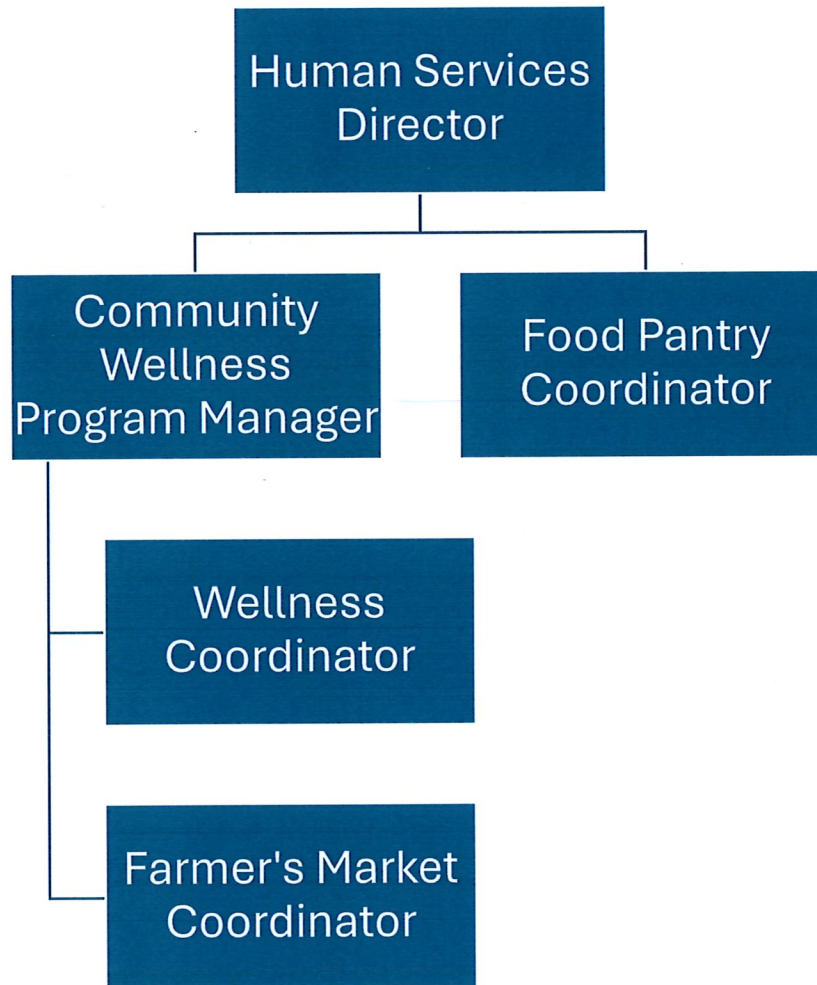
Article 3, Section 3-2 of the City of Watertown Home Rule Charter designates the City Manager as the City's chief administrative officer. The powers and duties of the City Manager include administration of all officers appointed by the City Manager and their respective agencies. The City Manager is also responsible for the coordination of activities of all agencies under his control with the activities of all other City agencies, whether elected or appointed by other elected officials. This Administrative Reorganization Plan is submitted pursuant to and in fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities of the City Manager and in the interest of improving the effectiveness of the City's administration. This plan is hereby offered to the City Council for action in accordance with Article 6, Section 6-2 of the City's Home Rule Charter.

3. Reorganization Plan

Included with this Explanatory Message is the proposed Administrative Reorganization Plan submitted to the City Council by the City Manager pursuant to Article 6, Section 6-2 of the City's Home Rule Charter. With the honorable City Council's approval of the organizational changes contained in the Administrative Reorganization Plan pursuant to the Charter procedures outlined above, and in accordance with the FY 25 budget submission, the City Departments will operate with the following organizational changes:

Human Services Department

There will be a Human Services Department with a Human Services Director that will house the Watertown Food Pantry and the Live Well Watertown program. The department is being formed consistent with the approved Health & Human Services Study.

Organizational Chart

The Wellness Team is removed from the Community Development and Planning Department to become a part of this new department. Likewise, the Food Pantry Coordinator is removed from the Senior Services Department to become a part of this new department.

The organization of all other departments will remain as established in the FY 2025 Organizational Message.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6465

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 16, 2025

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Human Rights Commission

In accordance with the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions, and Committees, I am hereby submitting a request for reappointments to the Human Rights Commission, which requires Council confirmation.

- Corey Barr - Reappointment as a member of the Human Rights Commission to a term expiring April 1, 2028
- Elizabeth Bruise - Reappointment as a member of the Human Rights Commission to a term expiring April 1, 2028
- Gabriel Camacho - Reappointment as a member of the Human Rights Commission to a term expiring April 1, 2028

Thank you for your favorable consideration in this matter.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

CITY OF
WATERTOWN
Office of the City Manager

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 16, 2025

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Planning Board

Pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions and Committees, I am transmitting herewith a request for reappointments to the Planning Board which requires Council confirmation.

- Janet Buck – Reappointment as a member of the Planning Board to a term expiring February 15, 2028
- Abigail Hammett – Reappointment as a member of the Planning Board to a term expiring February 15, 2028

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



George J. Proakis
City Manager

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www.watertown-ma.gov
citymgr@watertown-ma.gov

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 16, 2025

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, An Ordinance on the Timing and Process of Appointments to Town Boards, Commissions and Committees, I am transmitting herewith a request for reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals which requires Council confirmation.

- Melissa Santucci-Rozzi - Reappointment as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to a term expiring February 15, 2030
- Samuel Odamah - Reappointment as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals to a term expiring February 15, 2027

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

MR. PRESIDENT AND HONORABLE CITY COUNCILORS



AS LEADERS OF THE COMMUNITY YOUR EFFORT TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES OF OUR CHILDREN IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED.

INVESTING IN BOTH SOFT AND HARD INFRASTRUCTURE, AND, IT IS NOTEWORTHY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE, YOU HAVE SOUGHT TO HIRE THE MOST GIFTED TEACHERS, PROVIDE A RICH CURRICULUM AS WELL AS THE NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

ALL OF YOUR EFFORTS WERE TO PREPARE, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY, OUR CHILDREN TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPETE AT THE NEXT LEVEL WHETHER VOCATIONAL OR ACADEMIC.

OUR DISTRICT HAS EMPHASIZED CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AND LIFE LONG LEARNING. OUR ACADEMIC MEASUREMENTS HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT IN ACERTAINING GRADE LEVEL OR ABOVE ACHIEVEMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS.

WE ALSO MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT WHEN OUR STUDENTS ARE ACCEPTED BY HARVARD AND OTHERS ON THE LIST OF TOP-RATED SCHOOLS.

BOSTON IS RECOGNIZED FOR IT'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND HARVARD IS RECOGNIZED WORLD -WIDE AS A PREMIERE INSTITUTION.

STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE ARE PRIDEFUL OF THE NUMBER STUDENTS ACCEPTED BY THESE INSTITUTIONS.

WE KNOW THAT ADMISSION AND GRADUATING FROM HARVARD IMPROVES ONE'S CHANCES OF HAVING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE.

OUR NEIGHBOR, HARVARD IS NOW UNDER THREAT BY AN ADMINISTRATION DRUNK WITH POWER.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SENT A CHILLING LETTER DATED APRIL 11, 2025, ESSENTIALLY WARNING FOR ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, FOR HARVARD TO ENACT REFORMS IN RESPONSE TO ALLEGED ANTISEMITISM, CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) PROGRAMS ON CAMPUS.

THE LETTER ALSO INCLUDED A REQUEST FOR DETAILED RECORDS ON FOREIGN STUDENT VISA HOLDERS WHO ALLEGEDLY ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL OR VIOLENT ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROTESTS ABOUT THE WAR IN GAZA.

B

FORTUNATELY, HARVARD REJECTED THE DEMANDS CITING THEIR INDEPENDENCE AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT AND THE OVERREACH OF THE GOVERNMENT IN ATTEMPTING TO GOVERN A PRIVATE COLLEGE CITING CONCERN OVER ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

THE ADMINISTRATION IS ATTEMPTING TO CONTROL CURRICULIM IN OUR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS REGARDING WHAT THEY CAN TEACH, WHAT STAFF TO HIRE LEADING EVENTUALLY TO WHAT WE ARE ALLOWED THINK.

MY PURPOSE IN COMING FORTH THIS EVENING IS TO REQUEST THAT WATERTOWN STAND WITH HARVARD. WILL YOU BE THE FIRST OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE CITIES AND TOWNS IN MASSACHUSETTS TO STAND WITH HARVARD.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT PASSING A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HARVARD AND ITS RESISTANCE ON BEHALF OF OUR COMMUNITY IS QUITE APPROPRIATE.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN VERY SUCCESFUL IN STIFFLING WHAT THEY CONSIDER DIVERSITY WITH THEIR FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS.

RECENTLY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAD TO RETREAT IN THEIR EFFORT TO REMOVE THE BOOK ENTITLED "THE JACKIE ROBINSON STORY" IN THE NAVAL ACADAMY'S LIBRARY. JACKIE ROBINSON WAS A BOYHOOD HERO OF MINE.

HOWEVER, THIS DID NOT STOP THE ADMINISTRATION FROM TAKING DOWN ON THEIR WEBSITE INFORMATION REGARDING COLONEL NICHOLE MALACHOWSKI, THE FIRST WOMAN TO FLY WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE THUNDERBIRDS. COLONEL MALACHOWSKI JOINED THE ELITE DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON IN 2006 BREAKING BARRIERS IN MILITARY AVIATION.

DEI HAS NOT STOPPED WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENTAL DEPARTMENTS,

EVERYTHING THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION IS DOING REMINDS ME OF ORWELL'S BOOK "1984". THE STATE MANIPULATES TRUTH, OVERREACHES GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL, SUPPRESSES DISSENT AND ENFORCES CONFORMITY TO THEIR WILL.

WATERTOWN HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR FREEDOM AGAINST AGGRESSORS. WE REMEMBER THIS PAST SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH ARE REMINDED BY CHARLIE'S AND JOYCE'S ARTICLE ONLINE THAT DEPICTED THE IMPORTANT ROLE WATERTOWN PLAYED IN THIS NATION ACHIEVING ITS INDEPENDENCE.