



Watertown City Council

Administration Building
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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

City Council Committee on Rules and Ordinances

Report of Tuesday August 5 and Thursday August 7, 2025
at 6:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor City Council Office

Present were John Gannon, chair; John M. Airasian, vice chair; and Lisa Feltner, secretary. The purpose of both meetings was to conduct interviews for serving on the Licensing Board.

The committee met with John (“Jack”) Bartley on August 5th, who decided to seek out openings on appointed boards after receiving positive feedback from his recent experience as chair on the Blue Ribbon Committee. He shared his summary résumé (attached) for the meeting discussion and feels his professional career and previous service to the town make him most qualified for the Licensing Board. He is pro-business but would also work collaboratively with public safety officials and in partnership with City Council and our policies to advance economic development. He thinks we could make the application process more efficient and make the licensing rules more business-friendly, especially for established annual events and recurring entertainment licenses which may for a series of months. This approach will also be important for enlivening Watertown Square businesses and supporting the new Cultural District. He has evenings available to devote to Licensing Board meetings and he no longer has, nor will have any clients in his consulting business that would create a conflict of interest.

Motion by Councilor Airasian, seconded by Councilor Gannon to recommend that the City Council confirm John C. Bartley for appointment to the Licensing Board for a term expiring February 15, 2028.

Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The committee reconvened on Thursday, August 7 at 6:30 p.m. to interview Jimmy Tsekrekas.

Jimmy Tsekrekas has been serving as an alternate on the Licensing Board since 2020. He has always loved Watertown’s small town feel while being close to everything. This charm remains attractive, but he understands the need to adapt, especially with many new businesses open later at Arsenal Yards and people who want to offer activities beyond restaurant closing times. He brings a unique perspective to the Licensing Board, with decades of experience in bartending, as well as a manager partner and general manager for restaurants in Boston and Key West, FL. Jimmy’s parents were small business owners, which also informs his understanding of the importance in supporting businesses and creating connections with the community for residents and visitors alike. He thinks a positive trend in Watertown is that we’ve become a bit of a “foodie” place with less emphasis on alcohol consumption. He promotes economic development while protecting the quality of life for residents, which requires thoughtful consideration with local businesses that are somewhat scattered among and abutting residential neighborhoods, and the Watertown Police Department has been a wonderful partner. He is excited to see potential for improvements in Watertown Square with the new Cultural District. Jimmy also teaches civics at The Gifford School in Weston, MA, practices cooperative teaching and coaches sports, and he is grateful to being able to give back to his hometown with service on the board.

Motion by Councilor Airasian, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend that the City Council confirm Jimmy Tsekrekas for reappointment to the Licensing Board as an alternate member for a term expiring February 15, 2028.

Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Feltner