



CITY OF WATERTOWN

TRAFFIC COMMISSION



Mr. Robert Airasian, Chair
Justin Hanrahan, Police Chief
Ryan Nicholson, Fire Chief
Thomas Brady, Director of Public Works
Steven Magoon, Community Development and Planning
Tyler Glode, City Engineer
Ms. Kelly Gallagher

June 25, 2025 Traffic Commission Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Robert Airasian, Justin Hanrahan, Ryan Nicholson, Thomas Brady, Tyler Glode, Kelly Gallagher.

The Traffic Commission addressed the following items:

Item 1 – Ms. Gallagher made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2025 Commission meeting; Chief Hanrahan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 2 – The Commission reviewed a request by Watertown Assistant Director for Energy Management Mr. Silas Fyler to modify the City's regulations regarding public electric vehicle parking spaces.

Mr. Fyler reported that there is a desire by City Staff, the City Manager, and the City Council to charge a fee for use of the City's EV charging stations. The program includes charging a monetary charge of \$.25 per kilowatt hour, and once vehicle is fully charged, there is a \$1.50 charge per 15 minutes, after a 30-minute grace time.

Mr. Fyler submitted the following proposed regulations to replace the current language in Traffic Rules and Orders ARTICLE V: Stopping, Standing and Parking, Section 13: Electric Vehicle Parking:

No person shall park a motor vehicle other than an electric vehicle within a parking meter space equipped with a public electric vehicle charging station. Use of the electric vehicle charging station shall be allowed subject to compliance with the following provisions:

- a) *Only Electric Vehicles may use the parking spaces containing EV charging stations.*
- b) *Electric Vehicles must remain plugged in to the EV charging station at all times while parked.*
- c) *Electric vehicles are subject to the parking meter rates and time limits for the parking space. Electric vehicles will also be subject to the EV charging rates and time limits from the EV charging station.*
- d) *Electric Vehicles may park and charge at the charging stations outside of parking meter hours of operation at no parking meter cost but will still be subject to EV charging rates and time limits from the EV charging station.*

Mr. Airasian recommended a modification to the proposed wording in paragraphs c) and d), to change "will" to "shall", and remove the word "still" in paragraph d).

Ms. Joan Gumbleton of Falmouth Road spoke in favor of the charging fees and asked whether fees would

change as costs increase.

Mr. David Aitcheson of Fayette Street inquired about the City's ability to handle the additional demand of EV chargers, whether more charging stations are planned, the cost to install EV charging stations, and whether EV parking spaces could be used by traditional vehicles if the lots are full.

Mr. Fyler reported that the City pays a 10% fee for the payment systems used to collect fees for charging vehicles. The City's EV charging stations in the Library and DPW lots were installed through grant programs. To date, the only EV charging stations that the City was required to directly pay for are in the police station parking lot. Cities cannot install EV charging stations without conducting an analysis to determine whether the local area grid can handle the EV charging stations. EV charging fees are defined by the City Manager. The charging fees will be adjusted as needed and will be evaluated yearly. Both Mr. Fyler and the Commission did not support the suggestion to allow traditional vehicles to park in EV Only spaces.

Ms. Gallagher made a motion to amend the language in Section 13 of the Traffic Rules and Regulations provided the words "will" in paragraphs c) and d) become "shall" and the word "still" is struck from paragraph d); Chief Nicholson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

No new business was brought before the Commission.

Chief Nicholson made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Gallagher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Sgt. David Sampson
Assistant to the Traffic Commission