

NOVEMBER 12, 2025



Watertown City Council

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 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 November 12, 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 6:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, Administration Building. Those present were Councilors, Caroline Bays, Lisa J. Feltner, John G. Gannon, Nicole Gardner, Emily Izzo, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk, and Doug Newton, Municipal Policy Analyst. Councilor John M. Airasian was absent.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. PUBLIC FORUM

Eileen Ryan - 48 Pearl Street – Expressed support for the upcoming “Skip the Stuff” Ordinance, which will reduce the amount of single use plastics in takeout restaurants. She stated that these measures have already proved to be successful in many other close communities, as well as other large cities and states. It saves restaurants money and significantly reduces plastic pollution.

4. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A. Minutes from City Council Meeting October 18, 2025

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the minutes from the meeting of October 28, 2025 and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris stated that there is new information regarding the Watertown Middle School, which could affect decision making, so the item will be skipped on this agenda. He then remarked that he will be asking for a moment of silence in respect for Councilor’s Airasian’s father who passed away recently.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Cross Street, westerly from pole 38/1, approximately 60 feet north of Pleasant Street, to install approximately 12 feet of conduit. This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 2-10 Cross Street. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Jacqueline Duffy – Eversource – Presented the petition.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition for a grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Alden Road, westerly from pole 178/3, approximately 256 feet south of Belmont Street, to install approximately 14 feet of 2 2-inch PVC conduit. This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 23 Alden Road. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of

Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Jacqueline Duffy presented the petition.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition for a grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked if existing wires for the location would come down.

Jacqueline Duffy responded that the existing overhead wires will be relocated underground.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- C. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Mount Auburn Street, northerly from pole 98/90, approximately 120 feet west of Cottage Street, to install approximately 14 feet of conduit. This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 780-784 Mt Auburn Street. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

Jacqueline Duffy presented the petition.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the petition for a grant of location and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- D. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$2,200,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of construction and oversight of roadway, sidewalk and utility reconstruction of Fifth Avenue, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

City Manager Proakis stated that this is consistent with the long streets and connector program. He noted that it is an important connector, and that work for nearby longer streets like Riverside Street will be soon followed.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the loan order and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Feltner asked if the DPW Director knew how many households requested that their water service be upgraded.

Thomas Brady – DPW Director replied that he could get that information to her.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

E. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Allocating the Property Tax Levy Among or Between Property Classes for Fiscal Year 2026

City Manager Proakis stated that they continue to work within the confines of Prop 2.5% to set levy limits. There has been an increase in residential taxes and a flat line or decrease in commercial property taxes, which does affect where the levy falls. He then stated that FY26 is the last year of the tax split home rule petition, which the administration is working hard to extend permanently.

City Assessor Earl Smith presented the classification presentation – attached and linked here: [Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Classification Hearing](#)

Key points included:

- A recommendation to engage in the maximum shift of 1.75%
- Total property value was about \$13 billion
 - Over \$9.4 billion in residential (up from about \$9.1 billion last year)
 - About \$3.673 billion in commercial (down slightly from \$3.690 last year)
- New growth came in at a respectable \$3,530,622 – which is down from terrific new growth in the past three years (\$7,745,192 on average)
- The multifamily and single-family condominium markets look strong moving forward
- The FY26 levy is calculated by adding:
 - FY25 Levy Limit - \$168,575,918
 - 2.5% - 4,214,398
 - FY26 New Growth – 3,530,633
 - FY26 Levy = \$176,320,938
- The new single tax rate is calculated by dividing the total tax levy by the total assessed value
 - Total tax levy - \$178,320, 938
 - Total assessed value - \$13,113,904,400
 - Singe Tax Rate = \$13.45
- With no shift between the classes:
 - Residential class pays \$126 mil
 - Commercial class pays \$ 49 mil
- With recommended max shift of 1.75:
 - Residential class pays \$89,896,263
 - Commercial class pays \$86,424,675
- Watertown residents compare similarly to most surrounding communities in terms of tax split, and favorable to almost all surrounding communities in terms of residential tax bills after residential exemptions
- Average residential tax bills are equal to where they were three years prior because of the home rule petition/tax split that was implemented
- The average residential tax has on average only gone up by \$122 per year – by far

the lowest in comparison to surrounding communities

- Watertown has had a residential exemption for decades
- A residential exemption is a reduction of a fixed assessment amount off the average residential value
- It is available to all owner occupants
- The Board of Assessors recommend the max exemption of 35% exclusion

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the maximum commercial shift allowed – 175% - and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

Councilor Gannon moved to adopt a residential exemption of 35% and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Gannon asked what the pros and cons would be if the limit was higher than 35%.

City Assessor Smith stated that the pros would be a bigger break to the residential class and some cons would be people who are no longer owner occupants, but still own the property and want to scam the system, would be more incentivized to do so.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Discussion and Potential Action on Middle School Plan

This item was tabled.

B. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gifts of Tangible Person Property in the form of six picnic tables from Home Depot

City Manager Proakis presented the item for acceptance.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the gift and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion passed unanimously in a Voice Vote.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

A. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on October 28, 2025 - Izzo, Chair

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend the City Council approve the appointment of Matthew McCarthy to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term

expiring September 15, 2028

ACTION ITEM:

To recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of David Stokes to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028

Councilor Izzo read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the action items and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- B. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report regarding its meeting on October 7, 2025 – Gannon, Chair

Councilor Gannon read the report.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to accept the report and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in Voice Vote.

9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Proposed Changes to Current Demolition Delay Ordinance

City Manager Proakis noted that rethinking the Demolition Delay has been in the works over the past year, and what is presented currently represents changes worked out by the administration.

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

City Manager Proakis then stated that he is seeking a resident to serve on the Residents Advisory Committee. He then invited Forestry Supervisor Micieli to speak.

Forestry Supervisory Micieli suggested a new approach to celebrating Arbor Day, which would be to Celebrate in in December – coinciding with a large tree planting at the Commissioner's Mansion on December 6th.

City Manager Proakis concluded by announcing the upcoming retirement of Assistant City Manager Steve Magoon. He remarked on the wealth of accomplishments and years of service in steady leadership for the community Mr. Magoon has provided over decades of work.

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

Councilor Gannon requested information concerning the plot of land owned by Watertown located on the even numbered side of North Beacon Street - between 662 Arsenal Street and property owned by DCR

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Sideris announced an upcoming special meeting where there will be discussions on the administration code and winter parking ban.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

Councilor Piccirilli read an email from Rita Colafella (attached).

President Sideris then asked for all to join in a moment of silence for the Passing of Mr. John Airasian.

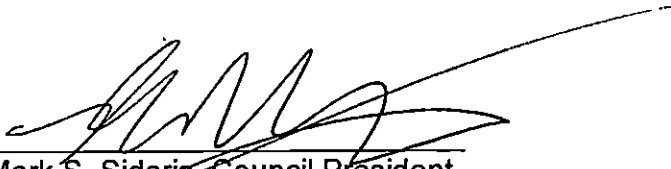
13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

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 8:13 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 December 9, 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, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building, 149 Main Street

List of Documents

1. Grant of Location – Eversource – Cross Street - Item 6A
2. Grant of Location – Eversource – Alden Road - Item 6B
3. Grant of Location – Eversource – Mt. Auburn St - Item 6C
4. Loan Order – 5th Ave – Item 6D
5. Tax Classification – Item 6E
6. Gift of Property – Home Depot – Item 7B
7. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report – Item 8A
8. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report – Item 8B
9. Proposed Changes to Demo Delay – Item 9A

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE
NOVEMBER 12, 2025 CITY
COUNCIL MEETING**



City Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on November 12, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
- B. This is an in-person meeting - any remote access is provided solely as a courtesy and may not be relied upon as alternative access. Therefore, any interruption in remote access technology shall not interrupt the meeting, and the meeting will proceed accordingly in person. In the event of such interruption, in-person attendance is available and encouraged.
- C. The in-person meeting will also be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television): <http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/watch-now?site=3>
- D. The public may join the in-person meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
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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 October 28, 2025
 - 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - 6. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Petition from NSTAR DBA Eversource for a Grant of Location in Cross Street, westerly from pole 38/1, approximately 60 feet north of Pleasant Street, to install approximately 12 feet of conduit. This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 2-10 Cross Street. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.
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proposed to provide electrical service to 23 Alden Road. The recommendations and conditions set out by the Department of Public Works shall be required upon approval of this application.

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 - E. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Order Allocating the Property Tax Levy Among or Between Property Classes for Fiscal Year 2026
7. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
- A. Discussion and Potential Action on Middle School Plan
 - B. Resolution Approving the Acceptance of Gifts of Tangible Person Property in the form of six picnic tables from Home Depot
8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
- A. Committee on Education and School System Matters Report regarding its meeting on October 28, 2025 - Izzo, Chair
- ACTION ITEM:
- To recommend the City Council approve the appointment of Matthew McCarthy to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028
- To recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of David Stokes to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors to a term expiring September 15, 2028
- B. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report regarding its meeting on October 7, 2025 - Gannon, Chair
9. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER
- A. 1
10. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
12. PUBLIC FORUM
13. 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: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

	YES	NO	PRESENT
JOHN M. AIRASIAN	_____	_____	_____
CAROLINE BAYS	___X___	_____	_____
LISA J. FELTNER	___X___	_____	_____
JOHN G. GANNON	___X___	_____	_____
NICOLE GARDNER	___X___	_____	_____
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 October 28, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to approve a grant of location in Cross Street



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 109

2025 – R - 109

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Watertown Department of Public Works has reviewed the attached petition by NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location in Cross Street to install 12 feet of conduit to provide electrical service to 2-10 Cross Street. Said Grant of Location shall be subject to the following recommendations and conditions.

Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.
2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities.

The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.

4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.
5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.
6. All work within the Right of Way shall require the Contractor to schedule and coordinate a police traffic detail. Traffic control and safety measures shall be implemented in adherence to all applicable OSHA requirements, Massachusetts DOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines and Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
7. All material stockpiled on roadways and/or roadway shoulders shall be protected with erosion control devices such as silt fence or straw wattles. It will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to remove any sediment that enters the City drainage system as a result of the proposed work.
8. Equipment, staging, and stockpiles shall not be located in a manner so as to interfere with intersection sightlines and shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion.
9. Public shade trees within and adjacent to the proposed work zone must be protected. The Contractor shall install individual tree protection on any public shade tree that may be impacted and the Contractor shall not stockpile material or equipment within the drip zone of a public shade tree.
10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.

11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the petitioner shall deposit sufficient cash surety as determined by the Superintendent of Public Works to be held in escrow until the Superintendent of Public Works is satisfied with the condition of repair and restoration of the street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said petition is forwarded to the City Clerk for processing.



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 November 12, 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



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA EVERSOURCE

**Grant of Location: 2-10 Cross Street
WO # 21949890**

October 28, 2025

Dear Abutters:

The City Council of the City of Watertown will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, 149 Main St., Watertown, MA along with remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online:
<https://watertownma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. 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 #
- D. Public may also comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

On a petition from NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location for the following installations:

Cross Street – Westerly from pole 38/1, approximately 60 feet north of Pleasant Street, install approximately 12 feet of conduit.

This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 2-10 Cross Street. We are submitting the following recommendations and conditions for consideration by the City Council should the Grant of Location be approved for this application. A photo of the location of the proposed work is presented attached to this document.

Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.

2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities.
The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.
4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.
5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.
6. All work within the Right of Way shall require the Contractor to schedule and coordinate a police traffic detail. Traffic control and safety measures shall be implemented in adherence to all applicable OSHA requirements, Massachusetts DOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines and Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
7. All material stockpiled on roadways and/or roadway shoulders shall be protected with erosion control devices such as silt fence or straw wattles. It will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to remove any sediment that enters the City drainage system as a result of the proposed work.
8. Equipment, staging, and stockpiles shall not be located in a manner so as to interfere with intersection sightlines and shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion.
9. Public shade trees within and adjacent to the proposed work zone must be protected. The Contractor shall install individual tree protection on any public shade tree that may be impacted and the Contractor shall not stockpile material or equipment within the drip zone of a public shade tree.
10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.
11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.

Your participation is not necessary, if you choose not to object to the above petition.

Sincerely,

Watertown City Council

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



180 Calvary Street
Waltham, Ma 02453

October 22, 2025

City Council
City Hall
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

RE: Cross Street
Watertown, MA
W.O.# 21949890

Dear Members of the Council:

The enclosed petition and plan are being presented by the NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for the purpose of obtaining a Grant of Location to install approximately 12 feet of conduit in Cross Street.

The reason for this work is to provide service to #2 Cross Street.

If you have any further questions, please contact Joanne Callender at 781-314-5054. Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

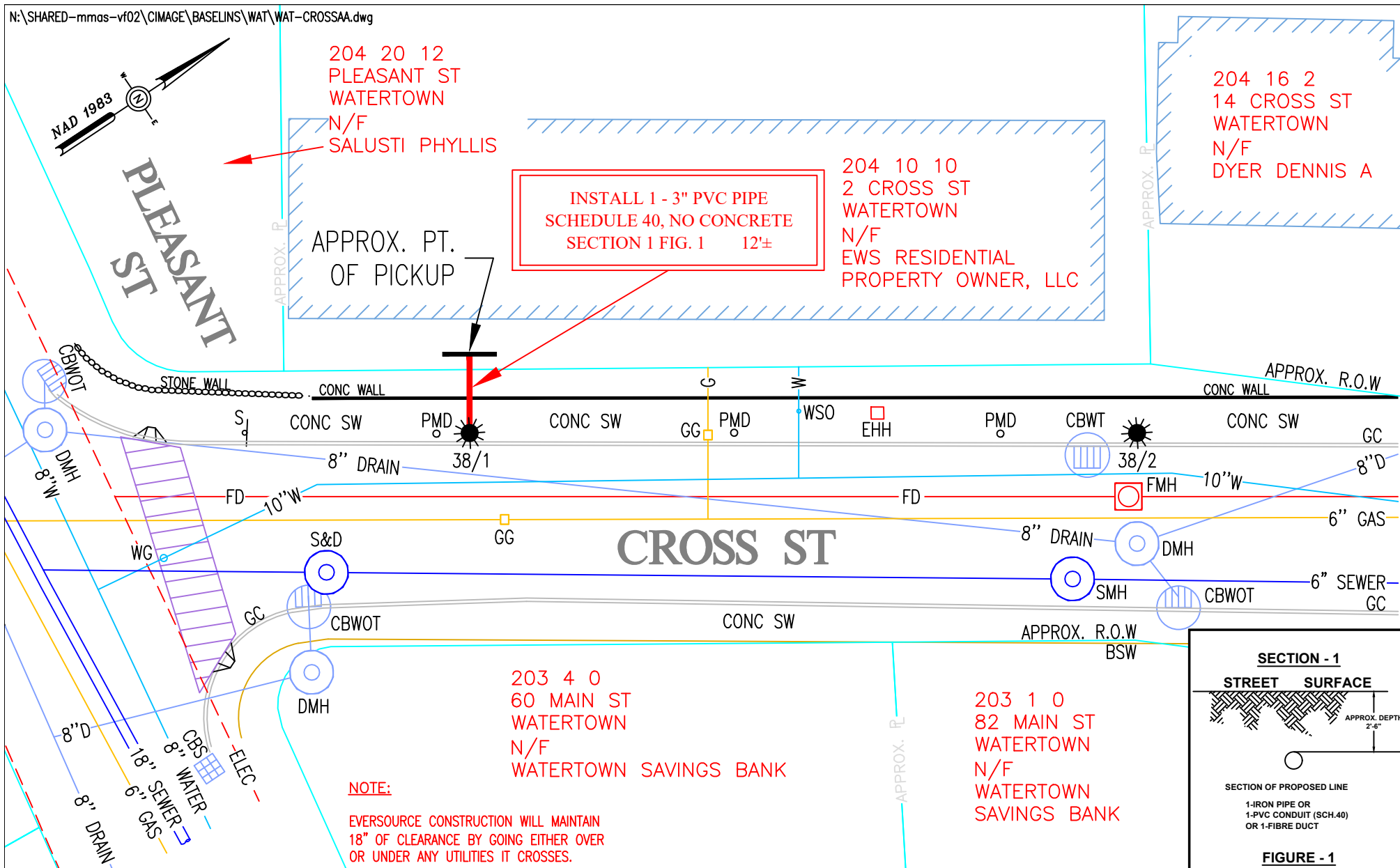
Richard M. Schifone

Richard M. Schifone, Supervisor
Rights and Permits

RMS/HC
Attachments

Location Photos





BY YOUR USE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS MAP, YOU AGREE THAT NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, IS GIVEN WITH RESPECT TO THE INFORMATION. NEITHER NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, NSTAR GAS COMPANY NOR ITS PARENTS, AFFILIATES, OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, EMPLOYEES OR AGENTS (COLLECTIVELY THE "NSTAR ENTITIES") SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY LOSS OR INJURY CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY USE OF THIS INFORMATION OR IN RELIANCE UPON IT. TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT ALLOWED BY LAW, YOU AGREE BY YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE INFORMATION TO RELEASE, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE NSTAR ENTITIES HARMLESS FROM ANY SUCH LOSS OR INJURY.

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MASS. LAW

REQUIRES 72 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO UTILITY COMPANIES
BEFORE DIGGING BY ANYONE. CALL DIG-SAFE 1-888-344-7233

C# 188-25

Ward #

Work Order # 21949890

Surveyed by: GR/VT

Research by: GC

Plotted by: LM

Proposed Structures: LM

Approved: K RICE

P#

NSTAR
ELECTRIC
d/b/a

1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125

Plan of CROSS ST
WATERTOWN

Showing PROPOSED CONDUIT LOCATION

Scale 1"=20'

Date JULY 31, 2025

SHEET 1 of 1

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to approve a grant of location in Alden Road



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 110

2025 – R - 110

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Watertown Department of Public Works has reviewed the attached petition by NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location in Alden Rd to install approximately 14 feet of PVC conduit to provide electrical service to 23 Alden Road. Said Grant of Location shall be subject to the following recommendations and conditions.

Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.
2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities.

The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.

4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.
5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.
6. All work within the Right of Way shall require the Contractor to schedule and coordinate a police traffic detail. Traffic control and safety measures shall be implemented in adherence to all applicable OSHA requirements, Massachusetts DOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines and Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
7. All material stockpiled on roadways and/or roadway shoulders shall be protected with erosion control devices such as silt fence or straw wattles. It will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to remove any sediment that enters the City drainage system as a result of the proposed work.
8. Equipment, staging, and stockpiles shall not be located in a manner so as to interfere with intersection sightlines and shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion.
9. Public shade trees within and adjacent to the proposed work zone must be protected. The Contractor shall install individual tree protection on any public shade tree that may be impacted and the Contractor shall not stockpile material or equipment within the drip zone of a public shade tree.
10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.

11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.

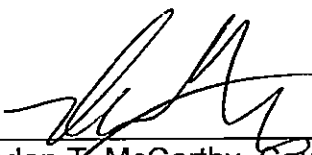
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the petitioner shall deposit sufficient cash surety as determined by the Superintendent of Public Works to be held in escrow until the Superintendent of Public Works is satisfied with the condition of repair and restoration of the street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said petition is forwarded to the City Clerk for processing.

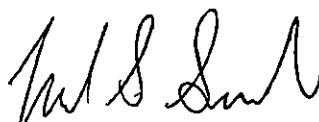


Council Member

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 6 present on November 12, 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



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA EVERSOURCE

**Grant of Location: 23-25 Alden Road
WO # 20407395**

October 28, 2025

Dear Abutters:

The City Council of the City of Watertown will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, 149 Main St., Watertown, MA along with remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online:
<https://watertownma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. 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 #
- D. Public may also comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

On a petition from NSTAR ELECTRIC DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location for the following installations:

Alden Road – Westerly from pole 178/3, approximately 256 feet south of Belmont Street, install approximately 14 feet of 2 2-inch PVC conduit.

This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 23 Alden Road. We are submitting the following recommendations and conditions for consideration by the City Council should the Grant of Location be approved for this application. A photo of the location of the proposed work is presented attached to this document.

Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian

facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.

2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.

3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities.

The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.

4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.

5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.

6. All work within the Right of Way shall require the Contractor to schedule and coordinate a police traffic detail. Traffic control and safety measures shall be implemented in adherence to all applicable OSHA requirements, Massachusetts DOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines and Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

7. All material stockpiled on roadways and/or roadway shoulders shall be protected with erosion control devices such as silt fence or straw wattles. It will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to remove any sediment that enters the City drainage system as a result of the proposed work.

8. Equipment, staging, and stockpiles shall not be located in a manner so as to interfere with intersection sightlines and shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion.

9. Public shade trees within and adjacent to the proposed work zone must be protected. The Contractor shall install individual tree protection on any public shade tree that may be impacted and the Contractor shall not stockpile material or equipment within the drip zone of a public shade tree.

10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.

11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.

Your participation is not necessary, if you choose not to object to the above petition.

Sincerely,

Watertown City Council

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

Location Photos





180 Calvary Street
Waltham, Ma 02453

July 7, 2025

City Council
City Hall
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

RE: Alden Road
Watertown, MA
W.O.# 20407395

Dear Members of the Council:

The enclosed petition and plan are being presented by the NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for the purpose of obtaining a Grant of Location to install approximately 14 feet of conduit in Alden Road.

The reason for this work is to provide service to #23 Alden Road.

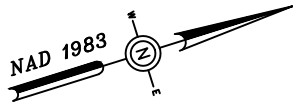
If you have any further questions, please contact Joanne Callender at 781-314-5054. Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Richard M. Schifone

Richard M. Schifone, Supervisor
Rights and Permits

RMS/HC
Attachments



INSTALL 2 - 2 PVC PIPES
TYPE EB IN CONCRETE
SECTION 2 FIG. 1 14'±

SECTION - 2 STREET SURFACE

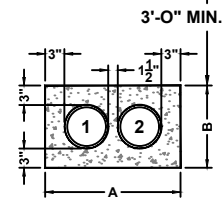
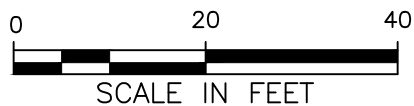


FIG. 1 2-DUCTS

FIG	4" Ducts		5" Ducts		6" Ducts	
	A Inches	B Inches	A Inches	B Inches	A Inches	B Inches
1	16 1/2"	10 1/2"	18 1/2"	11 1/2"	21"	12 1/2"
2	22 1/2"	10 1/2"	25 1/2"	11 1/2"	29"	12 1/2"
3	28 1/2"	10 1/2"	32 1/2"	11 1/2"	37"	12 1/2"
4	16 1/2"	16 1/2"	18 1/2"	18 1/2"	21"	21"
5	22 1/2"	16 1/2"	25 1/2"	18 1/2"	29"	21"
6	16 1/2"	22 1/2"	18 1/2"	25 1/2"	21"	29"
7	16 1/2"	28 1/2"	18 1/2"	32 1/2"	21"	37"
8	28 1/2"	16 1/2"	32 1/2"	18 1/2"	37"	21"
9	22 1/2"	22 1/2"	25 1/2"	25 1/2"	29"	29"
10	34 1/2"	16 1/2"	39 1/2"	18 1/2"	45"	21"
11	16 1/2"	34 1/2"	18 1/2"	39 1/2"	21"	45"
12	22 1/2"	26 1/2"	25 1/2"	32 1/2"	29"	37"
13	28 1/2"	22 1/2"	32 1/2"	25 1/2"	37"	29"
14	40 1/2"	16 1/2"	46 1/2"	18 1/2"	53 1/2"	21"
15	16 1/2"	40 1/2"	18 1/2"	46 1/2"	21"	53 1/2"
16	16 1/2"	46 1/2"	18 1/2"	53 1/2"	21"	61"



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MASS. LAW

REQUIRES 72 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO UTILITY COMPANIES
BEFORE DIGGING BY ANYONE. CALL DIG-SAFE 1-888-344-7233

C# 145-25

Ward #

Work Order # 20407395

Surveyed by:

Research by: GR/LM

Plotted by: LM

Proposed Structures: LM

Approved: K RICE

P#

NSTAR
ELECTRIC
d/b/a

1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125

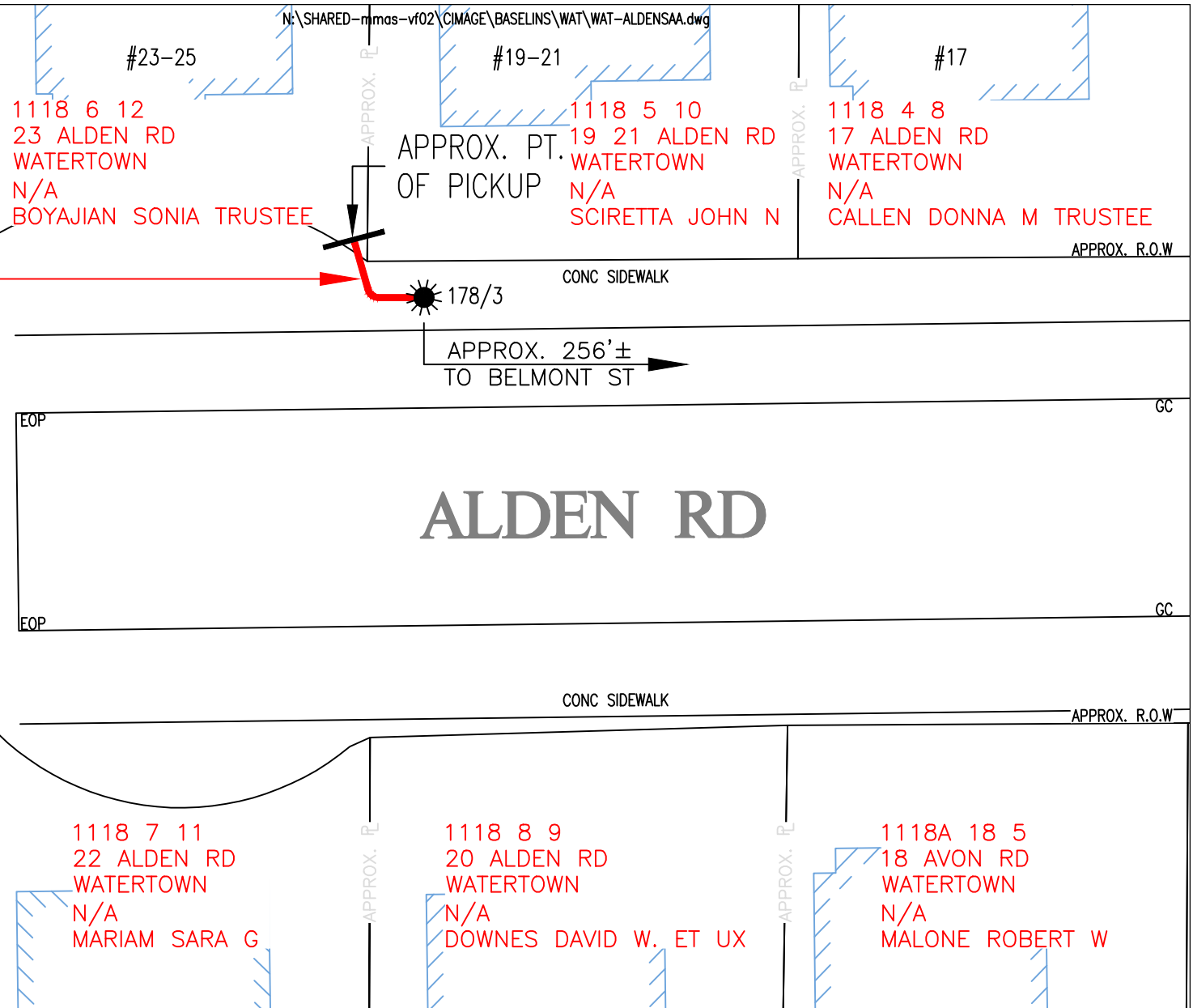
Plan of ALDEN RD

WATERTOWN

Showing PROPOSED CONDUIT LOCATION

Scale 1"=20' Date JUNE 17, 2025

SHEET 1 of 1



**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

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

Motion to approve a grant of location in Mt. Auburn Street



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # III

2025 – R - III

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Watertown Department of Public Works has reviewed the attached petition by NSTAR Electric DBA Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location in Mount Auburn Street to install approximately 14 feet of conduit to provide electrical service to 780-784 Mount Auburn Street. Said Grant of Location shall be subject to the following recommendations and conditions.

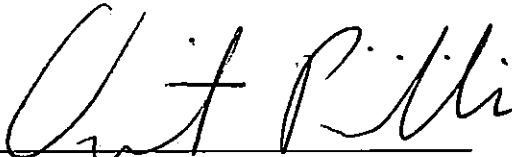
Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.
 2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.
 3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities.
- The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.**
4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.
 5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.
 6. All work within the Right of Way shall require the Contractor to schedule and coordinate a police traffic detail. Traffic control and safety measures shall be implemented in adherence to all applicable OSHA requirements, Massachusetts DOT Work Zone Safety Guidelines and Part VI of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
 7. All material stockpiled on roadways and/or roadway shoulders shall be protected with erosion control devices such as silt fence or straw wattles. It will be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to remove any sediment that enters the City drainage system as a result of the proposed work.
 8. Equipment, staging, and stockpiles shall not be located in a manner so as to interfere with intersection sightlines and shall be kept in a neat and orderly fashion.
 9. Public shade trees within and adjacent to the proposed work zone must be protected. The Contractor shall install individual tree protection on any public shade tree that may be impacted and the Contractor shall not stockpile material or equipment within the drip zone of a public shade tree.
 10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.

11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.

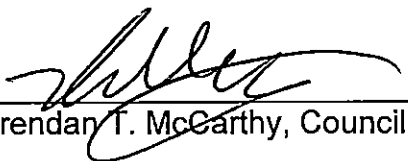
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the petitioner shall deposit sufficient cash surety as determined by the Superintendent of Public Works to be held in escrow until the Superintendent of Public Works is satisfied with the condition of repair and restoration of the street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of said petition is forwarded to the City Clerk for processing.

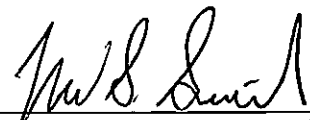


Council Member

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 November 12, 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



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING – NSTAR DBA EVERSOURCE

**Grant of Location: 780-784 Mt Auburn Street
WO # 22803474**

October 28, 2025

Dear Abutters:

The City Council of the City of Watertown will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, 149 Main St., Watertown, MA along with remote opportunities for participation with public access provided as follows:

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The meeting will be televised through WCATV (Watertown Cable Access Television):
<http://vodwcatv.org/CablecastPublicSite/?channel=3>
- B. The Public may join the virtual meeting online:
<https://watertownma.zoom.us/j/92991331344>
- C. 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 #
- D. Public may also comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov

On a petition from Eversource for consideration of a Grant of Location for the following installations:

Mount Auburn Street – Northerly from pole 98/90, approximately 120 feet west of Cottage Street, install approximately 14 feet of conduit.

This work is proposed to provide electrical service to 780-784 Mt Auburn Street. We are submitting the following recommendations and conditions for consideration by the City Council should the Grant of Location be approved for this application. A photo of the location of the proposed work is presented attached to this document.

Standard Conditions

1. During construction, uninterrupted pedestrian access (or temporary pedestrian facilities) shall be provided at all times or an appropriate alternative path provided.
2. Please be aware that there may be utility infrastructure that is not shown on the plan and may be encountered in the field. If a conflict occurs between the proposed installation and existing City-Owned and/or private utility infrastructure, The City Engineer shall be contacted directly to discuss an appropriate resolution.
3. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant, and their Contractor, to ensure that and City-Owned and or private utilities, if located within the limits of work should be properly marked and protected during construction activities.
The City of Watertown is not a member of Dig Safe and must be notified separately.
4. The proposed scope of work requires a DPW Street Opening Permit through the Watertown DPW prior to the start of construction.
5. All disturbances to curbing, grass strips, sidewalks, walkways, and roadway surfaces shall be repaired in kind to the satisfaction of the City of Watertown DPW. If any existing sidewalk is proposed to be removed and replaced in full width, the restoration must be completed in accordance with all current ADA, MAAB and City of Watertown standards.
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10. Contractor shall coordinate with City Health Department on rodent control requirements.
11. An as-built survey shall be performed upon completion of the work and provided to the Department of Public Works.

Your participation is not necessary, if you choose not to object to the above petition.

Sincerely,

Watertown City Council

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



180 Calvary Street
Waltham, Ma 02453

October 22, 2025

City Council
City Hall
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

RE: Mount Auburn Street
Watertown, MA
W.O.# 22803474

Dear Members of the Council:

The enclosed petition and plan are being presented by the NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a EVERSOURCE ENERGY for the purpose of obtaining a Grant of Location to install approximately 14 feet of conduit in Mount Auburn Street.

The reason for this work is to provide service to #784 Mount Auburn Street.

If you have any further questions, please contact Joanne Callender at 781-314-5054. Your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

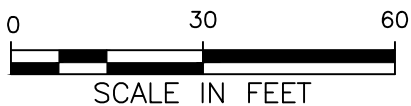
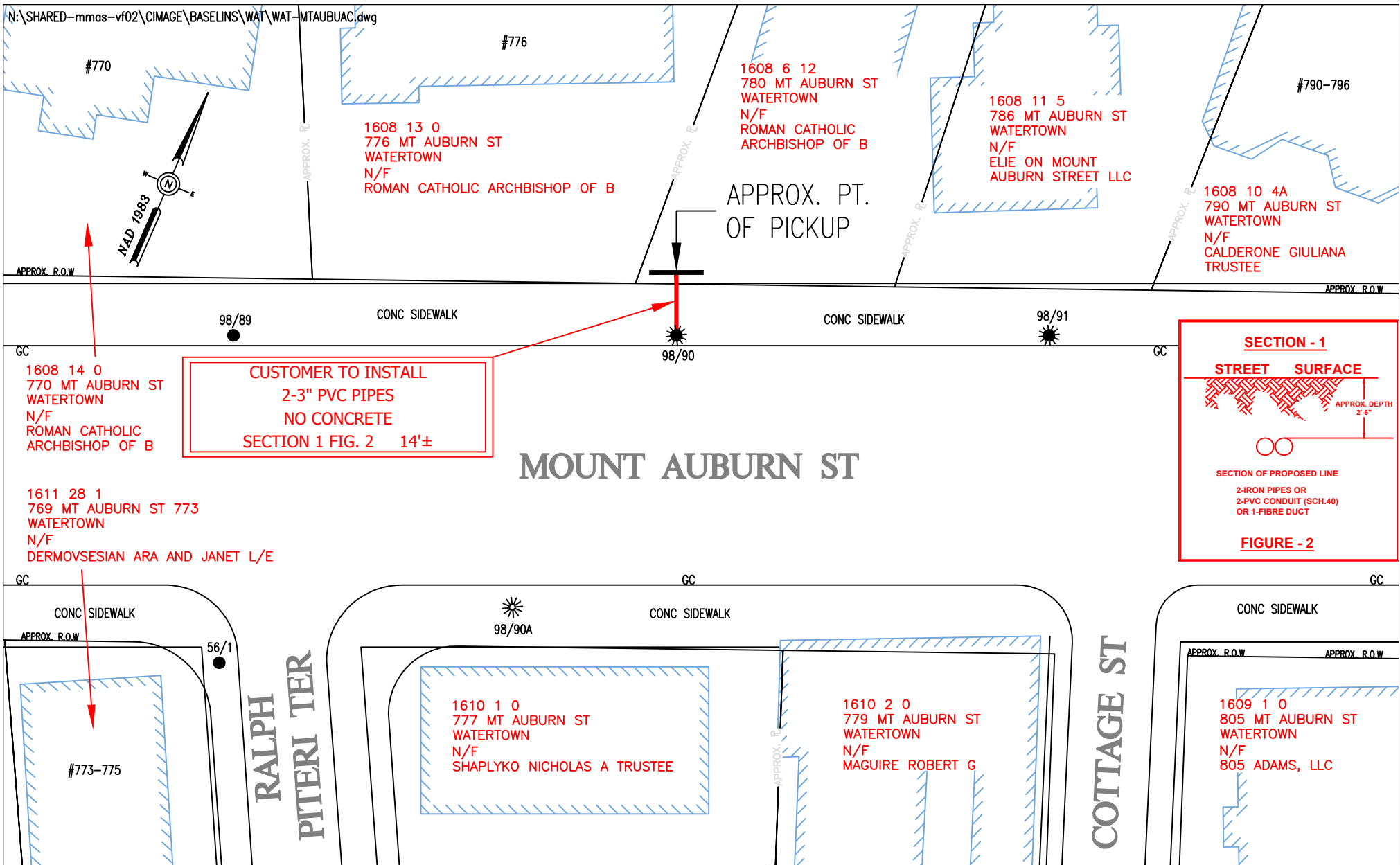
Richard M. Schifone

Richard M. Schifone, Supervisor
Rights and Permits

RMS/HC
Attachments

Location Photos





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MASS. LAW

REQUIRES 72 HOURS ADVANCE NOTICE TO UTILITY COMPANIES
BEFORE DIGGING BY ANYONE. CALL DIG-SAFE 1-888-344-7233

C#	NSTAR EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC d/b/a 1165 MASSACHUSETTS AVE. DORCHESTER, MASS. 02125	
Ward #		
Work Order # 222803474	Plan of MT AUBURN ST	
Surveyed by: N/A	WATERTOWN	
Research by: GR	Showing PROPOSED CUSTOMER CONDUIT LOCATION	
Plotted by: LM		
Proposed Structures: LM		
Approved: K RICE	Scale 1"=30'	Date OCTOBER 6, 2025
P#	SHEET 1 of 1	

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to approve a loan order for \$2,200,000 for construction and construction cost for Fifth Ave



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDER # 112

2025 - O - 112

ORDER TO APPROVE THE BORROWING OF FUNDS FOR FIFTH AVENUE SIDEWALK AND UTILITY RECONSTRUCTION

ORDERED: That the sum of \$2,200,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of construction and oversight of roadway, sidewalk and utility reconstruction of Fifth Avenue, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

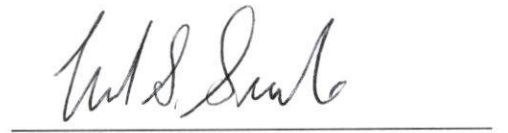
BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That a copy of said Order be forwarded to the City Auditor and City Treasurer/Collector



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a Meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on November 12, 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: October 23, 2025

RE: Agenda Item – Proposed Loan Order

Attached is a request from Thomas D. Brady, Director of Public Works, seeking authorization for the Treasurer to borrow \$2,200,000 for the reconstruction of Fifth Avenue. This aligns with Line 323 of the FY2025–2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

While the City Council previously approved the long streets and connectors program for Riverside Street on November 26, 2024, Fifth Avenue was identified as design-complete and ready for bidding. During final bid preparations, the Department of Public Works identified necessary water utility upgrades, which have since been incorporated by the Engineering Division.

DPW now requests a modification to the original recommendation: to allocate Line 323 funding per CIP Recommendation #27 toward the reconstruction of Fifth Avenue.

I respectfully request the attached proposed Loan Order be placed on the October 28, 2025 City Council Agenda as a First Reading.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



28 State Street
Boston, MA 02109-1775
p: 617-345-9000 f: 617-345-9020
hinckleyallen.com

Chelsea A. Tryder
(617) 378-4209
ctryder@hinckleyallen.com

October 21, 2025

George J. Proakis
City Manager
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

RE: Draft Loan Order – Fifth Avenue Roadway Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order to approve the borrowing of funds to pay costs of construction and oversight of roadway, sidewalk and utility reconstruction of Fifth Avenue:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$2,200,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of construction and oversight of roadway, sidewalk and utility reconstruction of Fifth Avenue, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

Please call me if there are any questions about the suggested proceedings.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chelsea A. Tryder

Chelsea A. Tryder



Thomas D. Brady
Director of Public Works

CITY OF WATERTOWN

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

124 ORCHARD STREET
WATERTOWN MA 02472

(P) 617-972-6420
(F) 617-972-6402

TO: Mr. George Proakis, City Manager

FROM: Mr. Thomas D. Brady, Director of Public Works ^{TB}

DATE: October 20, 2025

RE: Public Works Dept. – Fifth Avenue Funding Request

The Department of Public Works ("DPW") respectfully requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$2,200,000.00 for the construction and oversight of roadway, sidewalk and utility reconstruction of Fifth Avenue which is approximately 550 linear feet in length.

This request corresponds with Lines 323 of the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The City Council reviewed and approved the long streets and connectors program for Riverside Street on November 26, 2024, pursuant to the Public Works Sub-committee's recommendation.

Upon review of three projects on the long streets and connector program; Forest Street and Springfield Street, Riverside Street and Fifth Avenue, Fifth Avenue design was complete and ready to proceed to bidding and construction.

In finalizing the bid package and performing additional due diligence, DPW determined that additional water utility improvements were required. The additional design improvements have been made by the engineering division and the project is ready for bid. DPW respectfully requests to modify the original recommendation to construct Riverside Street with funding from Line 323 per CIP recommendation #27 and proceed with the reconstruction of Fifth Avenue.

All goods and services related to these projects will be procured consistent with Massachusetts law. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.



Order Confirmation

Brendan McCarthy
Watertown City Council
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Thank you for placing your advertisement in The Boston Globe.

Your order information and a preview of your advertisement are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1500 or email classified@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the advertisement must be communicated to us in writing prior to the deadline specified in the Advertising Specs + Deadlines page located at <https://www.bostonglobemedia.com/specs-deadlines>.

Thank you,
Boston Globe Classified Sales

617-929-1500
Monday – Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
classified@globe.com

Order Number	759032	Order Price	\$733.18
Sales Rep.	Lindy Rodriguez	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	11/03/2025	Last Run Date	11/03/2025
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:

Legal Notice

The City Council of Watertown hereby gives notice of a public hearing and vote to be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Richard Mastrangelo Chamber Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA and online at the following link <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344> which may be found on the City of Watertown's website, on a proposed Loan Order as follows:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$2,200,000 is appropriated to pay the costs of construction and oversight of roadway, sidewalk and utility reconstruction of Fifth Avenue, as more fully described in the City's Fiscal Year 2025 through 2029 Capital Improvement Plan, including all other costs incidental and related thereto; and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the City Manager, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor.

Interested parties are encouraged to participate in this public hearing. A copy of the proposed Loan Order is available for inspection at the Administration Building, 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472 in the City Clerk's Office Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., on Tuesday evening up to 7:00 p.m., and Friday 8:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m.; and on the City's website page: www.watertown-ma.gov.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to adopt a factor of 175% of the flat tax rate on the portion of the total tax levy imposed on the value of the Industrial, Commercial, and Personal Property classes

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to adopt a 35% Residential Exemption



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

ORDER# 113

2025-O- 113

AN ORDER ALLOCATING THE PROPERTY TAX LEVY AMONG OR BETWEEN PROPERTY CLASSES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

BE IT ORDERED: That for Fiscal Year 2026 for the purposes of Section 1A of the General Laws, Chapter 58, the Watertown Board of Assessors, in allocating the tax levy shall

1. Adopt a factor of 175% of the flat tax rate on the portion of the total tax levy imposed on the value of the Industrial, Commercial and Personal Property classes.
2. Adopt a 35% Residential Exemption



Council Member

I hereby certify that a regular meeting of the nine member City Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on November 12, 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

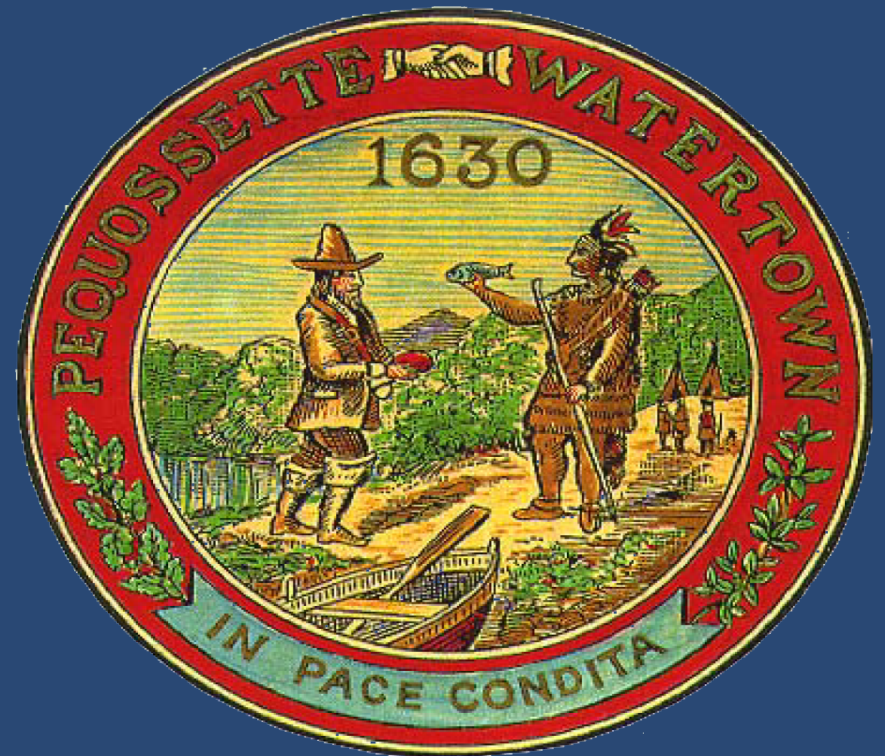
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

John M. Airasian,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

Watertown Tax Classification Hearing Fiscal Year 2026 - November 12, 2025



Classification

Massachusetts Law permits cities and towns to classify property according to use or property type, and to establish separate tax rates for the different classes. One hundred fourteen cities and towns in the Commonwealth have chosen to split or “shift” the single rate into two rates: a residential rate and a commercial/industrial/personal property (CIP) rate*. The shift in the tax rates is intended to help alleviate residential tax rates by “shifting” more of the tax burden onto the CIP class.

Watertown has adopted Chapter 200 of the Acts of 1988 amended M.G.L. c. 58, § 1A to allow cities and towns to give Residential property taxpayers greater tax relief by adopting a shift up to 175% of the property tax burden from Residential taxpayers to the Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property taxpayers, provided certain parameters are not exceeded.

Under Chapter 200,

- Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property taxpayers cannot pay more than 175% of their full and fair cash value share of the tax levy.
- Residential taxpayers must pay the greater of:
 - 50% of their full and fair cash value share of the levy, or
 - The lowest percentage share of the tax levy they have paid since classification began.
 - Watertown’s lowest residential percentage share of the levy, since classification began, is 61.2420%.

From Fiscal Year 2004 – Fiscal Year 2021, the Council has voted to adopt a 175% shift of the tax burden from Residential taxpayers to the Commercial, Industrial and Personal Property (CIP) taxpayers. In Fiscal Year 2022, the increasing CIP percentage triggered the lowest residential percentage resulting in the maximum allowable shift of 159.1528%. CIP continued to increase in Fiscal Year 2023, and the maximum allowable shift was 150%.

The Honorable City Council passed a resolution enabling Watertown to file special legislation seeking ability to lower the minimum allowable residential burden from 61.6240% to 50% provided the shift doesn't exceed 175%. In October of 2023, Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2023 passed in the Legislature and was signed by the Governor. This special legislation is in effect for Fiscal Years 2024, 2025 and 2026.

If the Council shifts the maximum allowed by law in Fiscal Year 2026, the shift will save the Residential taxpayers **\$37,039,146**. Further details to follow.

***Nearby communities with split tax rates include Boston, Brookline, Burlington, Cambridge, Canton, Dedham, Framingham, Lexington, Lincoln, Marlborough, Medford, Needham, Newton, Norwood, Quincy, Randolph, Somerville, Waltham, Westwood, Wilmington, and Woburn.**

Watertown Historic Assessments/Classification Report Ten Year Lookback

Fiscal Year	Total Value	Residential Value	Residential Percentage	CIP Value	CIP Percentage
2026	\$13,113,904,400	\$9,440,846,013	71.99%	\$3,673,058,387	28.01%
2025	\$12,883,303,540	\$9,192,796,208	71.35%	\$3,690,507,332	28.65%
2024	\$11,931,304,624	\$8,502,470,850	71.26%	\$3,428,833,774	28.74%
2023	\$10,950,885,858	\$8,100,534,759	73.97%	\$2,850,351,099	26.03%
2022	\$10,049,624,325	\$7,602,271,296	75.65%	\$2,447,353,029	24.35%
2021	\$9,398,370,344	\$7,342,750,000	78.13%	\$2,055,620,344	21.87%
2020	\$9,098,604,508	\$7,209,091,371	79.23%	\$1,889,513,137	20.77%
2019	\$7,998,921,648	\$6,382,738,095	79.79%	\$1,616,183,553	20.21%
2018	\$7,193,842,933	\$5,808,343,439	80.74%	\$1,385,499,494	19.26%
2017	\$6,615,124,690	\$5,387,245,133	81.44%	\$1,227,879,557	18.56%
2016	\$6,272,536,699	\$5,088,998,429	81.13%	\$1,183,538,270	18.87%

New Growth Fiscal Year 2026

	Historic	Historic	Historic	3 Year Avg.	Current
	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Three-Year Average	Fiscal Year 2026
1-Family	\$54,166	\$78,240	\$77,835	\$70,080	\$158,672
Condominium	\$270,610	\$279,604	\$211,068	\$253,761	\$295,086
Multifamily	\$152,720	\$203,080	\$95,658	\$150,486	\$101,763
Commercial	\$966,561	\$1,149,340	\$0	\$705,300	\$0
Industrial	\$4,202,589	\$7,827,667	\$2,735,035	\$4,921,764	\$1,370,447
Personal Property	\$708,029	\$1,062,095	\$3,161,278	\$1,643,801	\$1,604,652
Total	\$6,354,675	\$10,600,026	\$6,280,874	\$7,745,192	\$3,530,622

LEVY LIMIT, SINGLE TAX RATE

Calculating the Levy Limit

FY26 Levy Limit	\$168,575,918
Plus 2.5%	\$4,214,398
Plus, FY26 New Growth	<u>\$3,530,622</u>
FY26 Levy Limit	\$176,320,938*

*4.59% increase over last year

Calculating a Single Tax Rate

Total Tax Levy/	\$176,320,938
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$13,113,904,400</u>
Single Tax Rate	\$13.45

Comparison Shift Options: No Shift - Shift 175

CIP Shift	Res Share %	CIP Share %	Res Levy Amount	CIP Levy Amount	Res. Rate	CIP Rate	Residential Class Savings
1.00	71.99%	28.01%	126,935,409	49,385,529	\$17.24	\$13.45	0
1.10	69.19%	30.81%	121,996,857	54,324,082	\$16.57	\$14.79	\$4,938,552
1.20	66.39%	33.61%	117,058,304	59,262,634	\$15.90	\$16.13	\$9,877,105
1.30	63.59%	36.41%	112,119,751	64,201,187	\$15.23	\$17.48	\$14,815,658
1.40	60.79%	39.21%	107,181,198	69,139,740	\$14.56	\$18.82	\$19,754,211
1.50	57.99%	42.01%	102,242,645	74,078,292	\$13.89	\$20.17	\$24,692,764
1.55	56.59%	43.41%	99,773,369	76,547,569	\$13.55	\$20.84	\$27,162,040
1.60	55.19%	44.81%	97,304,092	79,016,846	\$13.22	\$21.51	\$29,631,317
1.65	53.79%	46.21%	94,834,816	81,486,122	\$12.88	\$22.18	\$32,100,593
1.70	52.38%	47.62%	92,365,539	83,955,399	\$12.55	\$22.86	\$34,569,870
1.75	50.98%	49.02%	89,896,263	86,424,675	\$12.21	\$23.53	\$37,039,146

SHIFT: 1.75 versus 1.5

	1.75 SHIFT	
Total Res Class Savings	Residential Parcels	Average Savings Per Parcel
\$37,039,146	10,176	\$3,640

	1.5 SHIFT	
Total Res Class Savings	Residential Parcels	Average Savings Per Parcel
\$24,692,764	10,176	\$2,427

	DIFFERENCE	
Savings Difference 1.75 v 1.5	Residential Parcels	Cost Difference Per Parcel
\$12,346,382	10176	\$1,213

COMMUNITY COMPARISON

When considering the impact of tax rates and shifts, it is useful to look beyond our borders to discover how nearby communities deal with similar issues. The next page provides a view of the tax structure of other nearby cities and towns for Fiscal Year 2025. Some of our neighbors have split tax rates while others do not. Generally, the smaller the commercial/industrial/personal property (CIP) share is of the total assessed value, the less benefit there is to shifting the tax rate. Arlington and Belmont both have very low CIP shares while Boston and Cambridge have high CIP shares. Boston and Cambridge also offer a large residential exemption percentage, which coupled with large commercial tax bases, serves to push down the average residential tax bill. While Newton does have a commercial shift, they have chosen not to utilize the residential exemption and consequently the average residential tax bill is higher. Waltham, which is most like Watertown in its socio-economic structure, has a much larger commercial tax base which results in a lower residential tax rate.

Taxpayers often cite that other nearby cities and towns have lower tax rates, but they fail to realize that the average residential assessments in those municipalities may be considerably higher. For example, Newton and Belmont have a lower rate, a taxpayer might conclude that taxes are lower than in Watertown. Newton and Belmont have much higher average residential values resulting in the average tax bill being much higher than Watertown's.

COMMUNITY COMPARISON FISCAL YEAR 2025

CITY/TOWN	RES. TAX RATE	CIP TAX RATE	RES %	CIP %	2021 SHIFT	2022 SHIFT	2023 SHIFT	2024 SHIFT	2025 SHIFT	AVG. RES. VALUE	RES. EX.	RES. EX. SAVINGS	AVG RES. R.E. TAX
BELMONT	\$11.39	\$11.39	94.64	5.36	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	\$1,339,507	No	\$-	\$ 15,257
NEWTON	\$9.80	\$18.34	85.87	14.13	1.72	1.75	1.74	1.75	1.75	\$1,441,127	No	\$-	\$ 14,123
ARLINGTON	\$10.77	\$10.77	94.73	5.27	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	\$981,643	No	\$-	\$ 10,572
BOSTON	\$11.58	\$25.96	44.07	55.93	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	\$983,027	35%	\$3,984	\$ 7,399
CAMBRIDGE	\$6.35	\$11.52	33.80	66.20	1.51	1.45	1.39	1.38	1.40	\$1,664,210	30%	\$3,170	\$ 7,397
WATERTOWN	\$11.68	\$22.83	50.01	49.99	1.75	1.59	1.5	1.73	1.75	\$907,023	35%	\$3,708	\$ 6,886
WALTHAM	\$9.82	\$21.04	38.67	61.33	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	\$862,820	35%	\$2,966	\$ 5,507

Lookback at Average Residential Value Taxes

Fiscal Year	Shift	Res. Tax Rate	Avg. Res. Assessment	Avg. Bill No Res. Ex.	Res. Ex. % Exclusion	Tax Dollar Deduction	Avg. Bill with Res. Ex.	% Change
2026	1.75	12.21	\$927,756	\$11,328	35	\$3,965	\$7,363	6.93%
2025	1.745	11.68	\$907,035	\$10,594	35	\$3,708	\$6,886	4.54%
2024	1.739	11.7	\$840,331	\$9,832	33	\$3,245	\$6,587	-9.84%
2023	1.5	13.58	\$802,987	\$10,905	33	\$3,598	\$7,307	4.00%
2022	1.59	13.25	\$757,802	\$10,041	30	\$3,012	\$7,029	4.28%
2021	1.75	12.25	\$733,688	\$8,988	25	\$2,247	\$6,741	0.98%
2020	1.75	12.14	\$723,586	\$8,784	24	\$2,108	\$6,676	4.58%
2019	1.75	12.88	\$643,680	\$8,291	23	\$1,907	\$6,384	4.78%
2018	1.75	13.47	\$587,413	\$7,912	23	\$1,820	\$6,093	2.71%
2017	1.75	13.89	\$547,540	\$7,605	22	\$1,673	\$5,932	4.70%
2016	1.75	13.68	\$517,701	\$7,082	20	\$1,416	\$5,666	4.33%

Classification Part II. Approving the Residential Exemption and choosing how much of the average residential value to exempt.

What is the Residential Exemption?

- Residential Exemption is a reduction of a fixed assessment amount off every qualified taxpayer's assessment.
- To qualify, you must apply, and you must own and occupy your home as your primary residence (domicile) as of January 1st, 2025. Once approved, you do not need to apply every year. Recording a new deed with changes in ownership may require reapplying.
- The exemption is the same fixed amount for everyone that receives the exemption; lower assessed properties reap more of the benefit by having a larger percentage of their taxes reduced.
- The Residential Exemption is revenue neutral within the residential class. Investor-owned properties, apartment buildings, and higher-valued properties pay for the exemption.

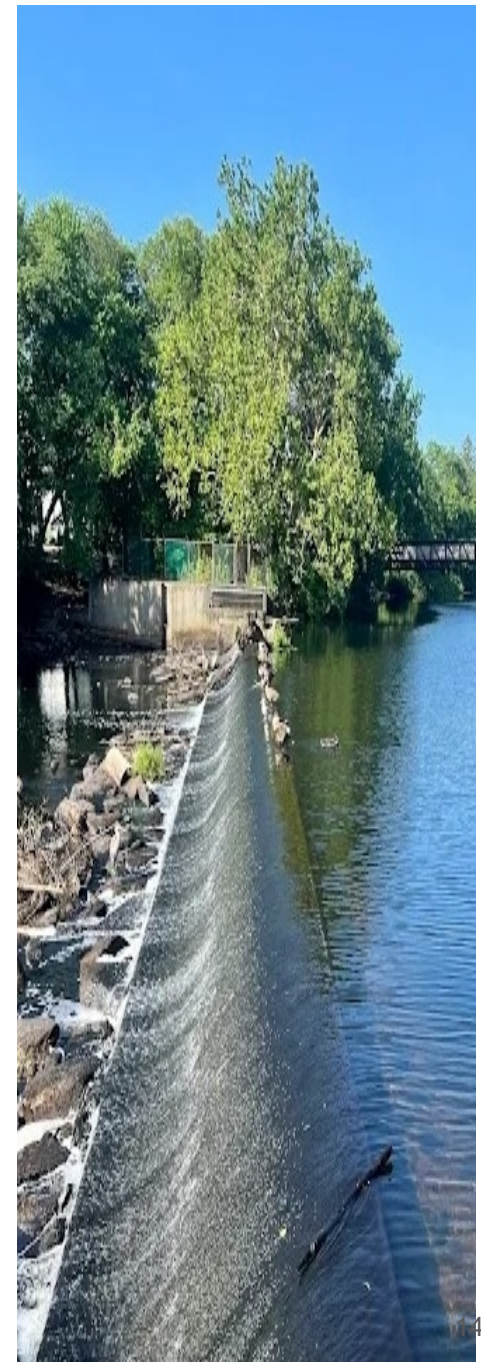
Board of Assessors' thoughts on Residential Exemption.

The Board of Assessors recommends maintaining the residential exemption at 35%. That would be a value exclusion of \$324,715 equating to a tax savings of \$3965.

Summary

Item	FY25	FY26
Average Residential Assessment	\$907,035	\$927,756
Residential Tax Rate	\$11.68	\$12.21*
Average Tax Bill	\$10,594	\$11,328*
Residential Exemption (Tax Dollars)	-\$3,707	-\$3,965*
Average Residential Tax Bill with Residential Exemption	\$6,887	\$7363*
Total Residential Value	\$9,192,796,208	\$9,440,846,013
Total CIP Value	\$3,690,507,332	\$3,673,058,387
Total Real and Personal Property Value	\$12,833,303,540	\$13,113,904,400

*Projected Tax Rate and Residential Exemption. Contingent on Council maintaining maximum shift allowed by law and maintaining maximum Residential Exemption exclusion at 35%.



Recommendations:

Council adopt the maximum shift allowed by law which is 175%.

Council accepts the provisions of Chapter 59, section 5C approving a residential exemption and 35% value exclusion from the average residential property value.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to accept a gift of 6 picnic tables



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 114

2025 - R - 114

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A GIFT OF TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, from time to time, this community is the beneficiary of a gift donated towards improving the quality and spirit of its inhabitants' lives; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44 Section 53A 1/2 authorizes municipalities to accept gifts of tangible personal property; and

WHEREAS, Home Depot in Watertown has generously donated six picnic tables to the City of Watertown; and

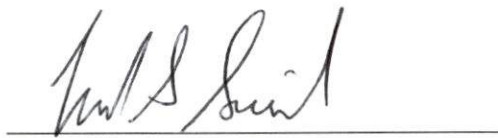
WHEREAS, the Director of Public Buildings has indicated that at least two of these tables are intended for use at the Parker Building; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the City Council of the City known as the City of Watertown, hereby accepts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A1/2, six picnic tables.


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 November 12, 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



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: November 6, 2025

RE: Agenda Item – Acceptance of Gift of Tangible Personal Property

I am pleased to share the enclosed correspondence from Denise Moroney, Director of Public Buildings, regarding a generous donation from Home Depot in Watertown. The company has donated six picnic tables to the City, with the intention of placing at least two of them at the Parker Building.

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A1/2, municipalities are authorized to accept gifts of tangible personal property with the approval of the City Council.

I respectfully request the attached Resolution accepting this gift of tangible personal property be placed on the November 12, 2025 City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Resolution #

R – 2024 -

Resolution approving the Acceptance of a Gift of Tangible Personal Property

WHEREAS, from time to time, this community is the beneficiary of a gift donated towards improving the quality and spirit of its inhabitants' lives; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44 Section 53A1/2 authorizes municipalities to accept gifts of tangible personal property; and

WHEREAS, Home Depot in Watertown has generously donated six picnic tables to the City of Watertown; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Buildings has indicated that at least two of these tables are intended for use at the Parker Building; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the City Council of the City known as the City of Watertown, hereby accepts pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A1/2, six picnic tables.

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 ____ for, ____ against and ____ present on November 12, 2025.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark Sideris, Council President



CITY OF WATERTOWN
Department of Public Buildings

Denise Moroney
Director of Public Buildings
124 Watertown Street, Suite 3F - Watertown, MA - 02472
Phone: 617- 686-3184
dmoroney@watertown-ma.gov

November 6, 2025

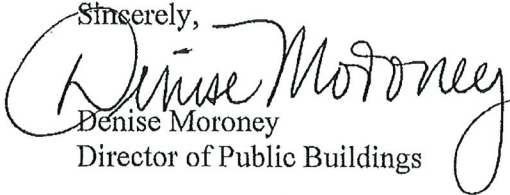
Home Depot
615 Arsenal Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Richie,

Please accept this letter as a receipt for six picnic tables donated to the Watertown Department of Public Buildings by the Watertown Home Depot. Thank you for your continued generosity to the City of Watertown.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me on my cell phone at 617-686-3184.

Sincerely,


Denise Moroney
Director of Public Buildings

cc: Proakis, G.

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to accept the report from the Committee on Education and School System Matters
from October 28, 2025

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to approve the action items of the report from the Committee on Education and School System Matters from October 28, 2025



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 115

2025 – R - 115

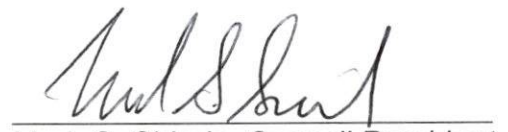
RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DAVID STOKES TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the reappointment of David Stokes to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2028.


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 3 for, 0 against, and 0 present on November 12, 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



Watertown City Council

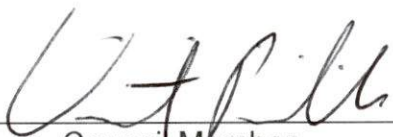
Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 116

2025 – R - 116

RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW MCCARTHY TO THE WATERTOWN CABLE ACCESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BE IT RESOLVED: That pursuant to the provisions of the Watertown Home Rule Charter, the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Matthew McCarthy to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors for a term to expire on September 15, 2028.

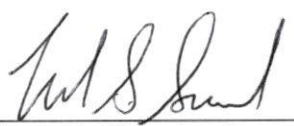


Council Member

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 November 12, 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



Committee on Education and School System Matters
City Council Office 10/28/25

The Committee on Education and School System Matters convened on Tuesday October 28, 2025, at 5:15 pm in the City Council office. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct interviews with 2 candidates for reappointment for Watertown Cable Access (WCAC) Board of Directors. Present were Emily Izzo, chair; Nicole Gardner, vice chair and John Airasian, secretary.

Matthew McCarthy -Has his degree in Communications and understands the importance of WCATV. He sees how much the school department uses WCATV and knows how vital it is not only to the students as well as the residents of Watertown. As he settles into his initial term on the board, he will provide a source of oversight as well as being a valuable resource using his time in the field as experience to help guide the board. Mr. McCarthy feels a couple things he would like to see improved is outreach to multi-lingual students/families as well as promoting the News coverage that WCATV provides.

Action Item – Councilor Airasian made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the appointment of Matthew McCarthy to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2028. Motion was seconded by Councilor Izzo and passed 2-0. (Councilor Gardner was not present for this interview)

David Stokes – Mr. Stokes would be entering his 4th term on the WCATV Board. He has been a valuable member and feels he will continue to bring his experience to not only the Board, but the staff as well. He has watched staff that started at WCATV grow into their role and become well trained, valuable employees. He has been working closely with the Executive Director on defining a proper budgeting process. Mr. Stokes believes this is vital as we are losing 10% of cable subscribers each quarter to streaming services. There is a serious need to find ways to generate income as the subscribers go down, so do the fees we collect from Comcast. He is hopeful the outreach and fundraising coordinator will be able to identify new revenue.

Action Item – Councilor Airasian made a motion to recommend the City Council approve the reappointment of David Stokes to the Watertown Cable Access Board of Directors with a term expiring September 15, 2028. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gardener and passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50

Minutes prepared by John M. Airasian

Emily Izzo,
Chair

Nicole Gardner,
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,
Secretary

CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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

Motion to accept the report from the Committee on Rules and Ordinances from its meeting on October 7, 2025



Watertown City 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 &
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

Committee on Rules and Ordinances

Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Richard E. Mastrangelo Chamber, 2nd Floor, with hybrid participation

Present: John Gannon, chair; John M. Airasian, vice chair; and Lisa Feltner, secretary.

Also present: Laurel Schwab, Sustainability Program Manager; Steve Magoon, Asst. City Manager for Community Development and Planning (6:50); Councilor Nicole Gardner (6:10); and via Zoom: Councilor Bays, Dean Martino, and Greg Reibman of the Charles River Regional Chamber.

AGENDA: Discuss a draft ordinance relative to food and beverage single-use items.

Chair Gannon called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. for the Dept. of Community Development and Planning to present support for a new ordinance that particularly focuses on reducing single-use plastic utensils, per City Council referral. Sustainability Program Manager Laurel Schwab shared a presentation (see attached) showing how a draft ordinance aligns with our Climate Action Plan. DCDP staff consulted model legislation, including the nationwide "Skip the Stuff" campaign by waste reduction advocates, and they reviewed some efforts and newly adopted policies by neighboring municipalities, such as Newton, Needham and Wellesley. State legislators have also been working on bills to reduce plastic waste, including prohibiting a retailer from providing customer with disposable food service ware unless requested by the customer, while allowing for self-service, or if requested, access to non-bundled, single-use food service ware not made from black plastic.

The discussion included questions about: Online ordering platforms use, availability, and potential additional costs, particularly for small local and beverage businesses (approx. 85 restaurants); our Health Dept. enforcement goals and suggested level of fines; Approaches to educating the community; Allowing discretion in enforcement and on exemptions, with a "quiet warning" period for successful compliance; Asked for examples of suggested signage/flyers for locations to inform customers and employees about the "Skip the Stuff" campaign (attached); What stakeholders had been contacted, including businesses at Arsenal Yards. A survey and its results, conducted by our economic development planner Erin Rathe, will be forwarded for the committee report (attached). Reducing single-use plastic items has been a topic in our region, but the staff will actively work with businesses so that these requirements won't be onerous for compliance, and they will be sensitive to current inventory/overstock items and businesses' purchasing strategies. The overall intention of the draft ordinance is to reduce the number of single-use items.

Some dine-in restaurants have increased their online business, given impacts of the pandemic and changes in consumer preferences, but the committee feels we should be cautious about affecting small restaurants that may not have a dishwasher or that experience a breakdown in equipment or staffing constraints. Restaurants in other communities have embraced the efforts because it has saved them money and been fairly easy to satisfy.

We continued deliberations to understand the implications of each section, including Definitions in the proposed ordinance, that prohibit non-plastic items (napkins, wood chopsticks), and how they could impact casual restaurants that sometimes combine waitstaff and self-service operations. Discussion also focused on section B of 117.05 Restricted Packaging. Ms. Schwab clarified that Needham and Wellesley policies are narrow in scope and don't include Restricted Packaging at all. Mr. Reibman shared concerns about items included in section B with restricted packaging parameters that can lead to additional costs, given limited alternative materials that food businesses feel are commercially viable; he will email feedback based on his experiences in the Regional Chamber and include examples of community communication materials for Skip the Stuff (attached). Chair Gannon read some language from City of Newton's effort that is part of a larger sustainability ordinance and broader in scope concerning packaging materials. Ms. Schwab offered to reach out to Newton officials to learn about their results over the last year (full implementation was expected July 1, 2024). We don't want customers to blame businesses for materials that can easily leak or equate Skip the Stuff objectives with inferior customer service; it was decided that providing napkins feels like a common courtesy, so we agreed to strike "napkins" as an accessory item in 117.02 H. The committee acknowledged limits in

recycling due to size and/or materials; although the small 4oz “sauce” cups aren’t currently recycled regardless of color, the committee agreed to keep the prohibition on black plastic for all packaging given its ongoing association with health and environmental concerns.

After reviewing the draft Skip the Stuff Ordinance (see attached markup), with motions by Airasian and seconded by Feltner, the **committee voted on amendments to 117.02 Definitions in D. Full-Service Food Establishment (2-1 Gannon), and in H. Single-Use Foodware Accessory (3-0); and in 117.05 Restricted Packaging, entirely strike 3. of section B. (3-0).**

Action Item: Councilor Airasian made a motion, seconded by Councilor Feltner, to recommend the amended draft Skip the Stuff Ordinance, with additional supporting materials from DCDP staff to City Council for consideration and adoption. Voted 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Lisa Feltner

Attached: Marked up draft Skip the Stuff Ordinance;
DCDP Staff/Laurel Schwab presentation with supporting materials;
Email from Barbara Ruskin; and from the Charles River Regional Chamber with its supporting materials.

From: Barbara Ruskin <ruskinb00@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:43 PM
To: Gannon, John <jgannon@watertown-ma.gov>; Feltner, Lisa <lfeltner@watertown-ma.gov>; John Airasian <jairasian@watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Rules on single use plastics

Hi, Committee Members,

Thank you for taking up this important issue. We hope you will limit plastic take out plates/bowls/utensils/lids for food. Don Levy at the New Towne Diner has used compostable bowls and I’ve seen them elsewhere. They are strong and a serious alternative. I hope you can work on this; we need it. Plastic bottles could possibly be limited as well.

Sincerely,
Barbara and Jeremy Ruskin
140 Spring

From: Greg Reibman <greibman@charlesriverchamber.com>
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2025 6:16 PM
To: Gannon, John <jgannon@watertown-ma.gov>; John Airasian <jairasian@watertown-ma.gov>; Feltner, Lisa <lfeltner@watertown-ma.gov>
Cc: City Council <citycouncil@newtonma.gov>; Schwab, Laurel <lschwab@watertown-ma.gov>; Rathe, Erin <erathe@watertown-ma.gov>; Max Woolf <mwoolf@charlesriverchamber.com>
Subject: Proposed Skip the Stuff ordinance

Chair John Gannon
Committee on Rules and Ordinances
Watertown City Council
Watertown City Hall
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Oct. 10, 2025

Dear Chair Gannon

Thanks for the opportunity to speak with the committee on Oct. 7 regarding the proposed Skip the Stuff ordinance currently under consideration.

As I told the committee, the chamber and our restaurant members support Skip the Stuff because it not only benefits the planet but saves restaurants money by eliminating the need to provide utensils and other items unless expressly requested and needed by the customer.

Based on our experience with Skip the Stuff ordinances in Newton, Needham and Wellesley, it is critical that the municipality share the responsibility of educating the public about the new requirement. This will prevent customers from getting angry at the restaurant for not providing items they’ve become accustomed to receiving for many years. We’ve found that uniform signage is very valuable, along with social media, newsletters, and other communication methods. Included with this letter are examples of materials created by Needham, which were adapted from Newton, and are available to Watertown for this purpose.

However, as I also discussed, we have concerns with 117.02.C, related to restricted packaging.

Every business owner I've spoken to across our four chamber communities understands the need to prohibit the sale and distribution of foam polystyrene. There are mixed feelings, however, about black plastic food containers, with both restaurateurs and one distributor telling me that white or clear plastic is often but not always more costly, depending on the supply chain.

Meanwhile, every business owner I've spoken with has concerns about 117.02.C.3, the proposed prohibition of "containers lined with polyethylene or other petroleum-based plastics."

Lined paper products (used for take-out coffee, hot beverages, ice cream, and other liquid or potentially liquid products) are necessary because, without them, you risk leakage issues.

Products lined with palm leaf are the only alternative I'm aware of. However, between tariffs and bans on certain imports, palm leaf availability is challenging. Generally, compostable products can cost 5X as much, or more, for a product that often ends up in the trash and is not composted.

In summary: Our restaurants tell us they support Skip the Stuff but have mixed concerns about black plastic. However, we strongly urge the committee to remove the prohibition of containers lined with polyethylene or other petroleum-based plastics from the ordinance, at least until suitable, affordable products become generally available.

I'm grateful for the committee's consideration and happy to answer questions.

Greg Reibman (he/him) | President & CEO
Charles River Regional Chamber



A DRAFT ORDINANCE **RELATIVE TO FOOD AND BEVERAGE SINGLE-USE ITEMS**

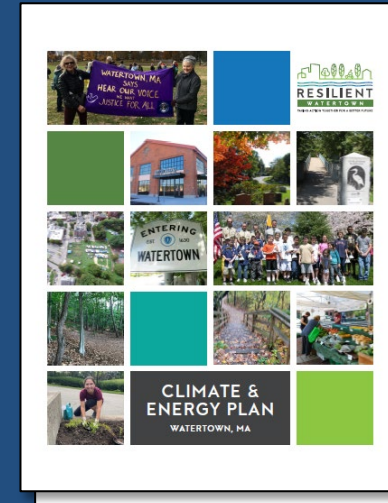
CITY OF WATERTOWN
COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ORDINANCES
OCTOBER 7, 2025

BACKGROUND

CONTEXT: RESILIENT WATERTOWN CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLAN INFRASTRUCTURE & WASTE CHAPTER

Goal 1: By 2050, Watertown has achieved a net zero waste community status

Action IW 1.5: Investigate opportunities to pursue a circular economy in Watertown or within the Metro Boston region (e.g., **plastic item bans**, grey water recycling, pay-per-bag program, additions to recyclable items)



- Council communicated interest in developing a **"Skip the Stuff"** ordinance
- Watertown's draft was developed by consulting model legislation as well as adopted policies from neighboring municipalities (Newton, Needham, and Wellesley).

117.01 PURPOSE

This purpose of this chapter is to reduce the overall environmental impact of the City of Watertown, its residents, and its businesses. Single use plastic has a significant impact on the environment through its carbon footprint, and impact on waste systems. The provisions of this ordinance will **reduce the amount of single use plastic used** throughout the City.

Ordinance Scope:

1. Prohibits automatic inclusion of single-use items in takeout and delivery meals
2. Prohibits single-use meal containers made from certain materials
3. Prohibits single-use or non-compostable items for dine-in meals
4. Exemption and penalty provisions

117.02 DEFINITIONS

- A. Condiment:** A single-use packet containing relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings, that requires no additional preparation, and that is used on food or beverages, including, but not limited to, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, sauerkraut, salsa, syrup, jam, jelly, salad dressings, salt, sugar, sugar substitutes, pepper, and chili pepper.
- B. Foam polystyrene:** A non-biodegradable petrochemical thermoplastic made from aerated forms of polystyrene and includes several methods of manufacture. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) or extruded polystyrene (XPS) are forms of polystyrene.
- C. Food Establishment:** A retail establishment that stores, prepares, services, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as defined by the Watertown Zoning Ordinance, Table of Uses.
- D. Full-Service Food Establishment:** A food establishment where customers are seated at a table either by waitstaff or themselves, and where orders are taken and served by waitstaff at the tables.
- E. Online Food Ordering Platform:** The digital technology provided on a website or mobile application through which a consumer can place an order for pick-up or delivery of Prepared Food. Such platforms include those operated directly by Food Establishments, by companies that provide delivery of prepared meals to consumers, and by online food ordering systems that connect consumers to Food Establishments directly.

117.02 DEFINITIONS, CONTD.

- F. Prepared Food:** Food or beverages serviced, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed, poured, or otherwise prepared (collectively “prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or raw, butchered meats, fish, and/or poultry sold from a butcher case, a refrigerator case, or similar retail appliance.
- G. Single-Use:** Items designed to be used once and then discarded and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.
- H. Single-Use Foodware Accessory:** Single-use items provided alongside Prepared Food served in single-use plates, containers, or cups, including but not limited to utensils, tongs, chopsticks, napkins, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks, cup lids, cup sleeves, cup trays, and food trays.
- I. Utensil:** Forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, or other instruments used to serve food or to eat food.
- J. Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware:** Containers, bowls, plates, trays, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, takeout containers, and other items used to contain and consume beverages and prepared food that are manufactured and designed to be washed and sanitized and used repeatedly over an extended period of time.

117.03 PROHIBITED USE AND DISTRIBUTION OF SINGLE-USE FOOD AND BEVERAGE SERVICEWARE

Food Establishments are **prohibited from providing Single-use Accessories, including in takeout and delivery orders**, whether orders are placed online, via phone, or in person, except as follows:

- A. Single-use Accessories may be provided specifically **upon the request** of the consumer:
 - 1. By asking directly;
 - 2. By selecting the items in an online food ordering platform; or,
 - 3. In response to an inquiry by the food establishment.
- B. Food Establishments may have Single-use Accessories available at **self-service stations**. The self-service station may include a Single Item Dispenser. These stations must comply with the Massachusetts Retail Food Code (105 CMR 590.00)

117.04 OPTIONS WITH ONLINE FOOD ORDERING PLATFORMS

Online Food Ordering Platforms must provide Food Establishments with a method to list each Single-Use Accessory and Condiment that is offered by the Food Establishment, such that **customers can specifically request** the Single-Use Accessories and Condiments that they wish to have included with their order.

117.06 RESTRICTIONS ON FULL SERVICE FOOD

Full Service Food Establishments must utilize only Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware or non-plastic compostable serviceware for **dine-in customers**.

117.05 RESTRICTED PACKAGING

- A. Single-use Accessories, including plastic forks, spoons and knives, may not be wrapped in plastic or offered as bundled sets.
- B. To ensure that single use food containers and packaging materials are recyclable, retail establishments are prohibited from selling or distributing single use food containers and packing materials made in whole or in part from:

- 1. **Foam polystyrene;**

- 2. Plastic that is completely or substantially **black** in color; or,
 - 3. Lined with **polyethylene** or other petroleum-based plastics.



- C. A retail or food establishment may establish if a specific item is allowable under Section 117.05B by providing written documentation to the Director of Public Health that the items is recyclable from their city-permitted waste/recycling hauler and associated MRF, or compostable from their commercial organics hauler and associated compost end site.
- D. If the Director of Public Health determines that compliance with Section 117.05B is not feasible due to industry-wide unavailability of compliant items, the Director may suspend enforcement of this provision for all food and retail establishments until the Director determines that the supply of compliant items has been sufficiently restored.

117.02 EXEMPTIONS

A food establishment may seek an exemption from the requirements of this ordinance as follows:

- A. The food establishment must file a request for an exemption in writing with the Director of Public Health.
- B. The request must state specifically which section and products they are seeking an exemption from and state reasons why application of the specific requirement would cause **undue hardship**.
- C. The Director may waive any specific requirement of this ordinance for a period of not more than six months, but, upon subsequent applications, may extend exemptions for additional six-month period.
- D. The Director will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days of receipt of a request for an exemption.

117.08 ENFORCEMENT

The **Director of Public Health** and the **Code Enforcement Officer** and/or his/her designees shall have the authority to administer and enforce this ordinance.

117.09 EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance will take effect **six months after passage** to allow time for the City Administration to conduct an education campaign focused on food establishments and consumers.

117.99 PENALTY

- A. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be issued a verbal warning for the first offense, then fined as follows:
 - 1. \$100 for the second offense
 - 2. \$200 for the third offense
 - 3. \$300 for the fourth offense and each subsequent offense
- B. Each day the violation continues may constitute a separate offense.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the use of other lawful methods of abating violations of this section, including but not limited to application for equitable relief from a court of law.

WHEREAS Implementing Watertown’s “Resilient Watertown” Climate Plan is a top priority of the City Council and the Community; and,

WHEREAS A part of the effort to improve the environment is to reduce trash; and,

WHEREAS Single use plastics have a significant impact on the environment through their carbon footprint and contribution to excess waste; and,

WHEREAS the reduction of single use plastics in circumstances where they are not necessary is a valid and effective waste reduction strategy; and,

WHEREAS substitution of non-recyclable single-use plastics will also reduce waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Watertown that a new Title X, Chapter 117 be added to the of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, as follows:

Chapter 117

SKIP THE STUFF ORDINANCE

117.01 Purpose

This purpose of this chapter is to reduce the overall environmental impact of the City of Watertown, its residents, and its businesses. Single use plastic has a significant impact on the environment through its carbon footprint, and impact on waste systems. The provisions of this ordinance will reduce the amount of single use plastic used throughout the City.

117.02 Definitions

For the purpose of this Section 117, the following definitions apply:

- A. **Condiment:** A single-use packet containing relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings, that requires no additional preparation, and that is used on food or beverages, including, but not limited to, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, sauerkraut, salsa, syrup, jam, jelly, salad dressings, salt, sugar, sugar substitutes, pepper, and chili pepper.
- B. **Foam polystyrene:** A non-biodegradable petrochemical thermoplastic made from aerated forms of polystyrene and includes several methods of manufacture. Expanded polystyrene (EPS) or extruded polystyrene (XPS) are forms of polystyrene.
- C. **Food Establishment:** A retail establishment that stores, prepares, services, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, as defined by the Watertown Zoning Ordinance, Table of Uses.
- D. **Full-Service Food Establishment:** A food establishment where customers are seated at a table either by waitstaff or themselves, and where orders are taken and served by waitstaff at the tables.

- E. **Online Food Ordering Platform:** The digital technology provided on a website or mobile application through which a consumer can place an order for pick-up or delivery of Prepared Food. Such platforms include those operated directly by Food Establishments, by companies that provide delivery of prepared meals to consumers, and by online food ordering systems that connect consumers to Food Establishments directly.
- F. **Prepared Food:** Food or beverages serviced, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed, poured, or otherwise prepared (collectively “prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or raw, butchered meats, fish, and/or poultry sold from a butcher case, a refrigerator case, or similar retail appliance.
- G. **Single-Use:** Items designed to be used once and then discarded and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.
- H. **Single-Use Foodware Accessory:** Single-use items provided alongside Prepared Food served in single-use plates, containers, or cups, including but not limited to utensils, tongs, chopsticks, **napkins**, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks, cup lids, cup sleeves, cup trays, and food trays.
- I. **Utensil:** Forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, or other instruments used to serve food or to eat food.
- J. **Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware:** Containers, bowls, plates, trays, cups, glasses, forks, spoons, knives, takeout containers, and other items used to contain and consume beverages and prepared food that are manufactured and designed to be washed and sanitized and used repeatedly over an extended period of time.

117.03 Prohibited use and distribution of single-use food and beverage serviceware

Food Establishments are prohibited from providing Single-use Accessories, including in takeout and delivery orders, whether orders are placed online, via phone, or in person, except as follows:

- A. Single-use Accessories may be provided specifically upon the request of the consumer:
 - 1. By asking directly;
 - 2. By selecting the items in an online food ordering platform; or,
 - 3. In response to an inquiry by the food establishment.
- B. Food Establishments may have Single-use Accessories available at self-service stations. The self-service station may include a Single Item Dispenser. These stations must comply with the Massachusetts Retail Food Code (105 CMR 590.00)

117.04 Options with Online Food Ordering Platforms

Online Food Ordering Platforms must provide Food Establishments with a method to list each Single-Use Accessory and Condiment that is offered by the Food Establishment, such that customers can specifically request the Single-Use Accessories and Condiments that they wish to have included with their order.

117.05 Restricted Packaging

- A. Single-use Accessories, including plastic forks, spoons and knives, may not be wrapped in plastic or offered as bundled sets.
- B. To ensure that single use food containers and packaging materials are recyclable, retail establishments are prohibited from selling or distributing single use food containers and packing materials made in whole or in part from:
 - 1. Foam polystyrene;
 - 2. Plastic that is completely or substantially black in color; ~~or,~~
 - 3. ~~Lined with polyethylene or other petroleum-based plastics.~~
- C. A retail or food establishment may establish if a specific item is allowable under Section 117.05B by providing written documentation to the Director of Public Health that the items is recyclable from their city-permitted waste/recycling hauler and associated MRF, or compostable from their commercial organics hauler and associated compost end site.
- D. If the Director of Public Health determines that compliance with Section 117.05B is not feasible due to industry-wide unavailability of compliant items, the Director may suspend enforcement of this provision for all food and retail establishments until the Director determines that the supply of compliant items has been sufficiently restored.

117.06 Restrictions on Full Service Food

Full Service Food Establishments must utilize only Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware for dine-in customers.

117.07 Exemptions

A food establishment may seek an exemption from the requirements of this ordinance as follows:

- A. The food establishment must file a request for an exemption in writing with the Director of Public Health.
- B. The request must state specifically which section and products they are seeking an exemption from and state reasons why application of the specific requirement would cause undue hardship.
- C. The Director may waive any specific requirement of this ordinance for a period of not more than six months, but, upon subsequent applications, may extend exemptions for additional six-month period.
- D. The Director will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days of receipt of a request for an exemption.

117.08 Enforcement

The Director of Public Health and/or his/her designee shall have the authority to administer and enforce this ordinance.

117.09 Effective Date

This ordinance will take effect six months after passage to allow time for the City Administration to conduct an education campaign focused on food establishments and consumers

117.99 Penalty

- A. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be issued a verbal warning for the first offense, then fined as follows:
 - 1. \$100 for the second offense
 - 2. \$200 for the third offense
 - 3. \$300 for the fourth offense and each subsequent offense
- B. Each day the violation continues may constitute a separate offense.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the use of other lawful methods of abating violations of this section, including but not limited to application for equitable relief from a court of law.

Committee on Rules and Ordinances
Watertown City Council
Watertown City Hall
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472
Oct. 10, 2025

Lined paper products is really a problem because without it you have all kinds of leakage issues or are forced to purchase a compostable product that's much more costly and most cases will end up in a trash bin anyway

Ice cream to go, coffee, tea all a probl

Dunkins uses a cup that, according to a franchisee who owns a couple stores, are lined with something but he's not sure what

. The plastic lining is the most challenging one, most paper products that hold food have it because otherwise any liquid melts the paper pretty rapidly. I also don't know if there's much available that doesn't have it. Newton really hasn't enforced any of the regulations to my knowledge so we've just been using them. Sorry for the delay, and hope this helps.

ORDINANCE #

2025 – O –

WHEREAS Implementing Watertown's "Resilient Watertown" Climate Plan is a top priority of the City Council and the Community; and,

WHEREAS A part of the effort to improve the environment is to reduce trash; and,

WHEREAS Single use plastics have a significant impact on the environment through their carbon footprint and contribution to excess waste; and,

WHEREAS the reduction of single use plastics in circumstances where they are not necessary is a valid and effective waste reduction strategy; and,

WHEREAS elimination of non-recyclable single-use plastics will also reduce waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Watertown that a new Title X, Chapter 117 be added to the of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, as follows:

Chapter 117

SKIP THE STUFF ORDINANCE

117.01 Purpose

This purpose of this chapter is to reduce the overall environmental impact of the City of Watertown, its residents, and its businesses. Single use plastic has a significant impact on the environment through its carbon footprint, and impact on waste systems. The provisions of this ordinance will reduce the amount of single use plastic used throughout the City.

117.02 Definitions

For the purpose of this Section 117, the following definitions apply:

- A. **Condiment:** A single-use packet containing relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings, that requires no additional preparation, and that is used on food or beverages, including, but not limited to, ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, sauerkraut, salsa, syrup, jam, jelly, salad dressings, salt, sugar, sugar substitutes, pepper, and chili pepper.
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- F. **Prepared Food:** Food or beverages serviced, packaged, cooked, chopped, sliced, mixed, brewed, frozen, squeezed, poured, or otherwise prepared (collectively “prepared”) for individual customers or consumers. Prepared Food does not include raw eggs or raw, butchered meats, fish, and/or poultry sold from a butcher case, a refrigerator case, or similar retail appliance.

- G. **Single-Use:** Items designed to be used once and then discarded and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.
- H. **Single-Use Foodware Accessory:** Single-use items provided alongside Prepared Food served in single-use plates, containers, or cups, including but not limited to utensils, tongs, chopsticks, **napkins**, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks, cup lids, cup sleeves, cup trays, and food trays.
- I. **Utensil:** Forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, or other instruments used to serve food or to eat food.
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 - 1. By asking directly;
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- B. Food Establishments may have Single-use Accessories available at self-service stations. The self-service station may include a Single Item Dispenser. These stations must comply with the Massachusetts Retail Food Code (105 CMR 590.00)

117.04 Options with Online Food Ordering Platforms

Online Food Ordering Platforms must provide Food Establishments with a method to list each Single-Use Accessory and Condiment that is offered by the Food Establishment, such that customers can specifically request the Single-Use Accessories and Condiments that they wish to have included with their order.

117.05 Restricted Packaging

- A. Single-use Accessories, including plastic forks, spoons and knives, may not be wrapped in plastic or offered as bundled sets.
- B. To ensure that single use food containers and packaging materials are recyclable, retail establishments are **prohibited from selling or distributing**
- C. single use food containers and packing materials made in whole or in part from:
 - 1. **Foam polystyrene;**
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 - 3. **Lined with polyethylene or other petroleum-based plastics.**

- D. A retail or food establishment may establish if a specific item is allowable under Section 117.05B by providing written documentation to the Director of Public Health that the items is recyclable from their city-permitted waste/recycling hauler and associated MRF, or compostable from their commercial organics hauler and associated compost end site.
- E. If the Director of Public Health determines that compliance with Section 117.05B is not feasible due to industry-wide unavailability of compliant items, the Director may suspend enforcement of this provision for all food and retail establishments until the Director determines that the supply of compliant items has been sufficiently restored.

117.06 Restrictions on Full Service Food

Full Service Food Establishments must utilize only Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware or non-plastic compostable serviceware for dine-in customers.

117.07 Exemptions

A food establishment may seek an exemption from the requirements of this ordinance as follows:

- A. The food establishment must file a request for an exemption in writing with the Director of Public Health.
- B. The request must state specifically which section and products they are seeking an exemption from and state reasons why application of the specific requirement would cause undue hardship.
- C. The Director may waive any specific requirement of this ordinance for a period of not more than six months, but, upon subsequent applications, may extend exemptions for additional six-month period.
- D. The Director will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days of receipt of a request for an exemption.

117.08 Enforcement

The Director of Public Health and the Code Enforcement Officer and/or his/her designees shall have the authority to administer and enforce this ordinance.

117.09 Effective Date

This ordinance will take effect six months after passage to allow time for the City Administration to conduct an education campaign focused on food establishments and consumers

117.99 Penalty

- A. Any person who violates any provision of this chapter shall be issued a verbal warning for the first offense, then fined as follows:
 - 1. \$100 for the second offense

- 2. \$200 for the third offense
 - 3. \$300 for the fourth offense and each subsequent offense
- B. Each day the violation continues may constitute a separate offense.
- C. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the use of other lawful methods of abating violations of this section, including but not limited to application for equitable relief from a court of law.

2025 Restaurant Survey Results

Emailed directly to 30 restaurants; posted on WED socials (2 times), newsletter; WBC and CRRC included in newsletters, and CRRC sent their own direct email to their Watertown restaurant list.

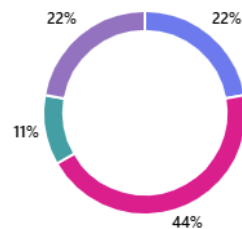
9 responses out of roughly 90 restaurants in Watertown

Takeout Business Questions

5. How much of your business comes from take-out versus customers eating in your restaurant?

[More details](#)

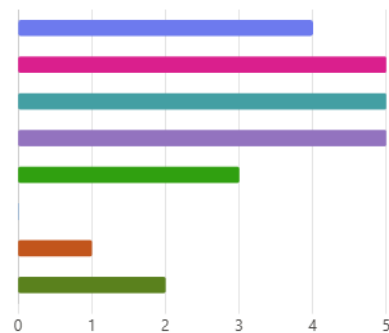
Less than 20%	2
20-40%	4
40-60%	1
60-80%	2
80-100%	0



6. Can your customers order take-out using any third-party apps? (Choose the ones you are on.)

[More details](#)

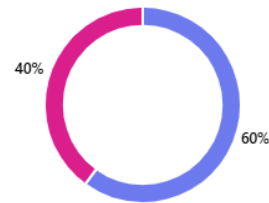
We do not use third-party ordering apps	4
DoorDash	5
Grub Hub	5
Uber Eats	5
Postmates	3
Slice	0
ChowNow	1
Other	2



7. Have you heard of "Skip the Stuff" campaigns - initiatives that restrict putting utensils and condiments in take-out orders unless the customer requests them?

[More details](#)

● Yes 6
● No 4

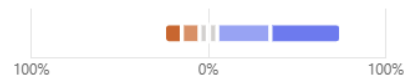


8. What's your initial reaction to "Skip the Stuff"?

[More details](#)

● Strongly Disagree ● Disagree ● No Opinion ● Agree ● Strongly Agree

I think it's a good idea.



Summary: Generally positive attitude toward "Skip the Stuff" campaigns and majority were familiar with them already. Interesting to note that 6 out of 9 respondents receive 40% or less of their business from takeout.

Outdoor Dining Questions

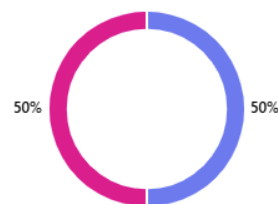
10. Does your location include private outdoor space that could be used for outdoor dining (patio, sidewalk, etc.)?

Note: This does **not** include public space, like parking spaces or the public part of the sidewalk.

[More details](#)

If you have space but aren't using it currently for outdoor dining, please still answer "Yes." The next question will ask about how you use it.

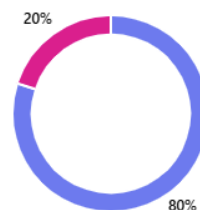
● Yes 5
● No 5



11. Do you currently offer outdoor dining to your customers?

[More details](#)

● Yes 8
● No 2





EMPLOYEE INFORMATION SHEET

REMEMBER

Only provide single-use service ware and single-use condiments upon request.



ASK

What single-use service ware and single-use condiments they need and how much.



THANK YOU

For meeting the requirements of the Skip the Stuff Program!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What items are considered single-use condiments?

Single-use condiment means a single-serving packet, such as:

- Sauces (ketchup, relish, mayo, mustard, soy sauce, salad dressing, hot sauce)
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, parmesan cheese, red pepper flakes)
- Spreads (cream cheese, jelly, butter)

What items are considered single-use service ware?

Single-use service ware are all items that are designed to be used once and then discarded. This includes:

- chopsticks
- condiment cups and packets
- napkins
- utensils
- straws
- splash guards

Are self-serve stations permitted?

Yes. You may provide an area for customers to help themselves to single-use items. Please encourage them to take only what they need.

Can I offer customers single-use items?

Yes, but please be specific and do not offer all items at once. For example, "Do you need a fork or ketchup packet with your meal?"



#SkipTheStuff



Needham Public
Health Division
Prevent. Promote. Protect.



Need utensils or condiments with your order? Please ask.



Single-use condiments and service ware (utensils, straws, napkins, etc.)
provided only upon request, per Town of Needham regulations.



Need utensils or condiments with your order?

Please take only what you need



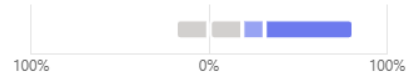
Single-use condiments and service ware (straws, stirrers, lids, spill plugs, etc.)
provided only upon request or self serve by customer, per Town of Needham bylaw.

12. Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the statement:

[More details](#)

Strongly disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly agree

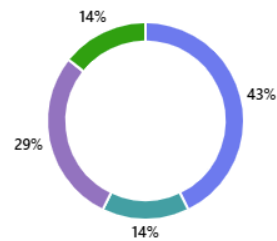
Outdoor dining has been a good option for my business.



13. Why do you not offer outdoor dining? (Check all that apply)

[More details](#)

No available space	3
I don't know what the process is for getting a permit	0
Not worth it / Not interested	1
Seems unsafe / unsanitary	2
Other	1



Summary: Most are already offering outdoor dining in some fashion and believe it's good for their business. Of those who don't offer it, the main obstacle is lack of space, followed by a feeling that it's unsafe/unsanitary.

Live Entertainment Questions

15. Please indicate how much you agree/disagree with the following statements:

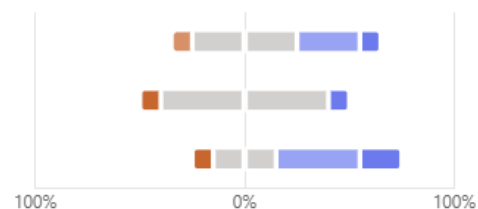
[More details](#)

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

I understand how to get an entertainment license.

I would like to bring in entertainment other than what the City's license currently allows.

I believe having live entertainment draws in more patrons.



Summary: Strong agreement that live entertainment is beneficial, but split on whether what is currently allowed (limits on number of performers and types of instruments, amplification).

This email is being sent for informational purposes only. Please do not respond to all in order to avoid any concern with the Open Meeting Law.

From: Rita Colafella <colafella@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2025 3:53 PM
To: Piccirilli, Vincent J <vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov>
Subject: Discussion and Potential Action on Middle School

Hi,

Unfortunately, I cannot attend but I wanted to give comment for public forum regarding the middle school.

I strongly urge the council not to go forward with building a new middle school at this time. The volatility being created by the current federal administration does not create much confidence. Many businesses and banks recognize this, and Watertown should exercise the same amount of prudence, if not more. I am not opposed to building a new school in five years or even to bringing the current one up to code so it is compliant with the ADA.

Thanks,
Rita

SIGN IN SHEET

NAME

ADDRESS

Eileen Ryan

48 Pearl Street