

APRIL 28, 2026



Watertown City Council

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026, 6:15 P.M. RICHARD E. MASTRANGELO COUNCIL CHAMBER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 149 MAIN STREET

MINUTES

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on April 28, 2026 at 6:15 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 6:15 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, Theophilus Offei, Anthony Palomba, Vice President Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr., and Council President Mark S. Sideris. Also present were George Proakis, City Manager, Mark Reich, City Attorney, Doug Newton, Council Analyst and Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:15 P.M.

- A. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel (City Manager Contract)

Councilor Piccirilli moved to enter into executive session and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:00 P.M.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC FORUM

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Minutes from City Council Meeting April 14, 2026

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Sideris shared that Tutor, a robotics company, has recently selected Watertown to be its home for R&D. It selected Watertown over potential locations in Cambridge, Waltham, and the Seaport, and is an encouraging sign of businesses selecting to work in town and creating job opportunities.

- A. The City’s Current Practices on Protecting All Members of Our Community

President Sideris explicitly stated that his remarks on the topic were his own and empathized with expressed concerns from community regarding safety in response to immigration enforcement activities. He added that the guiding principles in the charter include safety, tranquility, equity, and diversity. He then shared that he has concerns about creating resolutions or proclamations articulating these ideals because of unintended consequences that may come about from heightened attention, which could put members of the community in harms way. He added that the Watertown Police Department does not enforce federal immigration law, detain people at the request of ICE, share information with government registries based on immigration statuses, or assist in raids. The school system does not ask for a family’s immigration status, or coordinate or share records with ICE whatsoever. Furthermore, any ICE activity will be allowed to enter any school or offices in Watertown buildings without judicial warrants. He closed his thoughts by sharing that he hopes residents still feel empowered to share their expectations with city officials who are working hard to deliver what the community expects.

8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS

A. ALS Awareness Month Proclamation

President Sideris read the proclamation.

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

9. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation on Sullivan Playground Renovations

City Manager Proakis stated that the next park/playground slated to be renovated in the capital plan is Sullivan Playground.

Senior Planner Michelle Moon remarked that there were a series of community meetings to discuss the playground's renovation, which includes play areas for 2-5 year olds as well as 5-12 year olds, swings, seating, and tables.

Councilor Gardner asked how many trees are being added and or removed.

Kayla Bachman – CBA Landscape Architects – Replied that three trees are being removed that were reviewed by an arborists and deemed not to be in great health. No new trees are being planted because there is already a rich tree canopy from mature trees, and adding any new trees would interfere with the roots of larger existing trees.

Councilor Feltner asked for photos of current conditions as well as comparisons of what will change with the work and requested for more detail in general.

Michell Moon stated that she would provide current photos and noted that renovations are fairly significant and timely.

Councilor Gannon asked for a rededication of the park as Sullivan Park.

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Public Hearing and Vote on a proposed Ordinance Repealing Sections of the Code of Ordinances

City Manager Proakis stated that this item is to repeal duplicate and out of date ordinances. It functions in conjunction with the recently passed Administrative Code.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the proposed ordinance and Councilor Feltner

seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance – “Skip the Stuff” Waste Reduction Ordinance

Councilor Gardner stated that the ordinance is designed to reduce unnecessary plastic waste in the community. Under the policy, restaurants and food business will no longer automatically include plastic utensils, straws, etc for takeout orders. It also states that dine in restaurants must use reusable plates, cups, and utensils.

Jacely Tager – Resident – Is a member of the Watertown Faces Climate Change, and read a letter endorsing the ordinance. The letter states that this is a no-brainer policy that will assist the community to meet its climate and energy goals.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to adopt the proposed ordinance and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Palomba asked for clarity that an establishment like Dunkin’ cannot automatically serve an order consisting of several drinks in a tray without the customer’s permission, and also asked about cutlery bundles.

Councilor Gardner replied that the Dunkin’ scenario is correct – trays are available, but not served automatically. She then said that the common cellophane packet that consists of knife, fork, spoon, napkin, salt and pepper are no longer allowed. This was decided with the logic of only requesting or needing one utensil and receiving several items that then become waste.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

11. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 138, § 12D - Authorization for Wine & Malt License Holders to Convert to All-Alcohol Licenses

City Manager Proakis explained the recently passed state law that allows a proprietor of an establishment that is currently only licensed to sell beer and wine to be able to convert to an all-alcohol license. He added that the upgrade is nontransferable, which means that a new owner of an upgraded business can only sell the beer and wine license, and would have to go through the process of transferring it to an all-alcohol license.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to approve the acceptance of law and Councilor Feltner seconded.

Councilor Offei asked why the new license wouldn’t be transferable.

City Manager Proakis replied that the state’s philosophy has been that scarcity has created value for the entities that own them. If a restaurant goes out of business, they can

sell their license. By granting it to be transferable, it grants a valuable saleable asset.

City Attorney Reich added that this is a state statute that explicitly describes what is allowable and what a the local municipality can accept. The state doesn't allow for the license to be transferable, therefore the municipality can't decide that it is.

Councilor Gannon asked what the fees are for each license and what it would cost to upgrade a current license.

City Manager Proakis replied that the beer and wine is \$1,800 and an all-alcohol license is \$2,700, and while the upgrade price isn't quite established in town yet, it will be a reasonable cost.

President Sideris remarked that they will need to examine the cost of the upgrade compared to those entities that may have purchase a transfer license at a much higher cost, and stated it should be brought up at a future meeting.

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$29,200 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2026 Elected Official Salaries account

City Auditor Langan stated that the City Council salaries were recently established and went into effect in 2026. This decision was made after the budget had been in place, and this transfer is to facilitate payments throughout the rest of the fiscal year.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to authorize the transfer of funds and Councilor Feltner seconded.

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- C. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$2,500 from the Ed Walsh Foundation to the Pequossette Summer Program

City Manager Proakis presented the item and thanked the Ed Walsh Foundation for its generous donation.

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

- D. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances Regarding Non-Union Personnel Compensation and Leave

City Manager Proakis stated that this first reading is presented at the request of a City Councilor. It is aimed to protect non-union personnel without having to pass a new ordinance anytime there is a change for union personnel and policy.

- E. Frist Reading on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$2,300,000 is appropriated to pay costs of reconstructing Forest Street and Springfield Street, as more fully described in Line 289 of the City's Fiscal Year 2026 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all 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 item is consistent with line 289 of the capital plan and conceptual recommendation number 42.

- F. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$2,100,000 is appropriated to pay costs of constructing and overseeing the connector roads and longer streets project at Forest Street and Springfield Street, as more fully described in Line 318 of the City's Fiscal Year 2024 through 2028 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all 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 item is consistent with consistent with conceptual recommendation 15 in the capital plan.

12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- A. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report regarding its meeting on March 12, 2026 - Gardner, Chair

Councilor Gardner read the report.

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

Councilor Feltner claimed there were items omitted from the report.

This item was tabled.

- B. Committee on Climate and Energy Climate and Energy Report regarding its meeting on March 23, 2026 - Palomba, Chair

This item was tabled.

13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointment to the Traffic Commission

City Manager asked for confirmations of reappointment to the Traffic Commission for Bob Airasian and Daniel Grieneisen.

President Sideris stated that this gets referred to the Committee on Public Safety.

B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee

City Manager Proakis asked for confirmations of reappointments to the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee for Russ Arico and Eileen Ryan.

President Sideris stated that this gets referred to the Committee on Public Works.

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

There were no requests.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

16. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no participants.

17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Voice Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above minutes were adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on May 12, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Sideris", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President
s:/BTM

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

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

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:15 PM

Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Administration Building, 149 Main Street

List of Documents

- 1.** ALS Awareness Month Proclamation – Item 8A
- 2.** Sullivan Playground Presentation – Item 9A
- 3.** Repeal of Sections of Code of Ordinances Ordinance – Item 10A
- 4.** Skip the Stuff Ordinance – Item 10B
- 5.** Malt & Wine License Conversion – Item 11A
- 6.** Transfer of Funds - \$29,200 – FY26 CC Reserve to FY26 Elected Officials Salary – Item 11B
- 7.** Acceptance of Gift of Funds - \$2,500 – Ed Walsh Foundation to Pequossette Summer Program – Item 11C
- 8.** Non-Union Personnel Compensation and Leave Ordinance – Item 11D
- 9.** First Reading Loan Order – \$2,300,000 Forest & Springfield St – Item 11E
- 10.** First Reading Loan Order - \$2,100,000 Street Connectors – Item 11F
- 11.** Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report 26-03-12 – Item 12A
- 12.** Committee on Climate and Energy Report 26-03-23 – Item 12B

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28,
2026 CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**



City Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at 6:15 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Second Floor

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. This meeting will be held on April 28, 2026 at 6:15 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber - Second Floor
- 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>
- E. The public may join the in-person meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 929 9133 1344
- F. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- G. Please Visit the City Council Website here: <https://www.watertown-ma.gov/350/City-Council>

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- 1. ROLL CALL
 - 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 6:15 P.M.
 - A. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel (City Manager Contract)
 - 3. RETURN TO SESSION – 7:00 P.M.
 - 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
 - 5. PUBLIC FORUM
 - 6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS
 - A. Minutes from City Council Meeting April 14, 2026
 - 7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. The City's Current Practices on Protecting All Members of Our Community

8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. ALS Awareness Month Proclamation
9. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Presentation on Sullivan Playground Renovations
10. PUBLIC HEARINGS
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance Repealing Sections of the Code of Ordinances
 - B. Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance - "Skip the Stuff" Waste Reduction Ordinance
11. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
 - A. Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 138, § 12D - Authorization for Wine & Malt License Holders to Convert to All-Alcohol Licenses
 - B. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the amount of \$29,200 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2026 Elected Official Salaries account
 - C. Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift of Funds in the amount of \$2,500 from the Ed Walsh Foundation to the Pequossette Summer Program
 - D. First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances Regarding Non-Union Personnel Compensation and Leave
 - E. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$2,300,000 is appropriated to pay costs of reconstructing Forest Street and Springfield Street, as more fully described in Line 289 of the City's Fiscal Year 2026 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all 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.
 - F. First Reading on a Proposed Loan Order that the sum of \$2,100,000 is appropriated to pay costs of constructing and overseeing the connector roads and longer streets project at Forest Street and Springfield Street, as more fully described in Line 318 of the City's Fiscal Year 2024 through 2028 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all 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.
12. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES
 - A. Committee on Rules and Ordinances Report regarding its meeting on March 12, 2026 - Gardner, Chair
 - B. Committee on Climate and Energy Climate and Energy Report regarding its meeting on March 23, 2026 - Palomba, Chair
13. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

- A. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Traffic Commission
- B. Request for Confirmation of Reappointments to the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee
- 14. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
- 15. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 16. PUBLIC FORUM
- 17. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

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

**CITY COUNCIL ATTENDANCE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to enter into executive session

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adopt the minutes from City Council Meeting April 14, 2026

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept the ALS Awareness Month Proclamation



Watertown City Council

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

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive fatal neurodegenerative disease in which a person's brain loses connection with their muscles, slowly reducing a person's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe; and

WHEREAS, thousands of new amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) cases are reported every year, and estimates show that every 90 minutes, someone is diagnosed with ALS and someone passes away from ALS; and

WHEREAS, on average, patients diagnosed with ALS survive only two to five years from the time of diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the exact causes of ALS are unknown and there is no known cure for ALS; and

WHEREAS, people who have served in the military are more likely to develop ALS and die from the disease than those with no history of military service; and

WHEREAS, securing access to new therapies, durable medical equipment, and communication technologies is of vital importance to people living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, clinical trials play a pivotal role in evaluating new treatments, enhancing quality of life, and fostering assistive technologies for those living with ALS; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is the largest philanthropic funder of ALS research globally and has committed more than \$154 million to support more than 550 projects across the United States and 18 other countries; and

WHEREAS, the ALS Association is committed to make ALS livable and cure it for everyone, everywhere; and

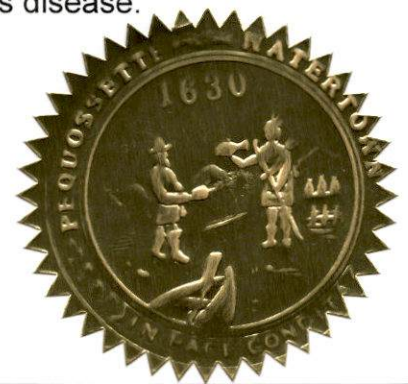
WHEREAS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Awareness Month provides an opportunity to increase public awareness of the dire circumstances of people living with ALS, acknowledge the terrible impact this disease has on those individuals and their families, and support research to eradicate this disease;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby proclaims the month of May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month and calls upon all Americans to join in supporting ALS research, advocating for increased funding, and standing in solidarity with those affected by this relentless disease.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,


I hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
The City of Watertown on this
28th day of April 2026.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President





WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: April 21, 2026
RE: Agenda Item – Informational Presentation

I respectfully request that an Informational Presentation be added to the agenda for the upcoming City Council meeting scheduled for April 28, 2026. The purpose of this presentation is to share the concept designs for the Sullivan Playground renovations, including the design vision, key features, and anticipated community improvements.

Thank you for considering this request.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AND PLANNING DEPARTMENT

TO: Mr. George Proakis - City Manager

FROM: Ms. Kennan Rhyne, Assistant City Manager for CD&P
Ms. Erika Oliver Jerram, Director of Community Design
Ms. Michelle Moon, Open Space Planner

DATE: April 17, 2026

RE: Sullivan Playground Update

In accordance with City's FY2024-2025 Annual Budget section "City Council Conceptual Recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 CIP" (p251 and 254), we are sharing the concept designs for Sullivan Playground renovations for review and approval, so that we can proceed to the final design.

As part of the ongoing City-wide park and playground renovation effort, the Department of Community Development and Planning (DCDP) has been collaborating with the Recreation Department and Department of Public Works (DPW) on Sullivan Playground, Bemis Park and How Park designs with CBA Landscape Architects since 2023. Both Bemis and How are under construction, we are preparing for the next park project, Sullivan Playground, to go out to bid. Below is a description of the process and the design for Sullivan Playground.

SULLIVAN PLAYGROUND

The Sullivan Playground redesign includes new playground structures for both 2-5 and for 5-12-year-olds. The basketball courts and field are in good condition and will remain. Please see the Bemis Park Concept Drawing on the second page.

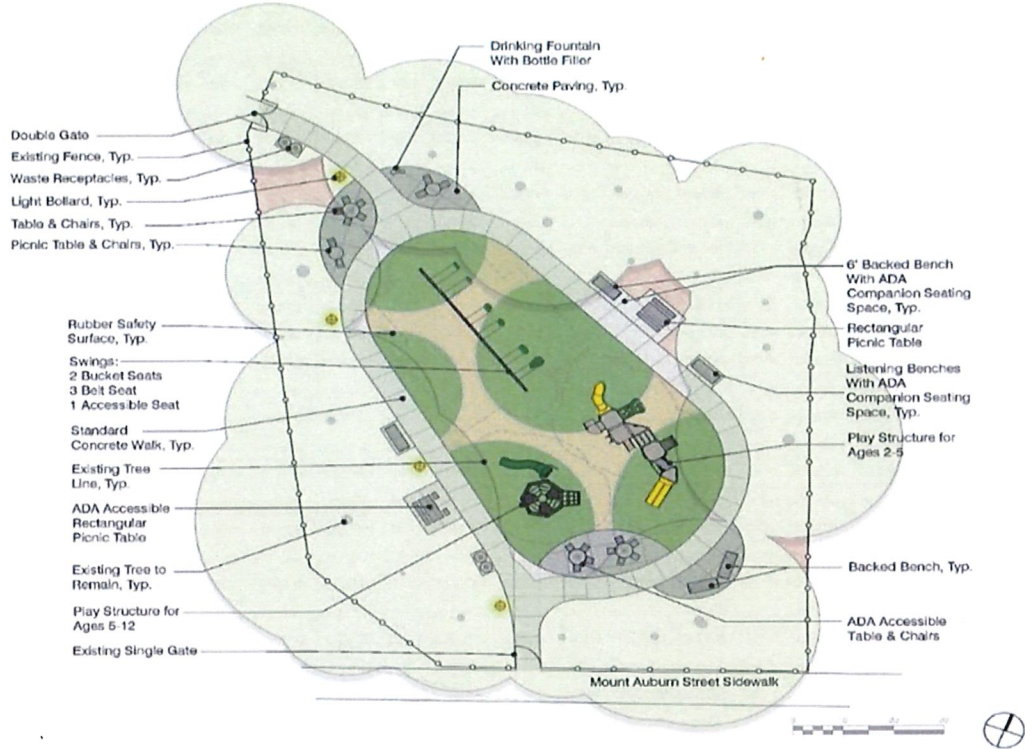
The design process included three community meetings, held between October 2023 and October 2024, where community members met with the design team and City staff to discuss their preferences and ideas. In addition, there was an online survey.

PROPOSED TIMELINE

If the project's conceptual design is approved by the City Council, DCDP is ready to put the project out to bid in May 2026 and will return for a loan order request in June. Sullivan Park construction could start after July 1, 2026.

SULLIVAN PLAYGROUND

RENOVATION



PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

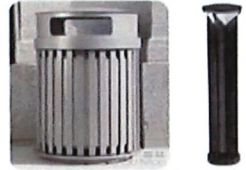


Play Structure for Ages 2-5



Play Structure for Ages 5-12

SITE FURNITURE



**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adopt the ordinance to repealing sections of the Code of Ordinances



Watertown City Council

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

ORDINANCE # 43

2026 - O - 43

REPEAL OF SECTIONS OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, The City of Watertown adopted a new Administrative Code on March 24, 2026; and,

WHEREAS, The Administrative Code is developed to replace certain sections of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Watertown; and,

WHEREAS, The City desires to have codes that are clear and unambiguous and well organized

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The following sections of the Code of Ordinances are hereby repealed and deleted:

- a. Chapter 30, in its entirety, as follows:
 - a. 30.01: Tax Collector
 - b. 30.02: Auditor
 - c. 30.03: Administration Building Hours of Operation; Closing
 - d. 30-15 to 30-32: Personnel Regulations
- b. Chapter 31 in its entirety EXCEPT 31.67 and 31.69-31.74, as follows:
 - a. 31.01 to 31.06: General Regulations on Boards and Commissions
 - b. 31.15 to 31.17: Legal Services Department
 - c. 31.30 to 31.35: Recycling Advisory Board
 - d. 31.50 to 31.53: Timing and Process of Appointments
 - e. 31.60 to 31.61: Commission on Disabilities
 - f. 31.62: Board of Assessors
 - g. 31.63: Board of Health
 - h. 31.64: Planning Board
 - i. 31.65: School Committee

- j. 31.66: Board of Appeals
- k. 31.68: Board of Election Commissioners
- c. Chapter 34, in its entirety: Purchasing
- d. Chapter 36, in its entirety, as follows:
 - a. 36.01 to 36.05: Community Preservation Committee
 - b. 36.06 and 36.07: Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
 - c. 36.08 to 36.10: Public Arts and Culture Committee
 - d. 36.11 to 36.15: Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
 - e. 36.16 to 36.21: Memorialization Committee
- e. Chapter 37, in its entirety, as follows:
 - a. 37.01 to 37.13: Affordable Housing Trust
- f. Chapter 50, Section 50.01: Duties of Superintendent of Public Works
- g. A portion of Chapter 70, as follows:
 - a. 70.01 to 70.07: Traffic Commission
- h. A portion of Chapter 152, as follows:
 - a. 152.30; 152.31; 152.32 (A): Historic District Commission
- i. A portion of Chapter 156, as follows:
 - a. 156.07: Historical Commission

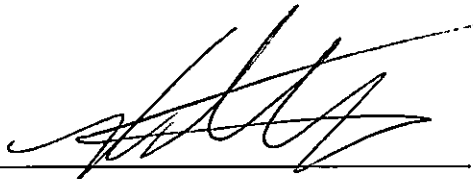
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Chapter 51 is amended as follows:

By replacing “Assistant Superintendent for Wires” with “Supervisor of Street Lighting and Wiring”




Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 28, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Mark S. Sideris,
Council President**

**John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor**

**Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor**

**Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large**

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



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager

Date: April 23, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Public Hearing and Vote on a Proposed Ordinance to Repeal and Amend Sections of the Code of Ordinances

At the April 14, 2026 City Council Meeting, the Council held the First Reading of an ordinance to repeal and amend sections of the Code of Ordinances that are now fully superseded by the newly adopted Administrative Code, which consolidates and modernizes the City's administrative framework. The sections proposed for repeal and amendment are:

Sections of Watertown City Code of Ordinances to Repeal:

A. Chapter 30, in its entirety, as follows:

- a. 30.01: Tax Collector
- b. 30.02: Auditor
- c. 30.03: Administration Building Hours of Operation; Closing
- d. 30-15 to 30-32: Personnel Regulations

B. Section 31 in its entirety EXCEPT 31.69-31.74, as follows:

- a. 31.01 to 31.06: General Regulations on Boards and Commissions
- b. 31.15 to 31.17: Legas Services Department
- c. 31.30 to 31.35: Recycling Advisory Board – which was already replaced by the

new Solid Waste Committee

- d. 31.50 to 31.53: Timing and Process of Appointments
 - e. 31.60 to 31.61: Commission on Disabilities
 - f. 31.62: Board of Assessors
 - g. 31.63: Board of Health
 - h. 31.64: Planning Board
 - i. 31.65: School Committee
 - j. 31.66: Board of Appeals
 - k. 31.67: Housing Authority
 - l. 31.68: Board of Election Commissioners
- C. Section 34, in its entirety: Purchasing
- D. Section 36, in its entirety, as follows:
- a. 36.01 to 36.05: Community Preservation Committee
 - b. 36.06 and 36.07: Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
 - c. 36.08 to 36.10: Public Arts and Culture Committee
 - d. 36.11 to 36.15: Solid Waste and Recycling Committee
 - e. 36.16 to 36.21: Memorialization Committee
- E. Section 37, in its entirety, as follows:
- a. 37.01 to 37.13: Affordable Housing Trust
- F. A portion of Section 70, as follows:
- a. 70.01 to 70.07: Traffic Commission
- G. A portion of Section 152, as follows:

- a. 152.30; 152.31; 152.32 (A): Historic District Commission

H. A portion of Section 156, as follows:

- a. 156.07: Historical Commission

Sections of City Code of Ordinances to amend:

I. Section 50 as follows:

- a. Superintendent of Public Works becomes Director of Public Works

J. Section 51 as follows:

- a. Assistant Superintendent for Wires becomes Supervisor of Wiring and Street Lighting

I respectfully request the City Council's favorable approval of the proposed ordinance at the April 28, 2026 City Council Meeting.

WHEREAS, The City of Watertown adopted a new Administrative Code on March 24, 2026;
and,

WHEREAS, The Administrative Code is developed to replace certain sections of the Code
of Ordinances for the City of Watertown; and,

WHEREAS, The City desires to have codes that are clear and unambiguous and well
organized

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The following sections of the Code of Ordinances are hereby repealed and deleted:

- a. Chapter 30, in its entirety, as follows:
 - a. 30.01: Tax Collector
 - b. 30.02: Auditor
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 - d. 30-15 to 30-32: Personnel Regulations
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 - a. 31.01 to 31.06: General Regulations on Boards and Commissions
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 - c. 31.30 to 31.35: Recycling Advisory Board
 - d. 31.50 to 31.53: Timing and Process of Appointments
 - e. 31.60 to 31.61: Commission on Disabilities
 - f. 31.62: Board of Assessors
 - g. 31.63: Board of Health
 - h. 31.64: Planning Board
 - i. 31.65: School Committee
 - j. 31.66: Board of Appeals
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- e. Chapter 37, in its entirety, as follows:
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- f. Chapter 50, Section 50.01: Duties of Superintendent of Public Works

- g. A portion of Chapter 70, as follows:
 - a. 70.01 to 70.07: Traffic Commission
- h. A portion of Chapter 152, as follows:
 - a. 152.30; 152.31; 152.32 (A): Historic District Commission
- i. A portion of Chapter 156, as follows:
 - a. 156.07: Historical Commission

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Chapter 51 is amended as follows:

By replacing “Assistant Superintendent for Wires” with -“Supervisor of Street Lighting and Wiring ~~and Street Lighting~~”

Order Confirmation

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

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

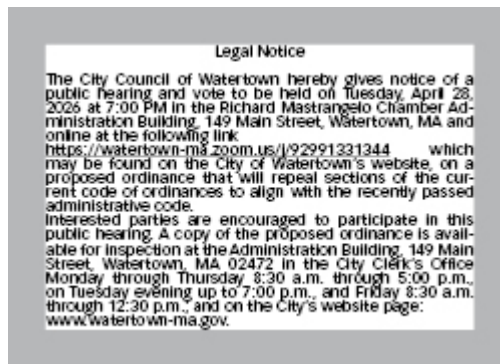
Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice 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

617-929-1314
 Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
legals@globe.com

Order Number	766443	Order Price	\$506.51
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	04/18/2026	Last Run Date	04/18/2026
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:


**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adopt the Skip the Stuff ordinance



Watertown City Council

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

ORDINANCE # 44

2026 – O – 44

SKIP THE STUFF ORDINANCE

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 waste 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 reusable materials for non-recyclable single-use plastics will also reduce waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding new Title XI, Chapter 118, entitled “Skip the Stuff”, as follows:

Chapter 118

SKIP THE STUFF

118.1 Purpose

The ordinance 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.

118.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this Section 118, the following definitions apply:

A. **Condiment:** A single-use packet containing relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings, and similar ingredients, 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. Food Establishment: A retail establishment that stores, prepares, services, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, including, but not limited to, any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the State Sanitary Code Chapter X- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590 (the Retail Food Code), as it may be amended from time to time.

C. Full-Service Food Establishment: A food establishment where customers are seated at a table and where orders are taken and served by waitstaff at the tables.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. Single-Use: Items designed to be used once and then discarded and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.

G. 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 as defined herein, tongs, chopsticks, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks, cup sleeves, cup trays, and food trays.

H. Utensil: Forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, or other instruments used to serve food or to eat food.

I. Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware: Containers, bowls, plates, trays, cups, glasses, utensils, 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.

118.3 Prohibited use and distribution of single-use food and beverage serviceware.

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

- A. Single-Use Foodware Accessories may be provided specifically upon the request of the consumer:
- By asking directly;

- By selecting the items in an online food ordering platform; or,
 - In response to an inquiry by the food establishment.
- B. Single-Use Foodware Accessories, including plastic Utensils, may not be wrapped in plastic or offered as bundled sets.
- C. Food Establishments may have Single-Use Foodware 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).

118.4 Options with Online Food Ordering Platforms

Online Food Ordering Platforms must provide Food Establishments with a method to list each Single-Use Foodware 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.

118.5 Restrictions on Full Service Food

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

118.6 Exemptions

A. Food Establishment may seek an exemption from the requirements of this Ordinance as follows:

- The Food Establishment must file a request for an exemption in writing with the Director of Public Health.
- 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.
- 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 an additional six-month period.
- The Director will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days of receipt of a written request for an exemption.

118.7 Enforcement

The Director of Public Health and/or his/her designee shall have the authority to administer and enforce this Ordinance. This Ordinance and any resulting rules and regulations may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §21D pursuant to Chapter 35, § 35.05 of the City Code of Ordinances.

118.8 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.

118.9 Penalty

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be issued a verbal and written warning for the first two offenses, then fined as follows:

- \$50 for the third offense
- \$100 for the fourth offense
- \$200 for the fifth 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.

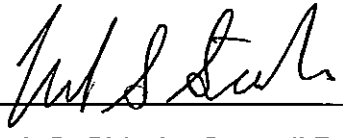


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 28, 2026.



Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

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

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 waste 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 reusable materials for non-recyclable single-use plastics will also reduce waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding new Title XI, Chapter 118, entitled “Skip the Stuff”, as follows:

Chapter 118

SKIP THE STUFF

118.1 Purpose

The ordinance 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.

118.2 Definitions

For the purpose of this Section 118, the following definitions apply:

A. **Condiment:** A single-use packet containing relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings, and similar ingredients, 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. **Food Establishment:** A retail establishment that stores, prepares, services, vends, or otherwise provides food for human consumption, including, but not limited to, any establishment requiring a permit to operate in accordance with the State Sanitary Code Chapter X- Minimum Sanitation Standards for Food Establishments, 105 CMR 590 (the Retail Food Code), as it may be amended from time to time.

C. **Full-Service Food Establishment:** A food establishment where customers are seated at a table and where orders are taken and served by waitstaff at the tables.

D. **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.

E. **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.

F. **Single-Use:** Items designed to be used once and then discarded and not designed for repeated use and sanitizing.

G. **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 as defined herein, tongs, chopsticks, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks, cup sleeves, cup trays, and food trays.

H. **Utensil:** Forks, spoons, knives, sporks, chopsticks, or other instruments used to serve food or to eat food.

I. **Reusable Food and Beverage Serviceware:** Containers, bowls, plates, trays, cups, glasses, utensils, 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.

118.3 Prohibited use and distribution of single-use food and beverage serviceware.

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

- A. Single-Use Foodware Accessories may be provided specifically upon the request of the consumer:
 - By asking directly;
 - By selecting the items in an online food ordering platform; or,
 - In response to an inquiry by the food establishment.
- B. Single-Use Foodware Accessories, including plastic Utensils, may not be wrapped in plastic or offered as bundled sets.
- C. Food Establishments may have Single-Use Foodware 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).

118.4 Options with Online Food Ordering Platforms

Online Food Ordering Platforms must provide Food Establishments with a method to list each Single-Use Foodware 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.

118.5 Restrictions on Full Service Food

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

118.6 Exemptions

A. Food Establishment may seek an exemption from the requirements of this Ordinance as follows:

- The Food Establishment must file a request for an exemption in writing with the Director of Public Health.
- 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.
- 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 an additional six-month period.
- The Director will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days of receipt of a written request for an exemption.

118.7 Enforcement

The Director of Public Health and/or his/her designee shall have the authority to administer and enforce this Ordinance. This Ordinance and any resulting rules and regulations may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §21D pursuant to Chapter 35, § 35.05 of the City Code of Ordinances.

118.8 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.

118.9 Penalty

A. Any person who violates any provision of this Ordinance shall be issued a verbal and written warning for the first two offenses, then fined as follows:

- \$50 for the third offense
- \$100 for the fourth offense
- \$200 for the fifth 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.

ORDINANCE # [REDACTED]

2025 – O – [REDACTED]

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.
- 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**
- C. 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.**

- 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.

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

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

WHEREAS, ~~s~~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 reusable materials for non-recyclable single-use plastics will also reduce waste.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the Watertown Code of Ordinances is hereby amended by adding a new Title X, Chapter 117, entitled “Skip the Stuff”~~be added to the of the Watertown Code of Ordinances~~, as follows:

Chapter 117

SKIP THE STUFF ~~ORDINANCE~~

117.01 Purpose

~~This~~The purpose of this ~~chapter~~Ordinance 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 ~~O~~rdinance will reduce the amount of single use plastic used throughout the City.

117.2 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, and similar ingredients, 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 and are included within this definition.
- 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 as defined herein, 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~~Utensils, 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.

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

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

- A. Single-~~Use~~ Foodware 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~~ Foodware 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)

117.4 Options with Online Food Ordering Platforms

Online Food Ordering Platforms must provide Food Establishments with a method to list each Single-Use Foodware 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.

117.5 Restricted Packaging

- A. Single-Use Foodware Accessories, including plastic ~~forks, spoons and knives~~ Utensils, 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-are~~ recyclable from ~~their-a~~ City-permitted waste/recycling hauler and associated Materials Recovery Facility (“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.

117.6 Restrictions on Full Service Food

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

117.7 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 an additional six-month period.
- D. The Director will issue a final decision in writing within 30 days of receipt of a written request for an exemption.

117.8 Enforcement

The Director of Public Health and/or his/her designee shall have the authority to administer and enforce this Ordinance. This Ordinance and any resulting rules and regulations may be enforced through any lawful means in law or in equity, including, but not limited to, non-criminal disposition in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §21D pursuant to Chapter 35, § 35.05 of the City Code of Ordinances.

117.9 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~~ Ordinance 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.

Order Confirmation

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

Thank you for placing your Legal Notice in The Boston Globe.

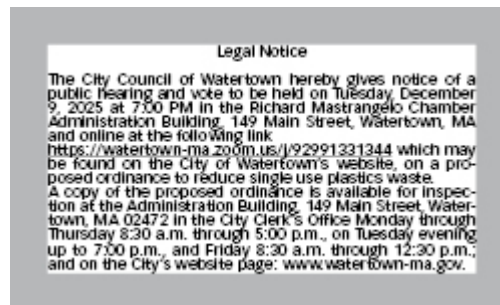
Your order information and a preview of your notice are displayed below for your review. If there are any changes or questions, please contact the Classified Department at 617-929-1314 or email legals@globe.com.

Any and all proposed edits, revisions, and/or other changes to the notice 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

617-929-1314
 Monday - Friday 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
legals@globe.com

Order Number	759979	Order Price	\$405.59
Sales Rep.	Jackson Kocak	PO No.	
Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	11/27/2025	Last Run Date	11/27/2025
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:


**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept M.G.L. c. 138, section 12D – Authorization for Wine & Malt License Holders to Convert to All-Alcohol Licenses



Watertown City Council

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

ORDER # 45

2026 - O - 45

AN ORDER TO ACCEPT THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. C. 138, § 12D - AUTHORIZATION FOR WINE & MALT LICENSE HOLDERS TO CONVERT TO ALL- ALCOHOL LICENSES

WHEREAS, Chapter 138 of the General Laws was amended by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025 to include a new Section 12D; and

WHEREAS, said Section 12D is a local acceptance statute allowing the local licensing authority to approve the conversion, at the request of the licensee, of an on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only to an on-premises license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown Licensing Board, as the local licensing authority of the City, has issued on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to make available to local businesses the opportunity to benefit from the license conversion option afforded by this new statute;


NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that:

The Watertown City Council accepts the provisions of Section 12D of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, as added by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, to allow the Watertown Licensing Board as the local licensing authority of the City, to approve a request from a licensee to convert an existing license to sell wines and malt beverages only for on-premises consumption to a license to sell all alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, subject to all other provisions of G.L. c.138, including notice, publication, and certified mailing of, and a public hearing on, such conversion.


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 4 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 28, 2026


Brendan T. McCarthy, Council Clerk


Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor


Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

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



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 21, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Acceptance of M.G.L. c. 138, § 12D – Authorization for Wine & Malt License Holders to Convert to All-Alcohol Licenses

I request the City Council’s acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 138, Section 12D, a newly enacted local-option provision authorizing Local Licensing Boards to allow holders of on-premises wine and malt beverage licenses (M.G.L. c.138, §12) to convert their existing license for a non-transferable on-premises all-alcohol license.

Because Section 12D requires local acceptance, municipal approval is necessary before any wine and malt license holder may apply for conversion. Adoption would give eligible businesses a pathway to expand beverage offerings and better meet customer demand.

Accepting Section 12D would strengthen Watertown’s hospitality sector by enabling licensees to broaden service options, enhance competitiveness, and support continued economic vitality.

Upon acceptance of M.G.L. c.138, §12D:

- Wine and malt license holders may apply to the Local Licensing Board for a change of license category.
- Approvals are required from both the Local Licensing Board and the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (ABCC).
- Converted licenses issued under Section 12D are non-transferable.

Watertown is currently authorized for 38 All Alcohol and 8 Wine & Malt licenses (quota as of August 11, 2025). This change would apply to the eight Wine & Malt licensees as applicable.

Accordingly, I request that the attached Order accepting the provisions of M.G.L. c.138, §12D be placed on the April 28, 2026 City Council agenda.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this matter

Order No. 2026-

An Order to Accept the Provisions of M.G.L. c. 138, § 12D – Authorization for Wine & Malt License Holders to Convert to All-Alcohol Licenses

WHEREAS, Chapter 138 of the General Laws was amended by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025 to include a new Section 12D; and

WHEREAS, said Section 12D is a local acceptance statute allowing the local licensing authority to approve the conversion, at the request of the licensee, of an on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only to an on-premises license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown Licensing Board, as the local licensing authority of the City, has issued on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to make available to local businesses the opportunity to benefit from the license conversion option afforded by this new statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that:

The Watertown City Council accepts the provisions of Section 12D of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, as added by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, to allow the Watertown Licensing Board as the local licensing authority of the City, to approve a request from a licensee to convert an existing license to sell wines and malt beverages only for on-premises consumption to a license to sell all alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, subject to all other provisions of G.L. c.138, including notice, publication, and certified mailing of, and a public hearing on, such conversion.

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 ____ for ____ against and ____ present on April 28, 2026.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark Sideris, Council President

Conversion of On-Premises Wine and Malt Only Licenses to All Alcoholic Beverages Licenses

August 20, 2025

Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, the FY2026 State Budget Bill, inserted a new section into G.L. c.138 concerning alcoholic beverage licensing. Subject to local acceptance, this new provision, G.L. c.138, §12D, allows a local licensing authority to approve the conversion of an on-premises license to sell wine and malt beverages only to an on-premises license to sell all alcoholic beverages, even if the municipality does not have any all alcoholic beverages licenses available. As discussed in further detail, below, this is a significant change in local licensing procedures, allowing the conversion to be accomplished without action of the General Court and regardless of whether such a license is available under an otherwise applicable quota. The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (“ABCC”) has also issued an advisory which can be found [here](#).

Local Acceptance. In order to use the new statutory conversion process, G.L. c.138, §12D must first be accepted by a city or town in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c.4, §4. Thus, in a city, the statute must be accepted by vote of the city council, with the approval of the mayor, as applicable. In a town, the statute must be accepted by vote of town meeting. Subject to any referendum provision that may be imposed by charter or special act, the acceptance vote will take effect immediately and requires no further approvals from the state.

Eligibility. Any holder of an on-premises license to sell wine and malt beverages only is eligible to seek conversion of that license to an on-premises license for sale of all alcoholic beverages. This is significant because, as previously discussed, without this new section, such a conversion could be made only if an on-premises license for sale of all alcoholic beverages was available under an existing quota or pursuant to special legislation. Note, however, that such a conversion will still require approval by both the local licensing authority and the ABCC.

Conversion Process. In order to convert a license under G.L. c.138, §12D, a licensee holding an on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only may apply using the ABCC form found [here](#). The local licensing authority may establish a reasonable fee for processing the conversion application and may adopt such additional requirements as the licensing authority deems appropriate. Note that the conversion application process must meet all of the notice, publication, certified mailing and public hearing requirements set forth in G.L. c.138, §15A for any other license application. Once a license conversion has been approved by the local licensing authority, it must be submitted to the ABCC for approval, along with a fee of \$200.00.

Restrictions. Approval by the local licensing authority of a conversion will not create an additional license – the overall number of licenses for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages will remain the same.

THE LEADER IN PUBLIC SECTOR LAW

617.556.0007 | 1.800.548.3522 | www.k-plaw.com | ©2025 KP Law, P.C.

Accordingly, if a wine and malt beverage only license is converted, it will still count against the municipality's quota for that type of license. However, a converted license cannot be transferred, and, if it is no longer being used, must be returned to the local licensing authority. The converted license then reverts to its original status and can only be reissued as an on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only. The new licensee, however, would also be eligible to seek conversion of the license using the G.L. c.138, §12D process.

Sample Votes. Below find a sample town meeting warrant article and city council vote for acceptance of G.L. c.138, §12D; be reminded, however, that the form of article or vote used by a particular municipality must also comply with the provisions of any applicable charter, special act, ordinance or bylaw.

Sample Town Meeting Warrant Article

Article XX: To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.138, §12D, which, if accepted, would allow the _____ as the local licensing authority of the Town, to approve a request from a licensee to convert an existing license to sell wines and malt beverages only for on-premises consumption to a license to sell all alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, subject to all other provisions of G.L. c.138, including notice, publication, and certified mailing of, and a public hearing on, such conversion, [insert closing clause, such as: or take any other action relative thereto].

Sample City Council Vote

WHEREAS, Chapter 138 of the General Laws was amended by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025 to include a new Section 12D; and

WHEREAS, said Section 12D is a local acceptance statute allowing the local licensing authority to approve the conversion, at the request of the licensee, of an on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only to an on-premises license for the sale of all alcoholic beverages; and

WHEREAS, the _____, as the local licensing authority of the City, has issued on-premises license for the sale of wine and malt beverages only; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to make available to local businesses the opportunity to benefit from the license conversion option afforded by this new statute;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that:

The _____ City Council accepts the provisions of Section 12D of Chapter 138 of the General Laws, as added by Section 51 of Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2025, to allow the _____ as the local licensing authority of the City, to approve a request from a licensee to convert an existing license to sell wines and malt beverages only for on-premises consumption to a license to sell all alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, subject to all other

provisions of G.L. c.138, including notice, publication, and certified mailing of, and a public hearing on, such conversion.

If you have further questions about conversion of on-premises licenses for the sale of wine and malt beverages only, or any other alcoholic beverages licensing questions, please contact Attorneys [Gregg J. Corbo](#) or [Thomas W. McEnaney](#).

Disclaimer: This information is provided as a service by KP Law, P.C. This information is general in nature and does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Neither the provision nor receipt of this information creates an attorney-client relationship with KP Law, P.C. Whether to take any action based upon the information contained herein should be determined only after consultation with legal counsel.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE TREASURER

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION

95 Fourth Street, Suite 3 Chelsea, MA 02150-2358

Jean M. Lorizio, Esq.

Commission Chairman

QUOTA BREAKDOWN

As of: 8/11/2025

Town of: Watertown (1336)

ANNUAL						
On Premise Retail			Exemption			Total Available in Quota
	Allowed	Total Issued	Special Leg	Vets Clubs	Farmer Series PP	
AB	38	49	11	1	0	1
WM		9	0	0	1	
WMC	8	0	0	0	0	0
WM TO AB		0				
Off Premise Retail						
			Exemption			Total Available in Quota
	Allowed	Total Issued	Special Leg	Vets Clubs	Farmer Series PP	
AB	8	8	0	0	0	0
WM	8	8	0	0	0	0
SEASONAL						
On Premise Retail			Exemption			Total Available in Quota
	Allowed	Total Issued	Special Leg	Vets Clubs	Farmer Series PP	
AB	0	0	0	0	0	0
WM		0	0	0	0	0
WMC	0	0	0	0	0	0
Off Premise Retail						
			Exemption			Total Available in Quota
	Allowed	Total Issued	Special Leg	Vets Clubs	Farmer Series PP	
AB	0	0	0	0	0	0
WM	0	0	0	0	0	0

Annual	AB	SECTION 12
Club		7
General On-Premises		2
Hotel/Innkeeper		2
Restaurant		37
Veterans Club		1

Annual	WM	SECTION 12
Farmer Brewery Pouring Permit		1
Restaurant		8

This document is for informational purposes only. Consult the local licensing authority regarding availability of licenses or any specific local restrictions imposed by the local licensing authority.

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to authorize a transfer of funds in the amount of \$29,200 from the FY2026 City Council Reserve to the FY26 Elected Official Salaries account



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 46

2026 - R - 48


RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES ACCOUNT

BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$29,200 from the Fiscal Year 2026 City Council Reserve to the Fiscal Year 2026 Elected Officials Salaries account.

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


Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 28, 2026.


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

Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large

Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,
Councilor At Large

Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,
District B Councilor

Emily Izzo,
District D Councilor



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager
Date: April 22, 2026
RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding the requested transfer of funds to support the revised FY2026 City Council salaries based on the Blue Ribbon Committee's final recommendations.

I respectfully request that this transfer be placed on the agenda for the City Council meeting scheduled on April 28, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



CITY OF WATERTOWN

Auditor

Administration Building
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472-4410

Megan Langan
City Auditor

Telephone: (617) 972-6460
Facsimile: (617) 972-6563

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR *M*

DATE: April 22, 2026

RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

As you are aware, a Blue Ribbon Committee was established in 2024 to review the salaries of the Honorable City Council. At the June 10, 2025 City Council Meeting, a public hearing and vote on the Committee's final recommendations for the salaries of the Honorable City Council whose term began January 2, 2026 was held.

As the FY26 Budget had already been submitted, it was determined that a transfer request would be brought forward in FY26 to cover the variance between the FY26 budgeted Elected Officials salary line of \$83,700 and the revised FY26 salaries of \$112,900.

Please find attached a Transfer of Funds request in the amount of \$29,200. We are requesting a transfer from Council Reserve to Elected Officials Salaries to cover the cost of the revised FY26 salaries for the Honorable City Council.

I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the April 28, 2026, City Council Agenda.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT \$29,200

FROM: FY 2026 CITY COUNCIL RESERVE FUND \$ 29,200
0111152-570780

TO: FY 2026 ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES \$ 29,200
0111151-510113

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

4/22/26

DATE



CITY AUDITOR

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to accept and expend a gift of funds in the amount of \$2,500 from the Ed Walsh Foundation to the Pequossette Summer Program



Watertown City Council

Administration Building

149 Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

RESOLUTION # 47

2026 - R - 47

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF A GIFT TO THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Ed Walsh Foundation has made a generous contribution in the amount of \$2,500 to support the Pequossette Summer Program operated by the Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, the Pequossette Summer Recreation Program is a comprehensive summer camp serving children entering grades K-8, and for the 2026 season is scheduled to operate from June 22 through August 14; and

WHEREAS, the Ed Walsh Foundation's mission is to help Boston area children and families, and the Foundation has expressed that it is honored to support the Pequossette Summer Program; and

WHEREAS, in sharing this gift, the Foundation noted that such support helps keep Ed Walsh's spirit alive and brings great joy to his family, with the hope that the grant will likewise benefit the City's Recreation team and the children they serve; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, the acceptance and expenditure of gifted funds requires the approval of both the City Manager and the City Council;

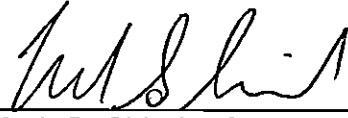
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Watertown, hereby accepts the generous gift of \$2,500 from the Ed Walsh Foundation and authorizes the expenditure of said funds by the Recreation Department for the purposes stated above.


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 9 for, 0 against, and 0 present on April 28, 2026.



Brendan T. McGarthy, Council Clerk



Mark S. Sideris, Council President

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark S. Sideris,
Council President

John G. Gannon,
Councilor At Large
Nicole Gardner,
District A Councilor

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Vice President &
District C Councilor
Theophilus Offei,
Councilor At Large
Lisa J. Feltner
District B Councilor


Caroline Bays,
Councilor At Large

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



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 21, 2026

RE: Agenda Item – Approval of Gift Expenditures

I am pleased to inform you that the Ed Walsh Foundation has made a generous contribution in the amount of \$2,500 to support the Pequossette Summer Program operated by the Recreation Department.

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, the expenditure of gifted funds requires approval by both the City Manager and the City Council.

Therefore, I respectfully request that the attached resolution authorizing the expenditure of this gift be placed on the City Council agenda for April 28, 2026.

Thank you for your consideration and action on this matter

Resolution No. 2026-

Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance and Expenditure of a Gift to the Recreation Department

WHEREAS, the Ed Walsh Foundation has made a generous contribution in the amount of \$2,500 to support the Pequotsette Summer Program operated by the Recreation Department; and

WHEREAS, the Pequotsette Summer Recreation Program is a comprehensive summer camp serving children entering grades K-8, and for the 2026 season is scheduled to operate from June 22 through August 14; and

WHEREAS, the Ed Walsh Foundation’s mission is to help Boston area children and families, and the Foundation has expressed that it is honored to support the Pequotsette Summer Program; and

WHEREAS, in sharing this gift, the Foundation noted that such support helps keep Ed Walsh’s spirit alive and brings great joy to his family, with the hope that the grant will likewise benefit the City’s Recreation team and the children they serve; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53A, the acceptance and expenditure of gifted funds requires the approval of both the City Manager and the City Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby accepts the generous gift of \$2,500 from the Ed Walsh Foundation and authorizes the expenditure of said funds by the Recreation Department for the purposes stated above.

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 ____for ____against and ____present on April 28, 2026.

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk

Mark Sideris, Council President



Ed Walsh Foundation
Spreading smiles to kids in school and sports
EdWalshFoundation.org

March 21, 2026

Watertown Recreation Department
Mr. Jon Kazanjian
149 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Jon;

It is with great pleasure that I forward the enclosed check to you from the Ed Walsh Foundation. As we discussed, this \$2,500 donation will go towards funding scholarships for Camp Pequossette. We hope that this grant aids families in need, and helps campers have a fun time this summer.

Our Foundation's mission is to help Boston area children and families and we are honored that you have given us an opportunity to help your camp. By doing so you have helped us keep Ed's spirit alive and have brought great joy to our family. I hope that this grant does the same for you and your team.

We wish you all the best this summer with camp!


Smile-On,

Kristen Walsh

1834 Centre Street #320688
West Roxbury, MA 02132
(617)564-1623



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: April 21, 2026
RE: Agenda Item – First Reading on a Proposed Ordinance Amending the Code of Ordinances

I respectfully request that the attached ordinance be placed on the April 28, 2026 City Council agenda for First Reading.

On March 24, 2026, the City Council adopted a new Administrative Code to replace portions of the existing Code of Ordinances and improve clarity and organization. As I noted in my memo of March 24 (attached), the current personnel ordinance needed to be repealed in conjunction with approval of the Administrative Code. During that meeting, a council member requested policy language addressing compensation and leave for non-union employees. If the Council wishes to proceed with a replacement ordinance to address this issue, a proposed draft ordinance is attached for review.

WHEREAS, The City of Watertown adopted a new Administrative Code on March 24, 2026;
and,

WHEREAS, The Administrative Code is developed to replace certain sections of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Watertown; and,

WHEREAS, The City desires to have codes that are clear and unambiguous well organized;
and,

WHEREAS, The Honorable City Council desires to ensure that non-union personnel continue to have policies in place that regulate their compensation and leave schedules,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT,

The following be added to the Code of Ordinances:

1. The Human Resources Department of the City of Watertown shall maintain employee policies for all employees that are not directly employed by the City Council and that are not otherwise covered by a collective bargaining unit. These policies shall include, but are not be limited to, the following:
 - a. A classification and compensation system establishing a grade and salary steps for each position
 - b. A policy for accruing vacation leave
 - c. A policy for accruing sick leave
 - d. A policy for accruing personal leave
 - e. A schedule of employee holidays



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 Proakis, City Manager

Date: March 24, 2026

RE: Administrative Code

As you are aware, the City is in the process of modernizing its ordinances through the development of a comprehensive Administrative Code. As part of this effort, our advisory team at the UMass Collins Center conducted a review of the City's current "Personnel Regulations" to identify provisions appropriate for inclusion in the new code.

Through this review, the Collins Center recommended the removal of Sections 30.15–30.32 of the Code of Ordinances, which collectively comprise the existing Personnel Regulations.

A central goal of this initiative is to make the City's regulatory framework more accessible and coherent. The first step toward achieving this is to consolidate provisions related to City departments, boards, and personnel operations within the Administrative Code, as currently drafted. The second step is to eliminate outdated, redundant, or irrelevant language from the existing ordinances. Following completion of this work, the City Administration would like to continue to work with the City Council on a separate effort to reorganize the remaining sections of the Code. This work would be coordinated in conjunction with the company that currently manages our city codes.

We strongly recommend repealing Sections 30.15–30.32 in their entirety. These provisions are substantially outdated, internally inconsistent, and misaligned with the City's current classification and compensation systems, as well as applicable collective bargaining agreements. They do not provide meaningful benefits or establish relevant rights for City employees. A section-by-section summary is provided below:

Section 30.15

Authorizes the creation of a classification plan by ordinance and references applicable state law. The City has since implemented a modern classification and compensation system through a consultant-led effort funded by the City Council. This system is fully incorporated into collective bargaining agreements for union employees and into Human Resources policies reflected in the annual budget for non-union staff. While non-union pay scales

could be codified, doing so would require frequent updates to reflect cost-of-living adjustments. The current approach—updating compensation alongside Council approval of union contracts and city budgets—is more practical and efficient.

Section 30.16

Provides definitions for the ordinance.

Section 30.17

Establishes a Personnel Board based on a town form of government, including appointments tied to a finance committee and town meeting moderator. This structure is over 45 years outdated and unnecessary in a city government with a professional Human Resources department and a City Council subcommittee overseeing personnel matters.

Sections 30.18–30.21

Outlines a complex administrative process for developing and managing classification and compensation plans. In practice, these functions are governed through collective bargaining agreements for union staff and administered by Human Resources for non-union employees. These provisions have not been used in decades.

Section 30.22

Addresses classification of part-time employees. While the City is developing a part-time compensation framework, codification is not necessary.

Section 30.23

Defines workweeks for various employee groups. The classifications, duties, and schedules are outdated and inconsistent with current contracts and practices.

Section 30.24

Describes procedures for adopting salaries. The language is unclear and inconsistent with current processes, particularly regarding treatment of new hires.

Section 30.25

Governs overtime compensation but conflicts with current federal law and collective bargaining agreements.

Section 30.26

Lists holidays, which are inconsistent with current practice.

Sections 30.27–30.28

Addresses vacation and sick leave but defers to other bylaws. In practice, these benefits are governed by union contracts and Human Resources policies, not ordinance.

Section 30.29

Requires physical examinations and references outdated practices, including sharing medical information with the retirement board, which no longer occurs.

Section 30.30

States that the subchapter does not conflict with civil service law.

Section 30.31

Imposes residency requirements for police and fire personnel that are inconsistent with current contracts and practice.


Section 30.32

Addresses longevity payments but includes schedules that conflict with current agreements. Longevity for union employees is governed by contract, while non-union longevity is limited and managed through Human Resources policy.

In summary, these provisions are outdated, inconsistent, and no longer reflective of current City operations. Repealing Sections 30.15–30.32 is a necessary step in implementing a clear, modern, and functional Administrative Code.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: April 23, 2026
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 \$2,300,000 for the reconstruction of Forest Street and Springfield Street, consistent with Line 289 and Conceptual Recommendation #42 of the FY 2026–2030 Capital Improvement Program. This request is submitted alongside a separate \$2,100,000 loan order for the Forest Street connector roads and longer streets project, scheduled for the April 28, 2026 City Council agenda.

I respectfully request the attached proposed Loan Order be placed on the April 28, 2026 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

April 23, 2026

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

RE: Draft Loan Order – Street Reconstruction Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order in connection with the reconstruction of Forest Street and Springfield Street project:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$2,300,000 is appropriated to pay costs of reconstructing Forest Street and Springfield Street, as more fully described in Line 289 of the City's Fiscal Year 2026 through 2031 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all 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



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TO: Mr. George Proakis, City Manager
FROM: Mr. Thomas Brady, Director of Public Works ^{TB}
Mr. Michael Albano, Director of Administration & Finance
Mr. Nathan Chin, PE, Acting City Engineer
DATE: April 14, 2026
RE: Public Works Department – Road Reconstruction Funding Request

The Department of Public Works (DPW) respectfully requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$2,100,000 for the construction and oversight of the connector roads and longer streets project at Forest Street, at approximately 1,875 linear feet, and Springfield Street, at approximately 1,050 linear feet. This request corresponds with Conceptual Recommendation #15 of the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget.


In addition, the DPW requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$2,300,000 for the reconstruction of Forest Street and Springfield Street in conjunction with Line 289 of the Fiscal Year 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Line 42 of the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget.

The City Council reviewed and approved the above mentioned projects on December 13, 2022, pursuant to the Public Works Committee's report. DPW selected each street by evaluating its pavement condition index, history of utility replacement, traffic impact, and need for safety improvements. Reconstructing each street is necessary to ensure the safe and efficient flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

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



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: April 23, 2026
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 \$2,100,000 for the Forest Street connector roads and longer streets project, consistent with Conceptual Recommendation #15 of the FY 2026–2030 Capital Improvement Program. This request is submitted alongside a separate \$2,300,000 loan order for the reconstruction of Forest Street and Springfield Street, scheduled for the April 28, 2026 City Council agenda.

I respectfully request the attached proposed Loan Order be placed on the April 28, 2026 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

April 23, 2026

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

RE: Draft Loan Order – Street Bonds

Dear George:

As requested, I suggest the following form of loan order in connection with the connector roads and longer streets at Forest Street and Springfield Street project:

ORDERED: That the sum of \$2,100,000 is appropriated to pay costs of constructing and overseeing the connector roads and longer streets project at Forest Street and Springfield Street, as more fully described in Line 318 of the City's Fiscal Year 2024 through 2028 Capital Improvement Plan, and the payment of all 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.

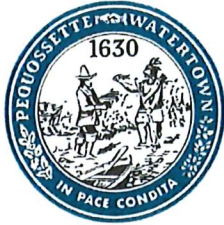
The order must be published at least five days prior to the holding of a public hearing with respect to the order and its final passage and requires the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all members of the City Council, as in the case of any other loan order for bonds.

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

Sincerely,

/s/ Chelsea A. Tryder

Chelsea A. Tryder



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TO: Mr. George Proakis, City Manager

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

Mr. Michael Albano, Director of Administration & Finance

Mr. Nathan Chin, PE, Acting City Engineer

DATE: April 14, 2026

RE: Public Works Department – Road Reconstruction Funding Request

The Department of Public Works (DPW) respectfully requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$2,100,000 for the construction and oversight of the connector roads and longer streets project at Forest Street, at approximately 1,875 linear feet, and Springfield Street, at approximately 1,050 linear feet. This request corresponds with Conceptual Recommendation #15 of the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget.

In addition, the DPW requests that the necessary actions be taken to authorize the Treasurer to borrow \$2,300,000 for the reconstruction of Forest Street and Springfield Street in conjunction with Line 289 of the Fiscal Year 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Line 42 of the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget.

The City Council reviewed and approved the above mentioned projects on December 13, 2022, pursuant to the Public Works Committee's report. DPW selected each street by evaluating its pavement condition index, history of utility replacement, traffic impact, and need for safety improvements. Reconstructing each street is necessary to ensure the safe and efficient flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

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



Watertown City Council

Committee on Rules & Ordinances Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12th, 2026

1. Call to Order

Councilor Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. Present were Nicole Gardner, Chair, Lisa Feltner, Vice Chair, and John Gannon, Secretary. Also present were City Manager George Proakis and Municipal Policy Analyst Doug Newton. Present in the audience were Councilors Vinnie Piccirilli and Caroline Bays. Resident Rita Colafella was also present in the room, as were Linda Scott and Elodia Thomas by zoom.

2. Discussion

Manager Proakis began the meeting by discussing the proposed noise ordinance. (Attachment A) Mr. Newton then presented slides discussing the current and proposed noise ordinances. (Attachment B) The Committee also received public comment from Rita Colafella in advance of the meeting (Attachment C).

The Committee then began discussion. Councilor Lisa Feltner expressed disappointment that the proposed ordinance does not address the following:

- Caps on total noise levels
- Noise duration
- Definition of various sources of noise
- Vibration

She also said that the statement of purpose describing some fleeting noise as inherent to life in Watertown suggests that noise is being accepted. Councilor Gannon said that construction and demolition has led to vibrations being felt, particularly in dense areas. The Committee asked staff to conduct research into the issue of vibrations and report back at a future meeting.

Councilor Gardner raised the issue of tonal noise. Some other communities restrict this to no more than 5 dbA above ambient level. She asked for additional research to

be conducted with neighboring towns regarding tonal noise limits, since the draft does not include it, and our current ordinance and the ordinances in some neighboring towns do include it.

The Committee then discussed the matter of commercial and residential lawn maintenance, with discussion centering around if the current ordinance exempts commercial lawn maintenance from enforcement. Manager Proakis and Mr. Newton shared that their understanding is that the current ordinance has a gap which does not cover commercial maintenance, and that this is also the understanding of the Health Department. Councilor Gardner said she felt it was important that the new ordinance cover this gap.

On the issue of lawn maintenance, Mr. Proakis said that the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee has expressed interest in an ordinance specifically on gas-powered lawn equipment. The Manager views this as a separate issue from the noise ordinance meriting its own referral.

The Committee then begin discussing the definitions in the ordinance. They discussed the necessity of defining both “emergency” and “emergency work” and asked staff to provide revised language at a future meeting. As to the definition of “construction and demolition,” the Committee asked staff to make the language more concise and avoid listing out specific examples.

The Committee asked staff to provide a better definition of “plainly audible.” While it is defined in the draft as “Any sound that can be detected by a person of normal hearing ability using his or her unaided hearing facilities,” the Committee agreed that the word “normal” is not appropriate and asked staff to edit the definition for the next meeting.

Finally, the Committee began discussion of the Section 95.03: Prohibition of Noise Pollution. Councilor Gannon raised the issue of enforcement, as health department staff are not exempt from the state trespassing statute. Manager Proakis noted that he views it as a core responsibility of his to ensure that his staff are properly trained on all applicable laws and regulations and will ensure that this remains the case.

3. Adjournment

Councilor Feltner made a motion, seconded by Councilor Gannon, to continue the meeting. The motion passed three to zero and the meeting concluded at 6:29 PM.

WHEREAS noise pollution is a hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life; and whereas a substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise pollution may be measured and abated; and,

WHEREAS a substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise pollution may be measured and abated; and,

WHEREAS people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise pollution that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of Watertown that Title IX, Chapter 95 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, inclusive of all sections, is hereby repealed and replaced in its entirety with a new Chapter 95 as follows:

95.01 Statement of Purpose

- A. Noise pollution is a hazard to public health, welfare, safety, and quality of life. A substantial body of science and technology exists by which noise pollution may be measured and abated, and the people have a right to and should be ensured an environment free from excessive noise pollution that may jeopardize their health, welfare, or safety. This chapter serves to address persistent noise pollution rather than fleeting noise inherent to life in a densely populated community such as Watertown.

95.02 Definitions:

- A. Construction and demolition: Any of the following:
1. excavation, highway construction, land development or land clearing work;
 2. the erection, demolition, alteration, repair, or relocation of any building or structure, which uses powered equipment including, but not limited to, backhoes, trucks, tractors, excavators, earth moving equipment, compressors, motorized or power hand tools, manual tools, or equipment of a similar nature as well as two-way radios or other communication equipment;
 3. the use of any equipment for recycling, screening, separating, or any other processing of soil, rocks, concrete, asphalt or other raw material
- B. Emergency: Any occurrence or set of circumstances involving actual or imminent physical hazard or property damage which demands immediate action
- C. Emergency work: Any work performed for the purpose of preventing or alleviating the physical hazard or property damage threatened or caused by an emergency
- D. Noise pollution: A noise source which increases noise level above ambient to the level prescribed in 95.03 (A)
- E. A-weighted decibels (dbA): The A-weighted sound-pressure level expressed in decibels

- F. Ambient noise level: The sound level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources excluding the alleged offensive noise, at the location and approximate time at which a comparison with the alleged offensive noise is to be made
- G. Plainly audible: Any sound that can be detected by a person of normal hearing ability using his or her unaided hearing facilities

95.03 Prohibition of Noise Pollution

- A. Any activity, other than those exempted by 95.03(B) below, which creates or produces sound measured at 10 dbA above ambient noise level at any of the following locations shall be deemed a violation of this section:
 - 1. The property line of any residential property or of any condominium or apartment house
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if in a non-residential setting if applicable
- B. Noise emanating from the operation of the following is exempt from the application of this section 95.03:
 - 1. Motor vehicles on a public highway
 - 2. Equipment used for construction and demolition
 - 3. Equipment used in domestic or commercial maintenance
 - 4. Domestic animals on a residential or commercial property
 - 5. Noncommercial public speaking and public assembly as protected by state and federal constitutions
 - 6. An emergency or emergency work
 - 7. City-sponsored events
- C. No person owning, leasing or controlling a source of sound shall cause, suffer, allow or permit unnecessary emissions from said source of sound that causes noise pollution via any of the following manners:
 - 1. Willfully
 - 2. Negligently
 - 3. Or through failure to provide necessary equipment, service, or maintenance or to take necessary precautions

95.04 Construction and Demolition

- A. All devices employed in construction or demolition which are plainly audible at any of the following locations shall be prohibited from use during the hours of 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM on weekdays, from 7:00 PM to 8:00 AM on Saturdays, and at any time on Sundays and legal holidays:
 - 1. The property line of any residential property or of any condominium or apartment house
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if in a non-residential setting, if applicable

- B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit noise emanating from vehicles used in construction or demolition for the purposes of safety such as backup alarms on a vehicle.

95.08 Domestic and Commercial Maintenance

- A. All devices employed in domestic or commercial lawn, garden, or grounds maintenance which are plainly audible at any of the following locations shall be prohibited between the hours of 7:00 PM and 7:00 AM on weekdays and from 7:00 PM to 8:00 AM on Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays:
 - 1. The property line of any residential property or of any condominium or apartment house
 - 2. At least fifty feet away from the source of noise if in a non-residential setting, if applicable

95.09 Noise Waiver

- A. The Director of Public Health or his or her designee may grant a waiver for any activity otherwise forbidden by the provisions of this chapter upon a determination that compliance in the conduct of such activity would cause undue hardship on the person or persons conducting such activity or on the community, taking into account the extent of noise pollution caused by not requiring such compliance and whether reasonable efforts have been made to abate the noise. The Director of Public Health shall establish appropriate procedures for the processing of requests for such waivers, including such hearings as he or she deems appropriate. The Director of Public Health may seek the input of the Superintendent of Public Works in noise waiver requests related to construction or demolition. In granting any such waiver, the Director of Public Health may impose such appropriate conditions as he or she deems necessary pursuant to this section. Copies of all such waivers shall be filed with the clerk of the city council and to each ward city councilor whose ward is affected by the waiver promptly after issuance.

95.10 Enforcement

- A. The provisions of this chapter may be enforced by the Director of Public Health or his or her designee. The provisions of this chapter may also be enforced by the Chief of Police or his or her designee. Each violation shall be deemed as a separate offense.

95.99 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. 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.

The background features a series of concentric circles, some solid and some dashed, radiating from the center. A large red speech bubble shape is centered on the page, containing the title and author information.

Noise Ordinance

Doug Newton

Clarity on Noise Pollution & How it is Measured

- **Noise pollution is noise measuring 10 dbA or more above ambient (background) noise level as measured at:**
 - The nearest residential property line
 - At least 50 feet from the source of noise if in a non-residential setting
- **Measurement of ambient noise taken from the nearest spot at which the offending noise is inaudible**
- **This is the procedure the Health Department has been using and can still use with new ordinance.**

Current Ordinance

- Prohibits noise “10 db or more above the background noise level. If the noise is judged by ear to have a tonal sound, an increase of 5 db above the background noise level is sufficient to cause noise pollution.”
- Exempts emergencies, protected free speech, and domestic lawn equipment from 7AM to 9PM.
- Prohibits construction & demolition outside of 7AM-7PM Monday-Friday, 7PM-8AM on weekends).
- Department of Public Health designated as primary enforcement agency. Police, Fire, and Building Inspector also allowed to enforce.
- \$50-\$100 fine for first offense, \$200-\$500 for each succeeding offense.

Goals of New Ordinance

- **Clarity, consistency, fairness**
- **Making noise ordinance consistent with other modern ordinances**
- **Provide a tool to limit noise pollution while understanding that some level of noise is inherent to life in Watertown**
- **Use clear standards for enforcement**
 - **Decibel limits, plainly audible**

Key Change:
Lawn
Maintenance

- Prohibited from 7am-7pm weekdays, 8am-7pm on Saturdays. Currently allowed 7am-9pm in Watertown.
 - “Plainly audible” standard
 - Same hours as construction & demolition but prohibited entirely on Sundays
- Commercial lawn maintenance now prohibited outside of such hours alongside domestic.
 - Current ordinance is silent on commercial lawn maintenance.

Other Key Changes

- “db” to “dbA”
- Language & formatting consistent with other modern ordinances
- Waiver process: Health Department to create a procedure to grant waivers. District Councilor for the event receiving a waiver to be informed.
- City-sponsored events exempted
- Penalties brought in line with other modern ordinances
 - Verbal warning for first offense, then \$100 for second, \$200 for third, \$300 for fourth and each subsequent offense.

Issues NOT
addressed in
ordinance

■ Gas vs. Electric Leaf blowers

- Also no decibel limits on leaf blowers during permissible hours
- Ordinance seeks to improve consistency and fairness between domestic and commercial in leaf blower noise regulation
- Additional leaf blower concerns could be addressed in a separate referral

■ Dogs and other animals

- Covered by Animal Control Ordinance & Keeping of Animals Ordinance

Summary

- **Goal is to create a simple, enforceable noise ordinance**
- **Does not attempt to unreasonably limit noise in a densely packed community**
- **Does limit untimely lawn noise and clarify enforcement procedure**
 - **Waiver process for any necessary exemptions**

Attachment C: Public Comment from Rita Colafella

SECTION 95.01: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The current text damages community health by isolating neighbors and criminalizing the joy of being outside, which does not bode well for physical or mental health. It treats "quiet" as a luxury good and "noise" as a crime, favoring those who can afford large lots and soundproofed homes. Furthermore, this ordinance claims noise is a "hazard to public health", yet it does nothing to lower that high baseline from the highway or industry. It only penalizes the neighbors for adding to it.

- Amend to include: "This chapter shall not be used to change Watertown's vibrancy. Noise inherent to high-density living—including disagreements, moving furniture, music, dancing, or children running—is evidence of a healthy community and shall never be deemed 'Persistent Noise Pollution'."
 - This prevents the law from being used to sanitize or gentrify the city and to ensure differences in cultures, music or kids running around the playground are recognized as the sounds of a vibrant, human community.

SECTION 95.02: DEFINITIONS

"Ambient Noise Level"

- Add to 95.02(F): "In neighborhoods or areas within 500 feet of industrial/highway zones (e.g., The Pike), Ambient Noise shall be calculated as the average daytime noise of the entire block, not the lowest possible quiet moment."
 - Low-income areas are already louder. Without this change, newcomers moving next to a loud highway can report a neighbor for a "10 dBA spike" that is actually quieter than the existing background traffic. We must not penalize neighbors for a baseline created by zoning. Otherwise the law allows the loudest areas to remain loud, while strictly protecting the quietest areas. It fails the very people it claims to protect from "health hazards."

"Persistent Noise"

- Define strictly as: "A continuous, unchanging sound lasting longer than 30 minutes."
 - Anything less than 30-minutes must be "Fleeting." This prevents 311 from becoming a digital neighborhood watch; a 10-minute basketball game, a car with the radio on and the top, a car in a driveway being warmed up during a winter morning
 - The law must explicitly protect "The sounds of a healthy community" as "Fleeting Noise" inherent to the city. It must prioritize community overall health.

"Plainly Audible"

- Delete subjective "unaided hearing" standards. Add: "Audibility must be verified by a calibrated Type 1 Sound Meter at the complainant's property line."

- Subjective “hearing” is a tool for discrimination. It allows “lifestyle referees” to decide a backyard BBQ or rap music is “offensive” while a private generator hum is ignored.

SECTION 95.03: PROHIBITION OF NOISE POLLUTION

Sub-section A (The 10 dBA Rule):

- A fixed limit (e.g., “nothing over 60 dBA”) would make it illegal for someone in a loud area to even mow their lawn. However, 10 dBA is too low for dense areas where a simple radio or loud laughter hits 65–70 dBA.
- We can keep a relative standard but add massive protections and/or increase the threshold for domestic and social activities.

Sub-section A (The 10 dBA / Tonal Clause):

- The 5 dBA “Tonal” rule (hums, whines, buzzes) criminalizes older equipment.
- Exempt residential equipment (ACs, pool pumps) older than 10 years from the tonal clause.
 - A wealthier resident buys a \$10,000 “ultra-quiet” system; a working-class resident gets a \$100 fine for an old unit with a “hum.”

Sub-section B (Mandatory Exemptions) - Add these:

- Childhood & Youth Play: All vocalizations and play (screaming, laughing, playground use) during non-night hours.
 - We need people to be enjoying the outdoors more and those are not always quiet activities.
- Youth Recreation: Sports activities, unamplified yelling, or social gatherings of teens during non-night hours (7:00 AM to 9:00 PM).
- Safety & Help-Seeking: Any yelling/screaming intended to deter crime, signal for assistance, or prevent kidnapping/assault.
 - High-volume screaming or whistles are often used by women and children to prevent or interrupt a crime.
- Cultural Heritage: Traditional unamplified singing, church bells, community festivals and “loud” conversational styles.
 - Protect cultural differences because low volume is a cultural preference, not a universal norm.
- Honest Conflict: Spontaneous arguments or vocal disagreements that don't involve a crime.
 - We shouldn't pressure people to “quietly” voice arguments to avoid a noise fine.

- Small Businesses: Outdoor dining, live music at a local pub, or even a busy storefront can be shut down by a single complaining neighbor.

Sub-section C (Negligent Noise):

- Remove "Negligent Noise" as a violation for tenants; keep it strictly for landlords regarding only structural equipment (elevators, furnaces).
 - Low-income renters shouldn't be evicted because they can't afford to "maintain" a quiet lifestyle or high-end appliances.
 - Similarly, landlords should not be discouraged from alarming a place with smoke alarms and CO2 detectors because tenants Let's not contribute to Watertown's current issues regarding renting.

SECTION 95.04: CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION - Add:

- All noise mitigation requirements for all new construction must be established during the Preliminary Site Plan Review, NOT during the Special Permit or Building Permit phase. The Planning Board must provide a "Noise Impact Specification" upfront. If a developer meets these crystal-clear specs (using muffling tech, acoustic enclosures, or low-noise fans) at the start, the city cannot later deny a permit or change the goalposts based on neighbor complaints during the middle of the process.
 - This removes the "Regulatory Hurdle" that makes housing and labs too expensive to build. Developers need to know the cost of muffling technology before they commit to a project.

SECTION 95.09: NOISE WAIVERS

- Reform the Waiver process to be a Pre-Approved Variance.
 - Currently, waivers are "expensive and difficult" to get after a problem starts. A developer or homeowner should be able to apply for a "Technological Hardship Waiver" upfront if the cost of silencing a specific piece of equipment (like a backup generator) is disproportionate to the benefit.
- Add - Noise complaints may only be filed by a verified resident directly impacted and located within 150 feet of a construction/demolition.
 - To stop opposition to affordable housing and anti-growth reporters from patrolling the whole city via 311 to stall affordable housing projects they aren't even near.
- Create an Automatic Waiver for any residential property owner whose household income is below the area median.
 - Current waivers are "expensive and difficult," favoring large developers over small homeowners. Homeowners shouldn't face "daily \$100 fines" because they can't afford a \$5,000 muffler for a generator or AC unit.

SECTION 95.10: ENFORCEMENT & SURVEILLANCE - Add:

- The Police Department should not enforce Chapter 95. Enforcement is a civil matter for the Health Department.
 - Certain residents use city services as a private security force to change active neighborhoods. We must not allow lifestyle policing.
 - Also, the police are trained for other more important things
- The City shall not use permanent noise-monitoring microphones or automated 'shot-spotter' style tech for municipal enforcement.
 - Prevent anymore surveillance
- Establish that a pattern of false or excessive anonymous reporting against a single property will be investigated as a form of neighbor-to-neighbor harassment.

."

SECTION 95.XX: SHIELDS- Add:

- Domestic Violence Safe Harbor: No noise from a domestic dispute or emergency call shall be used as a 'nuisance strike,' a basis for a fine, or as evidence in an eviction.
 - Aligns with the MA Domestic Violence Leave Act. Abusers use the threat of a noise fine/eviction to keep victims silent: This shield stops that psychological control.
- Eviction Shield: Explicitly ban landlords from using municipal noise citations as grounds for eviction.
 - This should prevent discrimination against renting to families with young children.
- Disability and Mental Health Shield: Vocalizations or mechanical sounds (motorized wheelchairs) related to physical/mental handicaps or tics (e.g., Tourette's, Autism) are 100% exempt
 - We need to protect the involuntary sounds of those with a condition such as being hard of hearing, having dementia or that need equipment to get around.



Minutes of the Committee on Climate and Energy

Meeting Date: March 23, 2026

The Committee convened on Monday March 23, 2026, at 5:45 pm in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber, as a hybrid meeting with remote participation by zoom. Present were Councilor Anthony Palomba, Chair; Councilor Caroline Bays, Vice Chair; and Councilor Theophilus Offei, Secretary. Also present in chambers were Councilor Vincent Piccirilli, Councilor Lisa Feltner, and Councilor Nicole Gardner. Participating remotely by Zoom was Brian Hebeisen (Watertown Faces Climate Change). Staff present were Mia Kenna, Sustainability Planner; Silas Fyler, Assistant Director for Energy Management; Katie Swan, Environmental Planner and Conservation Agent; and Michelle, Energy Advocate.

Purpose of the Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the City's three-year metrics report on the 2022 Climate and Energy Plan, and to receive comments and suggestions from Watertown Faces Climate Change (WFC) regarding the metrics, data sources, and recommended methodological improvements.

Opening Remarks

Councilor Offei

Councilor Offei thanked the public for their attendance and characterized the meeting as meaningful climate accountability work — not merely goal-setting, but pausing to measure progress honestly and course-correcting where needed. He thanked city staff for producing the three-year metrics report, acknowledging the difficulty of pulling from dozens of data sources, navigating gaps, and being transparent about what is not yet known. He also recognized WFC for the quality and technical rigor of their written response, noting that their letter raised concrete methodological questions and proposed alternative approaches. He stated his goals for the meeting: clarity on data questions raised, a shared understanding of where the plan needs acceleration, and a path forward on metrics not yet being tracked. He requested his opening remarks be included in the official minutes.

Councilor Palomba (Chair)

Councilor Palomba thanked the sustainability team, WFC, and all attendees. He noted that the 2022 Climate and Energy Plan is subject to a five-year comprehensive review in 2027, making this metrics review a valuable preparatory step. He stated his intention to conclude the meeting no later than 8:00 PM and, if necessary, to schedule a follow-up meeting. He provided an orientation to the plan structure — five elements, each with goals, strategies, and actions, totaling 67 proposed actions — and noted that a column correlating plan actions to specific metrics had been added to the report at his request following the December committee meeting.

Staff Presentation: Three-Year Metrics Review

Mia Kenna, Sustainability Planner, led the presentation on behalf of the sustainability team, joined by Silas Fyler, Katie Swan, and Michelle.

Plan Actions Status Overview

Of the 67 total actions in the Climate and Energy Plan, staff reported the following status breakdown:

- 22% Initiated — preliminary or ground-level work has begun
- 39% In Progress — initial research complete; city staff and partners actively working
- 12% Established and Ongoing — program built and functioning
- 6% Completed — specific end goal achieved (e.g., organics recycling program)
- 21% Not Yet Scheduled — no work or research begun

Context and Purpose of the Metrics Review

Ms. Kenna explained that the metrics were written by consultant KLA in the original 2022 plan and were not designed to correlate directly with specific plan actions — they were proposed as quantitative approximations of progress in each plan section. The metrics review asked three driving questions: Are the proposed metrics still appropriate? Are the data sources still viable? Where are data gaps that need to be addressed before the five-year review?

Staff identified five categories of metric status used throughout the report:

- Data remains consistent with the original source
- Updated to a more precise data source
- No metric was ever created for this action step
- Original source no longer available or not updated; alternative source needed
- No source or proxy available at this time; data cannot be reported

Ms. Kenna noted that overall Watertown is trending toward most goals that could be tracked, while acknowledging real gaps in several areas.

Discussion by Plan Element

1. Buildings and Energy

Staff reported the following status across the eight Buildings and Energy metrics:

- Trending toward goals (4): potential solar capacity on rooftops; installed solar capacity; number of gas/oil-heated residential properties; number of gas/oil-heated commercial properties
- Trending away from goals (1): enrollment in Watertown Electricity Choice

- Data availability issues (3): percent of income spent on energy for households at 0–30% AMI; estimated total solar electricity produced; commercial energy use intensity (EUI) for buildings over 5,000 sq ft

Discussion

Gas/Oil-Heated Residential Properties: Councilor Offei noted that the number of gas-heated homes increased slightly from 9,625 to 9,701 against a 2030 target of 5,775. Silas Fyler explained that the Specialized Stretch Code, effective 2024, now requires any new gas connection to include full electric wiring and panel capacity, effectively preventing further growth. The prior uptick was partly attributable to construction activity during the COVID period. Commercial properties showed improvement, declining from 510 to 347 against a target of 312.

Fossil Fuel Pathway in Stretch Code: Councilor Offei noted that the Specialized Stretch Code contains a fossil fuel pathway — it incentivizes electrification but does not prohibit gas. Homes being fully renovated are still being sold with gas systems. He argued this distinction must be clearly communicated when claiming progress on this metric.

Installed Solar Capacity — Data Jump: Installed solar capacity appeared to jump from 4,521 kW to 811,902 kW. Mr. Fyler clarified this reflects a switch in data source from the Mass. CDC solar tracking program (which had significant missing entries) to DPW tracking of PPS1 and PPS2 — the original baseline was materially understated. The corrected figure is still incomplete, as it excludes installations that did not claim SMART incentives, including the city's own installations at Hosmer School and the new high school. Those facilities are not on SMART because the city elected to retain the RECs for municipal use; the new high school additionally cannot participate in SMART due to LEED Platinum certification requirements.

Solar Goals Already Exceeded: Several members noted that if the corrected data is accurate, Watertown has already surpassed its original solar goals. Staff agreed the 2030 and 2050 targets for this metric will need to be revised upward. Mr. Fyler offered to attempt to reconstruct historical figures, noting that PPS1 records do not include start dates, making this difficult.

Watertown Electricity Choice Enrollment Decline: Councilor Piccirilli asked why enrollment in the 100% renewable option was declining. Staff explained that the standard option has been upgraded to 100% Class 3 renewable energy, causing some residents to perceive the two products as equivalent and drop to the lower tier. Additionally, some residents are opting out of the community choice program entirely to seek individually negotiated rates. Solar panel owners also represent an opt-out segment.

Assessor Database Accuracy: Councilor Picciri noted that the Assessor's database — proposed as a source for several metrics including gas/oil-heated properties — is materially out of date. He cited his own home as an example: a slate roof replaced in 2018 and gas heat replaced with electric heat pumps within the past year are both still recorded incorrectly. He urged the committee to address the reliability of this source before relying on it for plan metrics.

Denominator and Definition Issues: Councilor Piccirilli raised a methodological concern applicable across multiple metrics: as Watertown adds housing, per-property and per-capita denominators change over time, making gross numbers hard to interpret without context. He argued that both gross numbers and percentages should be reported, and that key terms such as "residential property" should be precisely defined (e.g., whether a 100-unit apartment building counts as one property or 100). He noted that Watertown has added approximately 500–600 new housing units since 2019, which could mean the percentage of gas-heated

homes is declining even if the gross count is slightly up.

Graph Presentation — Target Lines: Brian (WFC, by Zoom) raised an overarching presentation concern: while 2030 and 2050 targets are listed in tables, they are not shown graphically within the charts, making it difficult for readers to assess progress visually. He requested that target lines be added to all charts.

Proposed Metric 9 — Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions: WFC member Jolie Taggart proposed the addition of a ninth metric tracking total citywide greenhouse gas emissions. This metric is not currently tracked. There was broad agreement among committee members that this metric is essential to the plan's goals.

2. Transportation and Mobility

Staff reported the following status across the five Transportation and Mobility metrics:

- Trending toward goals (3): total EVs by percentage; total population within half mile of public EV charging; number of publicly accessible EV charging stations
- Trending away from goals (1): residents using sustainable modes to travel to work (bike, walk, transit)
- Data availability issues (1): roads rated 4 or 5 stress level — analysis from the Bike and Pedestrian Plan has not been updated

Discussion

Work-From-Home as a Sustainable Mode: Councilor Offei cited WFC's critique that counting work-from-home (WFH) as a sustainable commute mode inflates the metric while only capturing approximately 20% of total car trips. Staff acknowledged the concern, explaining that WFH was included to show totals with and without it included and to account for pandemic-era shifts. Staff indicated willingness to explore a weighted methodology.

Road Stress Level Data: The data for this metric comes from a stress-level analysis in the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, which has not been updated and has no published update date. WFC representative Deborah Peterson suggested that as an interim measure, the city could assess a smaller subset of key north-south routes and major corridors. Staff indicated they would work with Transportation Planner Zeke Mermell to determine whether an update could be incorporated into an upcoming plan revision.

Process Concern from WFC: Deborah Peterson noted that WFC responded to what they understood to be a finalized published document, but additional work has since been done on the metrics, creating an out-of-sync dynamic. She suggested that some methodological questions would be better resolved through direct conversations between WFC and sustainability staff rather than through formal public meetings. Councilor Palomba acknowledged the suggestion. Ms. Kenna confirmed the metrics document has not been revised since its January 2026 publication.

3. Natural Resources

Katie Swan, Environmental Planner, presented on Natural Resources metrics. Staff reported:

- Trending toward goals (2): open space per person; area (sq ft) of school and community gardens
- Data availability issues (4): tree canopy coverage; impervious surfaces; number of public trees; air quality

Discussion

Open Space Per Capita — Data Discrepancy: The baseline figure of 3.25 acres per 1,000 people appeared to jump to 15.3 acres — well above the 2030 target of 5 and the 2050 target of 10. Ms. Swan explained that the original consultants used a methodology that could not be replicated, as it required access to a proprietary program. Staff instead used census tract data matched with citywide open space data, calculating an average. She acknowledged this is a methodological shift, not simply updated data. Figures also vary significantly by census tract — eastern Watertown shows higher open space per capita in part due to Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Definition of Open Space: WFC noted that the distinction between open space and green space has not been defined in the plan. Artificial turf fields (e.g., BBN fields, Watertown High School athletic fields) should not be counted as natural open space for climate and ecological purposes. The committee agreed that a clear definitional framework is needed before the five-year review.

Tree Canopy Study: A tree canopy study is currently being administered by DPW with a consultant, expected to be delivered by June 30 with results likely available in July. The current baseline figure is from 2016 (20.89%), with a 2030 target of 23% and a 2050 target of 27%.

Stormwater Quality as a Metric: A member speaking on behalf of the Stormwater Advisory Committee noted that the city already collects stormwater quality data from all drains annually as part of its MS4 permit reporting. She proposed that water quality data going from Watertown's drains into the Charles River could serve as a direct and measurable indicator of the combined impact of tree canopy, open space management, and infiltration practices. Staff and the committee received the suggestion positively, noting that the Natural Resources section already includes a goal to minimize stormwater runoff and improve quality.

Open Space Equity Mapping: Councilor Gardner asked whether staff has data showing where open space gaps are greatest within the city. Ms. Swan confirmed this information exists in the raw data and offered to share it. Councilor Gardner indicated strong interest in making this information available to the full council.

4. Infrastructure and Waste

Staff reported the following:

- Trending toward goals (4): tons of trash sent to incineration; household waste generation (lbs/household/year); diversion rate (recycled tons / total tons); number of households signed up for food waste pickup
- Data availability issues (1): critical infrastructure in hazardous areas — pending the

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Discussion

Food Waste Pickup Enrollment: As of March 6, 2026, 3,316 households are enrolled in the food waste pickup program.

Diversion Rate Definition: WFC requested confirmation that the diversion rate metric includes both recycling and composting in the numerator. Staff indicated they would verify with Matthew Bacon, the city recycling coordinator, who provides the data directly from Republic Services and Waste Management.

Coverage Gap for Multi-Family and Commercial Waste: Approximately 70% of Watertown residents use city-contracted trash services; the remaining 30% — primarily large residential buildings and commercial properties with private haulers — are not captured in current data. Staff committed to researching whether other municipalities have developed methods to track waste for this segment.

5. Public Health and Community Preparedness

Staff reported the following:

- Trending toward goals (2): community members signed up for emergency alerts; customer hours of weather-related power outages
- Data availability issues (3): number of census tracts with moderate or high heat vulnerability scores; businesses signed up for emergency alerts; number of residents served by resilience hubs annually

Discussion

Weather-Related Power Outages: The data shows a dramatic improvement from the baseline figure. Staff acknowledged uncertainty about how the original metric was calculated and backtracked the data manually from annual state reports to verify consistency. The large improvement does appear to hold. Staff intends to continue using Eversource and DPW/Department of Public Utilities records as sources.

Relevance of Power Outage Metric: Councilor Bays questioned whether city actions can meaningfully move this metric, since most outage duration is determined by Eversource's infrastructure and maintenance. Staff acknowledged that city tree maintenance does have some impact but that the city is not the primary responsible party.

Heat Vulnerability Score Metric: The original data source was created for a one-time study and has not been updated. Staff has been unable to recreate the methodology and is working to identify an equivalent alternative.

Business Emergency Alert Enrollment: Emergency alert data is collected through the Watertown Police Department, which has no way to distinguish individual from business sign-ups. This metric cannot be tracked under the current system.

Resilience Hubs: The city is actively working to establish resilience hubs but has not yet

finalized locations or programming. Staff noted a related grant application was recently submitted. The metric for residents served cannot be reported until the program is operational.

Next Steps

Councilor Palomba closed the presentation and summarized the path forward:

- The sustainability team will review suggestions from WFC and councilors and incorporate revisions as appropriate in preparation for the five-year plan review.
- The five-year comprehensive review of the Climate and Energy Plan is anticipated for 2027. Laurel Schwab returns from parental leave in approximately three weeks and will lead that process.
- Several data sources and baseline figures require revision before the five-year review, including at minimum: solar capacity data, open space calculation methodology, and gas/oil-heated property definitions.
- A follow-up subcommittee meeting may be needed to continue discussion on unresolved items.
- Staff will work with WFC directly to address open methodological questions, including the work-from-home commute classification and road stress data.
- Staff will consult with Transportation Planner Zeke Mermell on a timeline for updating the road stress analysis.
- Staff will follow up on: accuracy of the Assessor's database as a heating system data source; feasibility of tracking waste for the 30% of residents not on city-contracted collection; and historical solar capacity figures if PPS1 start dates can be obtained.

Meeting Summary

Key Findings

- Watertown is trending toward most trackable goals. Real wins include solar growth, composting enrollment, stretch energy code adoption, and EV charging infrastructure.
- Several goals have already been exceeded — notably installed solar capacity and open space per capita — but this is largely the result of understated baselines and methodology changes, not solely new progress. Targets in these areas must be revised upward before the five-year review.
- The Specialized Stretch Code is an important policy tool but contains a fossil fuel pathway — it does not require all-electric construction. Progress claims on gas/oil-heated properties must reflect this nuance.
- The Assessor's database is not being reliably updated and should not be used as a primary data source for heating system type until its accuracy is verified.
- Total citywide greenhouse gas emissions are not currently tracked. There was broad agreement that this must be added as a metric (proposed Metric 9) before the five-year review.
- The sustainable commute metric is trending in the wrong direction, and the methodology — including work-from-home as a sustainable mode — requires reassessment.

- Definitions of “open space” and “green space” are not established in the plan. Artificial turf fields should be excluded from natural open space calculations.
- Approximately 30% of resident waste (multi-family and commercial with private haulers) is not captured in current diversion and generation metrics.

Action Items and Next Steps

- **Staff — Solar data:** Attempt to reconstruct a corrected historical baseline for installed solar capacity using PPS1/PPS2 data; report back on what is recoverable.
- **Staff — Solar and open space goals:** Revise 2030 and 2050 targets for solar capacity and open space per capita to reflect corrected baselines.
- **Staff — Assessor database:** Investigate why the Assessor’s database is not being updated with current heating system and roof data, and assess its viability as a data source for plan metrics.
- **Staff — Charts:** Add 2030 and 2050 target lines to all metric charts in the report.
- **Staff — Greenhouse gas metric:** Develop a methodology and data source for tracking total citywide greenhouse gas emissions (proposed Metric 9) for inclusion in the five-year review.
- **Staff — Commute metric:** Explore a weighted methodology for the sustainable commute metric that accounts for the disproportionate share of total trips represented by work-from-home, in consultation with WFC.
- **Staff — Road stress data:** Work with Transportation Planner Zeke Mermell to determine a timeline for updating the road stress analysis in the Bike and Pedestrian Plan, or identify an interim subset of corridors to measure.
- **Staff — Open space definition:** Establish clear definitions of “open space” and “green space” for use in the plan, ensuring artificial turf areas are excluded from natural open space calculations.
- **Staff — Open space equity data:** Share open space gap analysis by census tract with Councilor Gardner and the full council.
- **Staff — Stormwater metric:** Work with the Stormwater Advisory Committee to evaluate incorporating MS4 stormwater quality data into the Natural Resources metrics.
- **Staff — Diversion rate:** Confirm with Matthew Bacon that the diversion rate metric includes both recycling and composting in the numerator.
- **Staff — Waste coverage gap:** Research how other municipalities track waste for residents and commercial properties not on city-contracted collection services.
- **Chair — Follow-up meeting:** Councilor Palomba to schedule a follow-up subcommittee meeting as needed to continue discussion on unresolved items ahead of the 2027 five-year review.

Motions and Votes


No formal motions were made or votes taken at this meeting. The session was a presentation and discussion forum. The committee anticipates further action at a follow-up meeting once outstanding data and methodology questions have been addressed by staff.

The meeting adjourned 7:50 PM



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 21, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Traffic Commission

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

- Robert Airasian – Reappointment as a member of the Traffic Commission to a term expiring May 15, 2029


- Daniel Grieneisen – Reappointment as a member of the Traffic Commission to a term expiring May 15, 2029

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council

From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 

Date: April 21, 2026

RE: Request for Confirmation – Reappointments to the Solid Waste & Recycling
Committee

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

- Russ Arico – Reappointment as a member of the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee to a term expiring May 15, 2029

- Eileen Ryan – Reappointment as a member of the Solid Waste & Recycling Committee to a term expiring May 15, 2029

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: APRIL 28, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NICOLE GARDNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
EMILY IZZO	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
THEOPHILUS OFFEI	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
ANTHONY PALOMBA	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
VINCENT J. PICCIRILLI JR.	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
MARK S. SIDERIS, COUNCIL PRESIDENT	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Motion to adjourn