

MAY 26, 2026



Watertown City Council

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

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 26, 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 May 26, 2026 at 6:15 P.M. Location: Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber 149 Main Street, Watertown, MA 02472
- 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 Webpage 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 (remote), Lisa J. Feltner, 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. Councilor John G.

Gannon was absent.

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

David Cain – 99 Pleasant Street – Stated that he believes the redesign of Watertown Square will not have an effect on housing more people because of the general decline in population in Massachusetts over the past few years. He also cited population movement from states like California and New York to states like Florida and Texas.

Russ Arico – 49 Fayette Street – Presented a list of names that opposed the proposed parking garage behind CVS and called for planting of more trees. He also characterized a garage as hypocrisy with regard to committing to bike and pedestrian efforts. He stated that this represents the vast majority of neighborhood residents' opinions.

6. EXAMINATION OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- A. Minutes from City Council Meeting May 12, 2026

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sideris thanked the efforts made in making the Memorial Day Parade a success, specifically Human Services Director Jenna Bancroft.

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

A. Memorial Day Proclamation

President Sideris read the Proclamation.

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Voice Vote.

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Representatives John Lawn and Steven Owens provided the following updates from the State House.

Tax shift legislation for Watertown

- Ongoing work with Ways & Means Chair, Rep. Lawn, Rep. Owens, and Sen. Brownsberger
- The City Council President and City Manager testified to explain complexity and differences from Boston's situation
- Strong advocacy and weekly communication underway
- It is expected to pass, hopefully within a few weeks
- The Revenue Committee timeline target is June 26, though delegation is pushing to move faster

Digital legal notices home rule petition

- Currently in House on its third reading
- Similar requests from multiple communities
- Decision pending on whether to pass individual bills or create a statewide local option approach

Chapter 90 funding (roads)

- Bill expected to pass imminently
- Watertown allocation: ~\$950,000 (up from ~\$730,000 in FY25)
- Increase due to additional \$100M distributed based on road miles rather than population/economic activity

Fair Share Amendment funding

- Generating ~\$3.1 billion in revenue statewide
- Helped offset federal funding cuts
- Secured \$100,000 for special education costs in Watertown
- Additional earmarks include housing authority support

Federal funding challenges

- ~\$3.5 billion in federal cuts impacting the state, especially in healthcare
- State is working to manage resulting financial pressure

Watertown financial condition

- Watertown is recognized as one of the strongest municipalities in the state
- Long-term fiscal stewardship highlighted (schools, pensions, OPEB funding)
- Viewed as a model by other communities

Potential future initiative

- Discussion of a long-term lease/partnership for the Watertown (DCR) pool
- State lacks capacity to maintain it but Watertown could potentially take over
- Early-stage idea for future council consideration

Overall priority

- Immediate focus remains on successfully passing the tax shift legislation for Watertown

President Sideris asked what will happen if the tax classification does not get heard before formal sessions end.

Representative Lawn replied that it can pass in an informal session, but the goal is to have it done by the end of formal session in July.

President Sideris then noted the prospect of Watertown taking control of the DCR public pool, and asked if it was a possibility to roll Cannalonga Park into a memorandum of understanding alongside it.

Representative Lawn replied that is certainly a possibility as the DCR has been long underfunded.

10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. Public Hearing and Vote on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Related Matters

City Auditor Langan read through each departmental budget line of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

President Sideris “passed” on Information Technology (IT) Personnel line item and the Police Supplies and Services line item. Regarding the IT pass, he noted that the change is directly related to eliminating an established position, and asked what the administration is doing to help the employee transition.

City Manager Proakis replied that the union contract requires impact bargaining when a position is eliminated. He noted that it is complex, and not yet finished, but it is an ongoing conversation to ensure a soft landing for the individual.

President Sideris withdrew his pass on that matter. He then stated that his intention with the Police Services pass is to place a referral to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion on implementing a drone for policing purposes. He then withdrew that pass.

City Auditor Langan then read Watertown’s Fiscal Year 2027 proposed other financing sources as well as the Fiscal Year 2027 Water and Sewer Enterprise Budgets.

Councilor Piccirilli moved to reconsider the budget in the hope that the motion fails and Councilor Palomba seconded.

The motion failed unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

11. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDERS, AND RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,887,000 to Reduce Debt Associated with Previously Approved Loan Orders:

<u>From</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fiscal Year 2026 Planned Debt Account	\$1,409,756
Fiscal Year 2026 Authorized/Unissued Debt Account	\$147,244
Fiscal Year 2026 Water Planned Debt Account	\$80,000
Fiscal Year 2026 Sewer Planned Debt Account	\$250,000
<u>To</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - IT Account	\$250,000
Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - Public Buildings Account	\$415,000
Fiscal Year 2026 Transfer to Capital Projects - City Account	\$1,222,000

City Auditor Langan stated that this item represents buying down debt to strengthen bond ratings and general financial situation. The administration is getting ready to go to market on several items, and this item takes advantage of a surplus in previously authorized unissued debt to facilitate buying down loan orders.

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

- B. Consideration and Approval of Exemptions of Interests of Existing City Employees in Contracts with the City Including Summer, Winter, Holiday, and After-School Program Employment Positions in Response to Disclosures Filed with the City Clerk by Prospective Employees and Certification by the Recreation Director that No Employee of that Department is Available to Perform those Services as part of their Regular Duties in Accordance with G.L. c. 268A, sec 20(b)

President Sideris noted that there is a typo in the item as it is a Watertown Library role and not a Recreation Department role.

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

The motion carried unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Cultural Council

City Manager Proakis requested confirmation of appointment for Simone Worsdale to the Cultural Council.

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

B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Stormwater Committee

City Manager Proakis requested confirmation of appointment for Christopher Conner as a member of the Stormwater Committee.

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

City Manager Proakis announced that Mount Auburn Cemetery became the first cemetery in the US to earn the Agza Green Zone certification with using battery electric equipment for their grounds and cutting 16 annual tons of carbon emission.

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

There were no requests.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Gardner announced two new public art installations in Coolidge Square.

President Sideris announced his annual meeting which will be held on June 8th from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. He then announced the Watertown High School Grand Opening which will be on September 1st.

12. PUBLIC FORUM

David Cain – 99 Pleasant Street – Stated that US law requires each district to have the same number of people in it. He made claims that people are moving from blue states to

red states due to cost of living and taxes. He then demanded the City Council to cut taxes while calling for an increased budget for the Police Department.

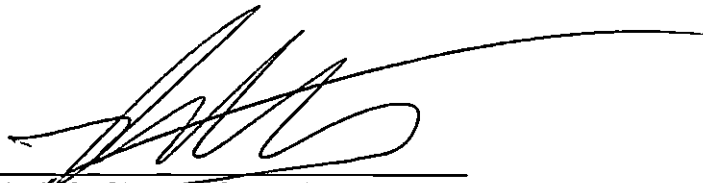
13. RECESS OR ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was adopted unanimously in a Roll Call Vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 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, 2 against, and 0 present on June 9, 2026.



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, May 26, 2026 at 6:15 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber
Administration Building, 149 Main Street
List of Documents

1. Memorial Day Proclamation – Item 8A
2. Transfer of Funds - \$1,887,000 – Buy Down Debt – Item 11A
3. 20b – Beth Wobbe – Item 11B
4. Request for Confirmation to the Cultural Council – Item 12A
5. Request for Confirmation to the Stormwater Committee – Item 12B
6. Submission from Russ Arico and David Cain

**ADDENDUM TO THE
MINUTES OF THE MAY 26,
2026 CITY COUNCIL
MEETING**



City Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6:15 PM
Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber

Agenda

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- F. Public may comment through email: wscd@watertown-ma.gov
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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 May 12, 2026
 - 7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT
 - 8. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, PROCLAMATIONS, AND SIMILAR PAPERS AND MATTERS
 - A. Memorial Day Proclamation

- 9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- 10. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
 - A. Public Hearing and Vote on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Related Matters
- 11. MOTIONS, ORDINANCES, ORDER, AND RESOLUTIONS
 - A. Resolution Authorizing a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,887,000 to Reduce Debt Associated with Previously Approved Loan Orders:

From	Amount
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- 12. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITY MANAGER
 - A. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Cultural Council
 - B. Request for Confirmation of Appointment to the Stormwater Committee

13. REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION/REVIEW OF LIST OF PENDING MATTERS
14. ANNOUNCEMENTS
15. PUBLIC FORUM
16. 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: MAY 26, 2026

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X(Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </u>	<u> X </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: MAY 26, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X (Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </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: MAY 26, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X (Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </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 May 12, 2026

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X (Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </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 approve the Memorial Day Proclamation



Watertown City Council

Administration Building 149

Main Street

Watertown, MA 02472

Phone: 617-972-6470

MEMORIAL DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, In the aftermath of the Civil War, communities across the nation gathered to honor the soldiers who had given their lives, marking the first Decoration Day and;

WHEREAS, Following World War I, the nation again united to honor those who died in service to our country. Renamed Memorial Day, the last Monday in May is a time to remember and honor the men and women who gave their lives in all American wars and conflicts; and

WHEREAS, Throughout our history, thousands of Massachusetts residents have answered the call to serve-defending our nation, our freedoms, and our way of life; and

WHEREAS, Their courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty represent the very best of the Commonwealth and continue to inspire generations; and

WHEREAS, We must pause to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice and recommit ourselves to honoring their legacy through service, unity, and gratitude.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED: That the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby proclaims May 25, 2026 to be Memorial Day and urges all residents to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
The City of Watertown on this
26th day of May 2026.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President



**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2026**

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

Motion to reconsider the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and Related Fiscal Matters

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,
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Account	3028420	Payment Type	
Publication	Boston Globe	Number of dates	1
First Run Date	04/25/2026	Last Run Date	04/25/2026
Payment Type			

AD PREVIEW:

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Watertown City Charter and Council Rules, The City Council of the City of Watertown hereby gives notice that it will meet, as the Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of holding public hearings on the City Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027. Each hearing will be held in-person in the Richard E. Mastrangelo Council Chamber and online at the following link: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/92991331344> which may be found on the City of Watertown's website, on the following days:

Wednesday, May 6, 2026 – 6:00PM: Constituent Services, Information Technology, City Clerk / Elections, Community Development & Planning, Health and Human Services Departments, Public Safety Departments, Non-Department Appropriations (Debt, Capital Projects, Etc.)

Monday, May 11, 2026 – 6:00PM: Human Resources, Public Buildings, Library, Recreation Departments, School Department, Department of Public Works, Water & Sewer Enterprise Budgets

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 – 6:00PM: City Council, City Manager, Auditing, Procurement, Assessing, Treasurer / Collector, Parking Lots & Meters, City Attorney

Under this schedule, it's anticipated that the City Council will take formal action on the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget at its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 7pm.

The Fiscal Year 2027 General Budget, as proposed, totals \$226,212,930, the Fiscal Year 2027 Water and Sewer Enterprise Budgets, as proposed, total \$25,320,380.

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

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X (Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </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 \$1,877,000 from various Fiscal Year 2026 Planned Debt accounts to various 2026 Capital Projects accounts



Watertown City Council

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

RESOLUTION # 54

2026 – R – 54

RESOLUTION APPROVING A TRANSFER OF FUNDS BETWEEN VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR 2026 DEBT ACCOUNTS TO VARIOUS FISCAL YEAR CAPITAL PROJECTS ACCOUNTS TO BUY DOWN DEBT


BE IT RESOLVED: That the City Council of Watertown hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,887,000 from the various Fiscal Year 2026 Planned Debt accounts to various Fiscal Year 2026 Capital Projects accounts.

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



Council Member

I hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council for which a quorum was present, the above resolution was adopted by a vote of 8 for, 0 against, and 0 present on May 26, 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: May 18, 2026
RE: Agenda Item – Transfer of Funds

Attached is correspondence from City Auditor Megan Langan regarding the requested transfer of \$1,887,000 to reduce debt associated with previously approved loan orders.

City Auditor Langan has confirmed that sufficient funds are available in the FY26 Debt Retirement Authorized/Unissued and Planned Debt accounts. In line with the City's long-standing financial practice, these funds may be applied to reduce the original loan order amounts, thereby lowering the permanent borrowing required for the related projects. This transfer will reduce the borrowing authorization for the loan orders identified in the Auditor's correspondence. Applying these funds now decreases long-term interest costs and supports the City's commitment to responsible debt management.

I respectfully request that this transfer be added to the agenda for the City Council meeting on May 26, 2026.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



WATERTOWN

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDITING DEPARTMENT

TO: GEORGE PROAKIS, CITY MANAGER

FROM: MEGAN LANGAN, CITY AUDITOR *ML*

DATE: MAY 18, 2026

RE: AGENDA ITEM – TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST

Per your request, please find attached a Transfer of Funds request for the buy down of debt on approved loan orders in the amount of \$1,887,000 for Fiscal Year 2026.

The City is in the process of going to the Bond Market to finance infrastructure improvements by permanently borrowing for projects/items from 23 loan orders the Honorable City Council previously approved on June 24th, September 9th, September 23rd, October 14th, November 12th, December 9th, January 13th, January 27th, February 10th, March 10th, March 24th, April 14th and May 28th of Fiscal Year 2026.

Consistent with previous years, monies are available in the Fiscal Year 2026 Debt Retirement Authorized/Unissued and Planned Debt accounts to be applied to the original loan order amounts thereby reducing the permanent borrowing amounts for the related projects/items.

The borrowing for the following loan orders are intended to be reduced as a result of monies available in the Fiscal Year 2026 Debt Retirement Authorized/Unissued and Planned Debt accounts:

Date of Loan Order	Project	Original Loan Order Amount	Paydown Amount	Permanent Borrowing Amount
January 13, 2026	District Security Enhancements	\$95,000	\$95,000	\$0.00
September 23, 2025	IT Infrastructure Buildout	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$0.00
June 24, 2025	Parker Building Construction	\$5,778,000	\$355,000	\$5,423,000
January 27, 2026	Highway Skid Steer	\$65,000	\$65,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Snow & Ice Loader ¾ Yard	\$107,000	\$107,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Cemetery Off Road Utility Veh. 4x4	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Cemetery Backhoe	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Parks & Forestry Skid Steer	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$0.00
September 23, 2025	Parker Bldg. Sidewalk/Snowblower	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Fleet Traffic Supervisor Vehicle #C10	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Cemetery Dump Truck #202	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Parks & Forestry Bucket Truck #74	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0.00
January 27, 2026	Water Utility Vehicle	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0.00
March 10, 2026	Sewer System Improvements	\$750,000	\$250,000	\$500,000

Additionally, reducing the permanent borrowing amounts is consistent with a “very strong debt profile” which is one of the factors Standard & Poor’s Rating Services had cited in the most recent affirmation of the City’s AAA Bond Rating.

Therefore, in order to partially fund the above-mentioned June 24, 2025, September 23, 2025, January 13, 2026, January 27, 2026 and March 10, 2026 loan orders, I respectfully request the attached transfer be placed on the May 26, 2026 City Council Agenda.


Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

TRANSFER AMOUNT: \$ 1,887,000

FROM:	FY 2026 PLANNED DEBT 0171000-590927	\$ 1,409,756
	FY 2026 AUTHORIZED/UNISSUED DEBT 0171000-590926	\$ 147,244
	FY 2026 WATER PLANNED DEBT 600059-590927	\$ 80,000
	FY 2026 SEWER PLANNED DEBT 610059-590927	\$ 250,000
TO:	FY 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS - IT 0193059-596511	\$ 250,000
	FY 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS - PUBLIC BUILDINGS 0193059-596509	\$ 415,000
	FY 2026 TRANSFER TO CAPITAL PROJECTS - CITY 0193059-596502	\$ 1,222,000

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

5/18/2026
DATE


CITY AUDITOR

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X(Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </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 approve employment exemption (20(b))



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
HUMAN RESOURCES

MEMORANDUM

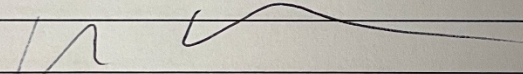
To: Honorable City Council
From: Colleen Doyle, Human Resources Director
Date: May 21, 2026
RE: Chapter 268, Section 20b exemption

Enclosed for consideration is a Chapter 286A, Section 20b disclosure for Elizabeth Wobbe. Her primary position with the City is with the Watertown Public Schools as a Multilingual Instructional Coach and will serve as a Project Literacy Teacher with the Watertown Free Public Library. There are no other employees from the Library who can fill this position.

**DISCLOSURE BY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE
OF FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MUNICIPAL CONTRACT
AS REQUIRED BY G. L. c. 268A, § 20(b)**

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE INFORMATION	
Name of municipal employee:	Elizabeth Wobbe
Title/ Position	Multilingual Instructional Coach
Fill in this box if it applies to you.	If you are a municipal employee because a municipal agency has contracted with your company or organization, please provide the name and address of the company or organization.
Agency/ Department	Watertown Public Schools
Agency Address	30 Common Street Watertown, MA 02472
Office phone:	(617) 926-7700
Office e-mail:	Elizabeth.wobbe@watertown.k12.ma.us
	Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Elected or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-elected
Starting date as a municipal employee.	09/03/2024
BOX # 1	ELECTED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE
Select either STATEMENT #1 or STATEMENT #2.	I am an elected municipal employee .
Write an X beside your financial interest.	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT #1: I had one of the following financial interests in a contract made by a municipal agency before I was elected to my municipal employee position. I will continue to have this financial interest in a municipal contract. OR <input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT #2: I will have a new financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency.
	My financial interest in a municipal contract is:
	<input type="checkbox"/> I have a non-elected, compensated municipal employee position. <input type="checkbox"/> A municipal agency has a contract with me. <input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or an entity, such as a company or organization. <input type="checkbox"/> I work for a company or organization that has a contract with a municipal agency, and I am a "key employee" because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the city or town has contracted for my services in particular.
BOX # 2	NON-ELECTED, COMPENSATED MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE
Select either STATEMENT #1 or STATEMENT #2.	I am a non-elected municipal employee .
Write an X beside your	<input type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT # 1: I had one of the following financial interests in a contract made by a municipal agency before I took a position as a non-elected municipal employee. I will continue to have this financial interest in a municipal contract.
	My financial interest in a municipal contract is:

financial interest.	<input type="checkbox"/> A municipal agency has a contract with me, but not an employment contract. <input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or an entity, such as a company or organization. <p align="center">-- OR --</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATEMENT # 2: I will have a new financial interest in a contract made by a municipal agency. My financial interest in a municipal contract is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I have a non-elected, compensated municipal employee position. <input type="checkbox"/> A municipal agency has a contract with me. <input type="checkbox"/> I have a financial benefit or obligation because of a contract that a municipal agency has with another person or an entity, such as a company or organization. <input type="checkbox"/> I work for a company or organization that has a contract with a municipal agency, and I am a "key employee" because the contract identifies me by name or it is otherwise clear that the city or town has contracted for my services in particular.
FINANCIAL INTEREST IN A MUNICIPAL CONTRACT	
Name and address of municipal agency that made the contract	City of Watertown Watertown Free Public Library 123 Main St, Watertown, MA 02472
Please put in an X to confirm these facts.	<p>"My Municipal Agency" is the municipal agency that I serve as a municipal employee.</p> <p>The "contracting agency" is the municipal agency that made the contract.</p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My Municipal Agency is not the contracting agency. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My Municipal Agency does not regulate the activities of the contracting agency. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In my work for my Municipal Agency, I do not participate in or have official responsibility for any of the activities of the contracting agency. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The contract was made after public notice or through competitive bidding.
FILL IN THIS BOX OR THE BOX BELOW	ANSWER THE QUESTION IN THIS BOX IF THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN THE CITY OR TOWN AND YOU. - Please explain what the contract is for. An evening summer teaching position with Project Literacy.
FILL IN THIS BOX OR THE BOX ABOVE	ANSWER THE QUESTIONS IN THIS BOX IF THE CONTRACT IS BETWEEN THE CITY OR TOWN AND ANOTHER PERSON OR ENTITY. - Please identify the person or entity that has the contract with the municipal agency. - What is your relationship to the person or entity? - What is the contract for?
What is your financial interest in the municipal contract?	- Please explain the financial interest and include the dollar amount if you know it. Project Literacy teachers earn \$30/hour

Date when you acquired a financial interest	6/2/2026
What is the financial interest of your immediate family?	- Please explain the financial interest and include the dollar amount if you know it. N/A
Date when your immediate family acquired a financial interest	N/A
Write an X to confirm each statement.	<p>FOR A CONTRACT FOR PERSONAL SERVICES –</p> <p>Answer the questions in this box ONLY if you will have a contract for personal services with a municipal agency (i.e., you will do work directly for the contracting agency).</p> <p>I will have a contract with a municipal agency to provide personal services.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The services will be provided outside my normal working hours as a municipal employee.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The services are not required as part of my regular duties as a municipal employee.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For these services, I will be compensated for not more than 500 hours during a calendar year.</p>
Employee signature:	
Date:	5/20/26

Attach additional pages if necessary.

NOT A PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT -- File disclosure with the city or town clerk.

SEE CERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL REQUIRED FOR PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS, BELOW.

FOR CONTRACTS FOR PERSONAL SERVICES ONLY:

If you are disclosing a financial interest in a contract for personal services with a municipal agency, you must file the Certification below signed by the head of the contracting agency, and you must get approval of the exemption from the city council, board of aldermen, board of selectmen or town council.

CERTIFICATION BY HEAD OF CONTRACTING AGENCY

INFORMATION ABOUT HEAD OF CONTRACTING AGENCY	
Name:	
Title/ Position	
Municipal Agency:	
Agency Address:	
Office Phone:	
CERTIFICATION	
	I have received a disclosure under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b) from a municipal employee who seeks to provide personal services to my municipal agency, identified above. I certify that no employee of my agency is available to perform the services described above as part of his or her regular duties.
Signature:	
Date:	

**APPROVAL BY CITY COUNCIL, BOARD OF ALDERMEN,
BOARD OF SELECTMEN OR TOWN COUNCIL**

INFORMATION ABOUT APPROVING BODY	
Name:	
Title/ Position	
Agency Address:	
Office Phone:	
APPROVAL	
	I have received a disclosure under G.L. c. 268A, § 20(b) from a municipal employee who seeks to provide personal services to a municipal agency, identified above. The exemption under § 20(b) is approved.
Signature:	On behalf of the Council or Board, I sign this approval.
Date:	

**Attach additional pages if necessary.
File disclosure, Certification and Approval with the city or town clerk.**



WATERTOWN
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

To: Honorable City Council
From: George J. Proakis, City Manager 
Date: May 19, 2026
RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Cultural Council

Pursuant to the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I am submitting a request for appointment to the Cultural Council, which requires Council confirmation. This appointment will be to fill the unexpired term of Nick Haddad.

- Simone Worsdale - Appointment as a member of the Cultural Council to a term expiring May 15, 2027

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: May 19, 2026
RE: Request for Confirmation – Appointment to the Stormwater Committee

Pursuant to the Watertown Home Rule Charter and Town Council Ordinance 2007-46, I am submitting a request for appointment to the Stormwater Committee, which requires Council confirmation. This appointment will be to fill the unexpired term of Lilia Moscalu.

- Christopher Coner - Appointment as a member of the Stormwater Committee to a term expiring July 15, 2027

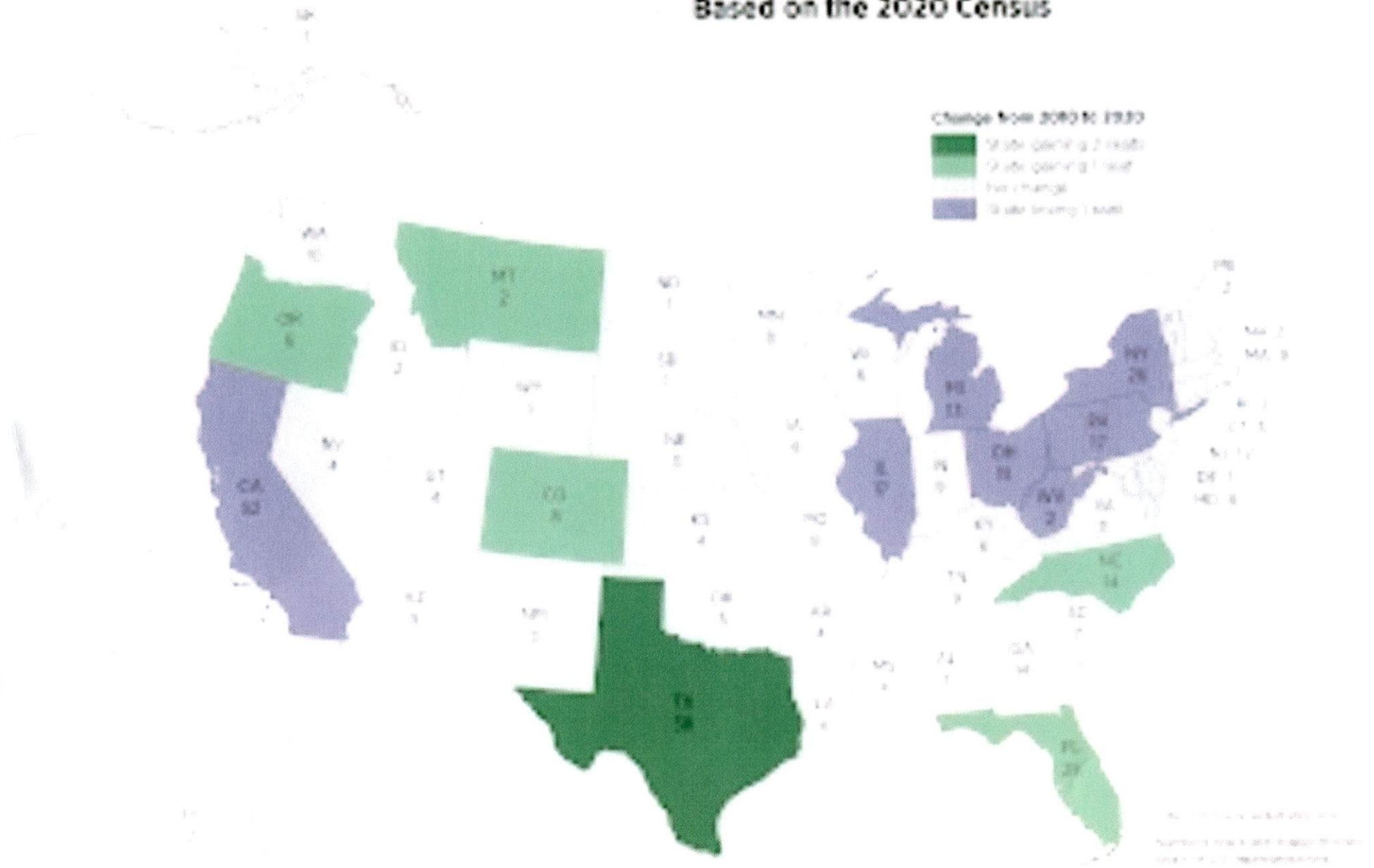
Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in this matter.

**CITY COUNCIL ROLL CALL VOTE
MEETING DATE: MAY 26, 2026**

	YES	NO	PRESENT
CAROLINE BAYS	<u> X(Remote) </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LISA J. FELTNER	<u> X </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
JOHN G. GANNON	<u> </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

Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census



Mr President, City Counselors, I've presented you with a petition from part of the Watertown Sq neighborhood. 2 blocks north of the proposed Watertown Square garage. The petition reads as follows:

We the people, the undersigned residents of the Watertown Square neighborhood, oppose the proposed replacement of the open space parking lot with trees, behind CVS, with a parking garage. We urge the City to preserve this space and increase the number of trees within the existing parking lot to improve air quality and neighborhood livability.

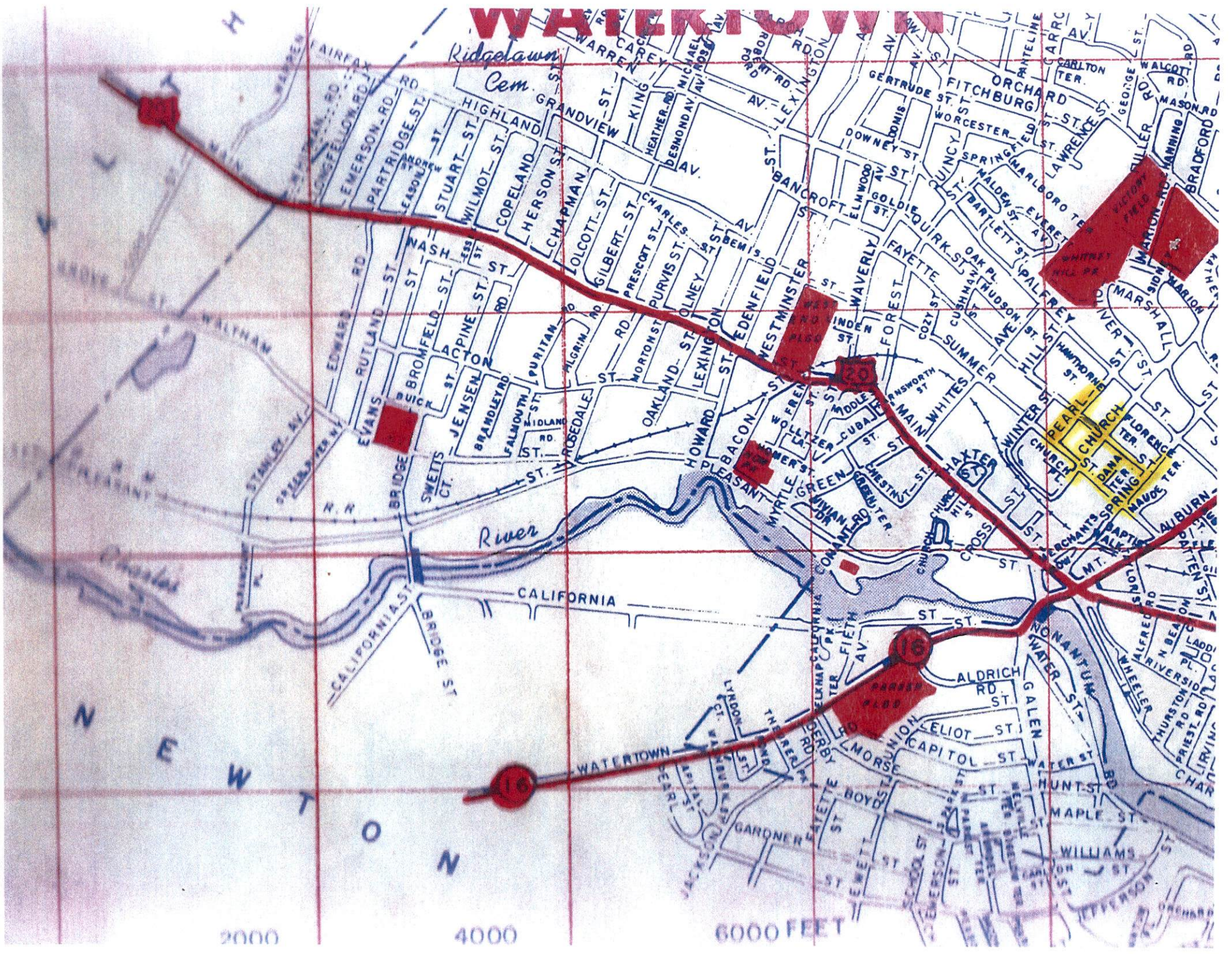
If you vote for this garage you will commit hypocrisy. After constantly committing to getting people out of their cars walking, riding bikes and taking public transportation, this is in direct conflict.

You have a fiduciary responsibility to the neighborhood, you do not have a fiduciary responsibility to the developers.

In a 2 block radius, 51 people, an overwhelming majority of people signed. Some people were not home, some did not come to the door. For those that came to the door, 10 wanted more info. Only one felt we needed more parking, but all of the people that signed thanked me for doing this and many were not aware of how large the Watertown Square plan is, including the garage.

Russ Arico

WATERTOWN



2000

4000

6000 FEET