



Watertown City Council

Committee on Economic Development and Planning Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:30 PM
City Council Office - Second Floor

Agenda

ACCESS INFORMATION:

- A. The Public may join the virtual meeting online: <https://watertown-ma.zoom.us/j/89229501785?pwd=cyXD7WK2x2WaAsgMmbplVsfU1zc5en.1>
- B. Public may join the virtual meeting audio only by phone: (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499 (Toll Free) and enter Webinar ID: 829 2950 1785
- C. Public may comment through email: vpiccirilli@watertown-ma.gov
- D. Please Visit the Committee on Economic Development & Planning Webpage here: https://watertownma.portal.civicclerk.com/?category_id=78

-
- 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Conduct Confirmation Interviews
 - A. Reappoint Elizabeth Hayes as a member of the Historic District Commission to a term expiring November 15, 2026
 - B. Appoint Jason Wilson as a member of the Public Arts and Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2024
 - C. Reappoint Roberta Miller as a member of the Public Arts and Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2026
 - D. Reappoint Erin Webb as a member of the Public Arts and Culture Committee to a term expiring November 15, 2026
 - 3. Discuss Proposed Amendment to Planning Board Alternates Ordinance
 - A. Proposed Amendment to add an associate member to the Planning Board
 - 4. Adjournment

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Lisa J. Feltner,
Chair

John G. Gannon,
Vice Chair

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,
Secretary

CITY LETTERHEAD

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADD AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER TO THE PLANNING BOARD
AND TO REVISE THE CITY CODE TO REFLECT CURRENT LAW AND PRACTICE.**

ORDINANCE #

2024 – O –

WHEREAS, the provisions of the City of Watertown Code of Ordinances relative to the Planning Board reflect a Town bylaw enacted on June 6, 1913, and so predates the City’s transition to a city form of government; and

WHEREAS, laws and regulations applicable to the Planning Board have changed significantly since the Planning Board bylaw was passed; and

WHEREAS, Title III, Chapter 31, §31.64 of the City Code currently provides for the election of the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, §9-6(a)(iv) of the Watertown Home Rule Charter specifies that the Planning Board shall be appointed by the City Manager, subject to approval of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to update the Planning Board section of the Code of Ordinances to reflect current law and practice; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to add an associate member to the Planning Board pursuant to the provisions of the Zoning Act, G.L. c. 40A, §9; and

WHEREAS, Title III, Chapter 31, §31.66 of the Code of Ordinances concerning the Board of Appeals is improperly titled “Planning Board”.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that Title III, Chapter 31, §§31.64 and 31.66 of the Watertown Code of Ordinances, Planning Board, are hereby amended, by deleting said §§31.64 and 31.66 in their entirety and replacing those sections with the language as follows:

§ 31.64 Planning Board.

- (A) The Planning Board of the City of Watertown shall consist of five (5) members and one (1) associate member to be appointed by the City Manager, subject to the approval of the City Council.
- (B) Members and the associate member shall be appointed to three (3) year terms beginning on February 15th of the year of appointment. Members’ terms shall be arranged so that the term of at least one member expires each year.

- (C) The Planning Board shall be empowered to carry out all duties entrusted to it by law and regulation, including, but not limited to, development of a comprehensive plan and administration of the Subdivision Control Law pursuant to G.L. c. 41 as well as actions pursuant to the Zoning Act, G.L. c. 40A. The Planning Board shall also have the powers granted to it by the Home Rule Charter and Code of Ordinances.
- (D) Upon the adoption of any regulation by the Planning Board, the Planning Board shall forthwith notify the Council President and City Manager.
- (E) The associate member shall be entitled to participate in all Planning Board meetings and discussions, but shall have no vote unless the Planning Board chair shall designate the associate member to sit as a member for the sole purpose of acting on a special permit application upon the absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest of any member of the Planning Board or upon a vacancy on the Planning Board.
- (F) No member or associate member of the Planning Board shall represent before such board any party of interest in any matter pending before it.

§ 31.66 Board of Appeals.

[On 3-29-1937, the Town voted to amend the Zoning Bylaw to provide for appeals of Building Inspector decisions. In conjunction with that amendment, the Town voted to authorize the Selectmen to appoint a Board of Appeals of three members and two associate members, with staggered terms of three years.]

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 ____ for and ____ against on _____, 2024.

Mark S. Sideris, Council President

Brendan McCarthy, Council Clerk