



**TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026
REGULAR MEETING – 7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

**WATERTOWN TOWN HALL
TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
61 ECHO LAKE RD.
WATERTOWN, CT 06795**

1. Call Meeting to Order.
Chairman Jonathan Ramsay called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
Chairman Jonathan Ramsay led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Roll Call.
PRESENT: Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Michele McHugh, Vice Chair
Dan Cocchiola
Ken Demirs
Robert Desena
Carina Noyd
Robert Retallick
Mary Ann Rosa
Rachael Ryan

ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Maria Guerrero, Finance Director

4. Public Participation.

The Town Council invites the public to speak under public participation. Please complete and provide a *Watertown Town Council Public Participation* Form if you wish to speak at the meeting. Copies are available on the Town's website or at the meeting. There is a time limit of three minutes per speaker.

Richard Rozanski spoke about executive session on the agenda regarding settling of property assessments and asked for the Town Attorney to quantify the costs of fighting the lawsuits vs. tax revenue loss for the companies.

Frankie Popilowski spoke about an apology to be made from a previous meeting.

Katherine Camara handed to Maria Guerrero 406 complaints to give to Mark Raimo. Town Manager due to his absence at the meeting. Ms. Camara spoke about time records of an employee and questioned the costs for speed cameras.

5. Minutes.

- a. January 20, 2025 – Regular Meeting - tabled

6. Chairman's Report – none.

- a. Correspondence

7. Staff Reports.

- a. Finance Director

Maria Guerrero reported:

- 1. We completed and submitted all required W-2's, 1099's and 1095's forms on time.
- 2. Sinnamon & Associates have filed an audit extension with OPM through February 2026 as we will anticipate completing within this month.
- 3. Budgets are being reviewed and prepared for the department presentation beginning on February 11. This same format will be used as last year, each council member will receive a binder organized by department.

8. Subcommittees.

Michele McHugh reported the Water and Sewer Bipartisan Committee has agreed to interview three additional people Mary Ann Rosa, Rachael Ryan and Robert Scannell. That meeting will be Tuesday, February 17th at 5:30 and we are hoping to have a report out on or by March 30th.

Dan Cocchiola added it has really come to our attention that the community members we added to the committee Jeffrey Cheney and Adam Simonsen, they are extraordinary assets to our work and I don't think we could be moving forward in the direction we are if we didn't have them. Thank you to the council for allowing us to add those community members because it is going to help us thrive high quality work.

9. New Business.
- a. Consider setting the date, time, and location for a Special Town Meeting to authorize an appropriation of \$1,772,148.20 from the General Fund for the Communications Upgrade Project, to be allocated to account 262.50320.511.0000.9062, utilizing funds received through the Jahana Hayes Communications Upgrade Grant.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Desena: I move to schedule a Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. to authorize an appropriation of \$1,772,148.20 from the General Fund for the Communications Upgrade Project, to be allocated to account 262.50320.511.0000.9062, utilizing funds received through the Jahana Hayes Communications Upgrade Grant.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consider a resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Request is to cover expenses incurred from significant weather-related response efforts.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, expenses in the 2025-2026 fiscal year require the transfer of funds:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by vote of the Watertown Town Council, that the following actions are taken relative to the transfer of funds:

GENERAL FUND

AMOUNT: \$100,000 NO: 1
FROM: 010.50530.032.0000.9010, Drainage Fees and Supplies
TO: 010.50130.032.0000.9010, \$50,000 - Overtime
TO: 010.50310.032.3224.9010, \$50,000 – Winter Supplies and Support
REASON: Costs associated with large winter weather events.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 2nd day of February, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair

Watertown Town Council

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the transfer of funds between line items for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Request is to cover expenses incurred from significant weather-related response efforts.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

- c. Consider a resolution authorizing the payment of tax refunds.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for property tax refunds in accordance with C.G.S. Sections *Refunds of Excess Payment*:

WHEREAS, per State Statute, the Tax Collector shall, after examination of such application, refer the same, with recommendations thereon, to the Town Council, and shall certify to the amount of refund, if any, to which the applicant is entitled.

WHEREAS, Upon receipt of such application and certification, the Town Council shall draw an order upon the Finance Department in favor of such applicant for the amount of refund so certified.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council authorizes a request that the Finance Department shall issue the payments for the certified refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 2nd day of February, 2026

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Attached

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the payment of tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Executive Session: In executive session at 7:10 p.m.
 - a. Pending Litigation – Siemon Realty Company Tax Appeal (Property Located at 51 Depot Street, Suite 521)

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing Pending Litigation in the case of Siemon Realty Tax Appeal, for property located at 51 Depot St, Suite 521. In attendance will be the Town Council present, and Town Attorney Paul Jessell.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Out of executive session at 7:27 p.m.

11. New Business Continued:

- a. Consider settlement of Siemon Realty Company Tax Appeal v. Town of Watertown Tax Appeal. (Property Located at 51 Depot Street, Suite 521)

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to postpone the settlement of a tax appeal in the matter of Siemon Realty Company v. Town of Watertown to be paid as a refund. This appeal was for property located at 51 Depot Street, Suite 521.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion: Rachael Ryan seconded by Carina Noyd: I make a motion to add to agenda under item b consideration of removing the current Town Attorney and replacing him with a new attorney.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked can you explain why?

Rachael Ryan answered I have 2 main reasons, due to his failure to document the risk over 8 years of litigation with Waterbury which has come out of the Water and Sewer Bipartisan Committee. I was at the meeting tonight there was discussion of that and it does not seem like he engaged in the best practices for an attorney and also for not providing sound legal advice and guidance to the town concerning the disagreement over water rates with Waterbury.

Dan Cocchiola stated I have been talking at the Water & Sewer Committee and I brought up the idea that elected officials change, board members change, administration retires but what guides a town government has to be a record and unfortunately in this water and sewer issue we didn't have a record and that created for us difficulty in identifying where the problem lies and that is a concern.

Vice Chair Michele McHugh stated I think that there were several attorneys involved not just the Town Attorney...

Mary Ann Rosa commented that we cannot discuss the item until it has been added to the agenda and it hasn't been added, we should only be talking to add to the agenda.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay stated just for the record it would have to be a 2/3rd's vote to add to the agenda.

Aye: 3 Cocchiola, Noyd, Ryan

Nay: 6 Ramsay, McHugh, Demirs, Desena, Retallick, Rosa

Abstain: 0

Motion failed

12. Adjournment.

Motion: Michele McHugh seconded by Robert Retallick: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk



**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Date of Meeting: 2/2/2026

(Please complete this form and submit it to the clerk of the Town Council if you wish to speak at this meeting)

Please Note: Three Minute Time Limit

1. I agree to a three-minute time limit;
2. I agree not to raise my voice;
3. I agree not to use lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous or libelous language or speak or act in a manner that would tend to incite a breach of the peace;
4. I agree not to speak about Town personnel matters. Personnel matters include comments about the job performance of named Town employees, other than elected officials;
5. After three minutes I agree to leave the microphone and yield the floor;
6. I agree that if I cause a disruption and am asked to leave, I will leave the Chambers.

Name: RICHARD BOZANSKI
(please print)

Address: 35 REYNOLDS ST
WATERTOWN, CT

Signature: *Richard Bozanski*

Written materials may be submitted to the Clerk of the Town Council. Personnel matters should be directed to the relevant Department Head and/or Supervisor or in the case of a Department Head to the Town Manager except for the Town Manager which should be directed to the Chair of the Town Council.



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Name: Frank A Popilowski
(please print)

Address: Orskville, CT

Signature: Frank A Popilowski

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Name: Katherine Camara
(please print)

Address: 31 Cottage Place
Oakville, CT 06779

Signature: 

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This form violates my First Amendment Rights

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 02, 2026

LINE ITEM 9C

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	TAX	INT	FEE	REFUND
2024-03-0053225	CAYABYAB RAYMOND E	27 PLENN CT	OAKVILLE, CT 0677	2006/JTDBR32E360084820	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	53.98	0	0	53.98
2024-03-0053242	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	1601 ELM ST STE 800	DALLAS, TX 75201	2023/1C4JXN67PW685581	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	321.4	0	0	321.4
2024-03-0053260	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	1601 ELM ST STE 800	DALLAS, TX 75201	2022/1C4RIHAGXN8611192	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	165.67	0	0	165.67
2024-03-0053268	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	1601 ELM ST STE 800	DALLAS, TX 75201	2023/1C4RIK8G8P8737324	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	222.6	0	0	222.6
2024-03-0053321	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	1601 ELM ST STE 800	DALLAS, TX 75201	2022/1C4SDJCT3NC202586	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	281.39	0	0	281.39
2024-03-0063760	COMFORT ZONE HEATING	PO BOX 605	WATERTOWN, CT 0	2009/1GNFR03039R274440	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	86.22	0	0	86.22
2024-01-0003218	COTALITY	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75011	589 HAMILTON AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments -	3,062.73	0	0	3,062.73
2024-04-0084401	DELORENZO MARK J	56 CHEROKEE RD	WATERTOWN, CT 0	2015/2G1WC5E30F1148785	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments -	23.97	0	0	23.97
2024-01-0002109	DELORENZO MARK J & LISA A	56 CHEROKEE DR	WATERTOWN, CT 0	56 CHEROKEE RD	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments -	2,317.29	0	0	2,317.29
2024-04-0082119	JOHNSON ROBIN A	PO BOX 1142	WOODBURY, CT 06	2017/5N1DR2M9HC638351	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments -	231.76	0	0	231.76
2024-01-0005024	MANCINI EMIL	152 CLAXTON AVE	WATERTOWN, CT 0	152 CLAXTON AVE	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments.	10.00	0	0	10.00
TOTAL						6,777.01	0.00	0.00	6,777.01