



TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT

MONDAY, JULY 20, 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, Chair
Mary Ann Rosa, Vice Chair
Ken Demirs
Robert Desena
Carina Noyd
Robert Retallick
Rachael Ryan (phone)

ABSENT: Dan Cocchiola

OTHERS PRESENT: Mark Raimo, Town Manager
Maria Guerrero, Finance Director

4. Consider the appointment of a member of the Watertown Town Council.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I make a motion to postpone action on the appointment of a member of the Town Council to the next meeting.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

5. 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. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.

Tom Claire, 2 Townline Highway read the attached.

Al Mickel, 95 Woodvine Avenue asked for more information on the Gazebo Maintenance Fund and who owns it?

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place spoke in regards to the SEEC complaint that was dismissed. Ms. Camara spoke about the change with a fence around the detention pond for the Ashford Woods subdivision. Ms. Camara talked about proposals for the Town Attorney.

Frankie Popilowski, Oakville spoke in regards to the grant to be used for the Munson House and the Town Council vote for a member, suggesting appointing the best person for the job.

6. Minutes.

a. Regular Meeting – June 15, 2026

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Ken Demirs: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated June 15, 2026 as presented.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

7. Chairman's Report

a. Correspondence

1. Resignation letter from Ken Demirs as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission effective July 1, 2026.
2. Resignation letter from Jeff Desmarais as a member of the School Capital Projects Committee effective July 10, 2026.

Vice Chair Mary Ann Rosa stated I can give some information about the Gazebo Committee that might be helpful. There are three people on the committee, Jerry Pia, Joe Masi and myself. We met at least 4 times in the last two or three months. The big issue has been, we hope to turn the money over to the town and have the town oversee the Gazebo Committee. That is contingent upon getting the money out of Webster Bank and putting it into Thomaston Bank where the town's money is, but Webster Bank has made it very difficult to do that. They told us we needed a death certificate from someone that used to be on the committee that died years ago. They gave us all kinds of excuses. Joe and Jerry Pia met with them again and I think most of those issues have been resolved and now we are waiting to draw a document between our committee and the town. That would do whatever has to be done legally because the committee was formed separately with separate funds. We have been working on it behind the scenes. We have organized all the minutes and we have all the paperwork that was brought to the Town Manager's office by the previous individuals. Hopefully once that is all in order, anything that has to be done because Mr. Masi is very concerned about some of the conditions. Once that is done, everything will be taken care of. Other than that, there is not anything to report.

8. Staff Reports

a. Town Manager

Mark Raimo reported:

1. In your packet, there was a memo from myself regarding the town having received three proposals in response to the request for our legal counsel, Zabel Schellenburg, Pilicy & Ryan, and Carmody, Torrance, Sanak & Hennesey. Over the next month, we will do the background investigations for each firm. I will present you with a report ensuring that they all are meeting the qualifications based on what is in our Town Charter. Then it will be up to the Council to make the decision on how to move forward with that choice.
2. The City of Waterbury has notified the town that it would like to begin discussions regarding contractual arrangements governing water & sewer services, including the rates billing methodology and the terms applicable to the Town of Watertown. I know as we continue to evaluate everything surrounding the Water and Sewer Authority. I am going to authorize Dan Canavan from Harris, Beach and Murtha to start making contact with Waterbury and making contact with the Watertown Fire District to initiate discussions so we can try to negotiate and on how we need to move forward. I think that it is very import knowing the we are going and transitioning from attorneys that we have outside counsel who has already done work for us on this matter. Tomorrow I will be contacting Attorney Canavan and authorizing him to do that. We will pay that out of our legal financial line item until we get to the point where if we need more money I will come back to the Council advise it where we are at.

3. We have scheduled our Citizens Academy time line for a September start. We are going to do Tuesday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. As a reminder, it is an eight-week class. Citizens are welcome to meet and they come in and meet department heads, ask questions on how the town runs and why do we run this way. A lot of topics on what is said in public participation, there is anticipation that government moves quickly. Using the example of the Munson House, there is so many things that happen that prevent the town from moving forward. The money has not been secured yet. It's on hold with the State of Ct, but we do have to go through the bidding process, understanding we have lead in the paint, things that were not anticipated. These are the things that we will talk about throughout our eight-week session. It gives citizens an opportunity to come in, ask the real questions from the people who are making the decisions and hopefully we could reconcile some of the misconceptions that are out there on the town.
4. Jerry Lukowski is out today and he wanted to relay to us that on July 4th, the storm that we had, we did have a failure in corrugated pipe on Hillside Avenue. It was an emergency, the road collapsed and we made the emergency repair. We had the money in the budget; we paid for it. Dayton Construction was called in and they had that wrapped up within 48 hours and they did a great job for us.

b. Finance Director

Maria Guerrero reported:

1. We are currently focused closing our Fiscal Year 25/26 while beginning the accounting processes and reporting for the new Fiscal Year. Our goal is to have the majority of the 25/26 budget adjustments prepared for Council review on the meeting, for the 17th.
2. I am pleased to report that our new Assistant Finance Director started last Monday, July 13th. We appreciate Megan Giuliano's continued support as approved by the Council to assist with the transition training and knowledge transfer during this important period and I want to thank you for your support as we work through this busy time in the Finance Department.
3. I wanted to recognize the Tax and Assessor's office. The Tax and Assessor's office collected \$79,309,403 in revenue this fiscal year exceeding the budget by \$1,000,355. This achievement reflects the combined efforts of both the Tax and Assessor's offices in maintaining accurate records, ensuring fair assessments, and providing effective tax collection services. A key contributor to this positive result was a business audit conducted by the Assessor's office which found that a business had reported information incorrectly resulting in additional taxes being owed. Additional tax bills were issued and the taxpayer paid in full to avoid additional interest charges. After supporting documentation was reviewed,

duplicated declarations were identified, resulting in an overpayment refund of \$202 thousand and 57 dollars. Even after the refund, the audit generated approximately \$400,000 in additional revenue for the town, reinforcing the value of diligent audits and accurate business reporting. These results reflect the dedication and team work of both the Tax and the Assessor's offices in protecting the town's financial interests in ensuring fair and equitable tax administration. I would like to take the opportunity to recognize the assessor, Faith Richmond for her diligence, persistence, and attention to detail throughout the audit process which contributed significantly to the successful outcome. I wanted to thank the both the tax and assessor teams for their professionalism, collaboration, and continued commitment to serving the Town of Watertown and its taxpayers.

9. Subcommittee. – none.
10. New Business.
 - a. Consider appointments to boards and commissions.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to appoint Ken Demirs, 312 Oak Drive as an alternate member of the Police Commission, to fill the remaining term of John Gavallas for a term to expire January 31, 2029.

Discussion: none.

Aye: 6 Ramsay, Rosa, Desena, Noyd, Retallick, Ryan

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 Demirs

Motion passes.

- b. Discuss and consider action on approving the agreement between the Watertown Police Union Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 038 and the Town of Watertown, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028.

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the agreement between the Watertown Police Union Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 038 and the Town of Watertown, July 1, 2025-June 30, 2028.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously.

- c. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund for 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 20th day of July, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation of \$206,468.48 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay asked I wanted to confirm that it is \$206,468.48, is that correct.

Maria Guerrero answered yes, it is correct. However, in the budget, we have \$100,000 budgeted, thank you

Motion passed unanimously

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have made applications for Tax Refunds pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Refunds of Excess Payment: and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector certified the refunds in accordance with the provisions of Refund Statutes; and

WHEREAS, to refund taxpayers monies must be appropriated into budget line item to expend the funds.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council appropriates \$106,468.48 to line item 010.50341.043.0102.9010 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 20th day of July, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Mary Ann Rosa seconded by Robert Retallick: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the payment of the tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Carina Noyd asked I had a question for the Town Manager's report. In retaining the Harris, Beach and Murtha to move forward with more work. We tabled with a similar motion last month.

Chairman Jonathan Ramsay added that was dealing with the litigation versus negotiating the contract.

11. Adjournment

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Mary Ann Rosa: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fee	Refund
2024-03-0050683	ARI FLEET LT LTD	4001 LEADENHALL RD	MOUNT LAUREL, NJ	2023/7SAVGDDEF9P77	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	416.54	-	-	416.54
2024-03-0050686	ARI FLEET LT LTD	4001 LEADENHALL RD	MOUNT LAUREL, NJ	2018/1FMCU9GD00UE	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	255.04	-	-	255.04
2024-03-0050689	ARI FLEET LT LTD	4001 LEADENHALL RD	MOUNT LAUREL, NJ	2018/5NPD84LF9IH3	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	232.21	-	-	232.21
2022-02-0040247	CLICK BOND INC	2151 LOCKHEED WAY	CARSON CITY, NV 89	18 PARK ROAD	12-117a Appeals - Court Stipulation or 12-53 Audits	50,577.45	25,794.60	-	76,371.95
2023-02-0040241	CLICK BOND INC	2151 LOCKHEED WAY	CARSON CITY, NV 89	18 PARK ROAD	12-117a Appeals - Court Stipulation or 12-53 Audits	51,387.43	16,957.85	-	68,345.28
2024-02-0040242	CLICK BOND INC	2151 LOCKHEED WAY	CARSON CITY, NV 89	18 PARK ROAD	12-117a Appeals - Court Stipulation or 12-53 Audits	54,202.98	3,137.62	-	57,340.60
2024-01-0006245	COTALITY	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	120 ADAMS RD	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Overpmts	525.00	-	-	525.00
2024-01-0008348	COTALITY	PO BOX 9202	COPPELL, TX 75019	251 WILLIAMSON CIR	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Duplicate & Overpmts	43.95	-	-	43.95
2024-03-0056235	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA	HARTFORD, CT 061	2024/1N4BL4DVXRN3	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	418.13	-	-	418.13
2024-03-0056279	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA	HARTFORD, CT 061	2023/5NNMS34A11PH5	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	599.15	-	-	599.15
2024-03-0056280	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA	HARTFORD, CT 061	2023/3N1AB8CVQPY2	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	157.83	-	-	157.83
2024-03-0056308	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA	HARTFORD, CT 061	2024/3N1AB8CV8RY3	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	101.98	-	-	101.98
2024-03-0056345	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA	HARTFORD, CT 061	2024/6YFB4MDE6RP7	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	241.67	-	-	241.67
2024-04-0081617	EAN HOLDINGS LLC	14002 E 21ST ST STE 16	TULSA, OK 74134-14	2024/JA4ARUAU6RU0	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	174.54	-	-	174.54
2024-03-0056857	FEDERAL EXPRESS COR	4001 LEADENHALL RD	MOUNT LAUREL, NJ	2014/WD3PE8DE9E56	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	87.33	-	-	87.33
2024-03-0056858	FEDERAL EXPRESS COR	4001 LEADENHALL RD	MOUNT LAUREL, NJ	2014/WD3PE8DE4E56	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	349.37	-	-	349.37
2023-03-0060749	KHAZZAKA ADIB J	80 MOUNT FAIR DR	WATERTOWN, CT 06	2009/JN8A218W19W1	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess payments - DUPLICATE PAYM	84.66	7.50	-	92.16
2024-03-0063570	MEDINA MICHAEL A	46 EASTWOOD HALL RD	WATERTOWN, CT 06	2017/3VW2B7A8HMS	Sec. 12-129 Refund of Excess Payments - ACCOUNT PRORA	35.34	-	-	35.34
2024-03-0068919	TOYOTA LEASE TRUST	525 FELLOWSHIP RD STE	MT LAUREL, NJ 0805	2020/JTISARDZ4L223	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	665.39	-	-	665.39
2024-03-0070495	VARRONE PASQUALE	51 HICKORY LN	WATERTOWN, CT 06	1969/1946795718814	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts - Acct prorated	15.02	-	-	15.02
TOTAL						160,571.01	45,897.47	-	206,468.48

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: July 20, 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:

Thomas A. CLARE

(please print)

Address:

2 Penn Lane Hwy

Watertown

Signature:

Thomas A. Clare

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.

Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024

Thomas R. Claire
2 Town Line Hwy.
Watertown, CT 06795
203 491-7254 • thomasrclaire@gmail.com

July 20, 2026

Note of Appreciation Regarding Watertown's
Recent 250th Fourth of July Celebration

Watertown Town Council
61 Echo Lake Rd.
Watertown, CT 06795-2629

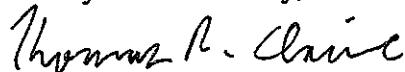
Good evening, everyone—Council members, Town Manager Mark Raimo, ladies and gentlemen, fellow citizens. I trust you are well and thank you for allowing me a moment of your time.

The last time I addressed you here, in these chambers, was to give public notice of and ask whether there may have been any students in Watertown's schools who would like to have joined in the town's celebration of the nation's semiquincentennial by jointly reciting the Declaration of Independence. I would like to take a moment to let you all know that the celebration was a success and the recitation went well.

I first would like to acknowledge the work, dedication, insight, and stick-to-it-iveness of everyone on the committee behind the celebration, from the Watertown Library, Watertown History Museum, the Lions Club, Holy Disciples, and private individuals but most especially to Watertown's Department of Parks and Recreation and its leaders Michael Ganem and Giuliana Guerrera. Well done! And thank you to Joe Romano and his crew at Sunset Grille—nice job there, as well. And to the many local businesses who donated time, money, and baked goods—no pie-eating contest would ever prove successful without plenty of pie to go all around—especially all around little people's faces! And finally—and returning to the recitation of the Declaration of Independence—a sound round of applause for the three Watertown high schoolers who made the recitation a success, Anna Perugini, Emma Iasevoli, and Caitlyn Gabel, who I believe are or were in Watertown High School history teacher's Bryan Wosczyzna's class. Thank you, Anna, Emma, and Caitlyn. Well done as well!

My hope is that going forward, Anna, Emma, and Caitlyn and their families along with the other reciters—Lisa Lockton, Justin Golden, Devin, and audience participants who joined in for the final paragraph—and their families will cherish warm memories of the day's events. It is certainly a memory I will carry with me, quite likely for as long as I live.

Thank you and sincerely,



Thomas R. Claire

**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Date of Meeting: TODAY

(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:

AL MICKEL
(please print)

Address:

Signature:

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.

Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024

**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM**

Date of Meeting: _____

7/20/24

(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;
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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: _____

Katherine Camar

(please print)

Address: _____

31 Cottage P

Oakville

Signature: _____

[Handwritten Signature]

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Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024



WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 7/22/26

(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;
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6. I agree that if I cause a disruption and am asked to leave, I will leave the Chambers.

Name:

Frankie Popilowski
(please print)

Address:

Orleans, MA

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

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