TOWN COUNCIL
WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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
	Dan Cocchiola
	Tom DeMatteis
	Ken Demirs
	Robert Desena
	Carina Noyd
	Rachael Ryan
ABSENT:	Mary Ann Rosa, Robert Retallick

OTHERS PRESENT: Maria Guerrera, Finance Director

4. Public Participation.

The Town Council invites the public to speak during Public Participation. Please complete and submit a *Watertown Town Council Public Participation* form if you wish to speak at the meeting. Copies are available on the Town's website and at the meeting. Speakers are limited to three minutes each.

Al Mickel spoke in regards to quarterly reports for the budget and asked if it could be online.

Bill Donston spoke in regards to the transfers line item for the budget at Crestbrook Enterprise Funds Golf Course being reversed.

Barbara Zulkeski
Attached

Katherine Camara spoke about a stipend falling in line with a charter and had questions on the demand letter to Waterbury

5. Minutes.

    a. October 5, 2026 – Regular Meeting – tabled until next meeting.

6. Chairman's Report.
    a. Correspondence.
        1. Letter from Atty. Paul Jessell, re Resignation as Town Attorney, dated October 6, 2026.
        2. Letter of Appreciation from Atlantis Management Group, LLC, dated October 14, 2026

7. Staff Reports.
    a. Finance Director
    Maria Guerrera reported:
        1. Update on bond sales, last Tuesday on October 13th the town issued two series of bonds. Series A bonds totaled 30 million 600 thousand and they were issued to permanently finance the sewer judgement. Series B bonds totaled $10 million to permanently finance road improvements. The Series A bonds received eight bids with the winning bid of 4.51 from FHN Financial Capital Markets and the Series B bonds also received eight bids with a winning bid of 4.4 % from Stone X Financial. Both sales were very competitive and were lower than many recent bond sales in Connecticut. One example was a 69 million bond issued by the Metropolitan District Commission, which sold at 4.54% and is rated double A by S & P just like us here in Watertown. The bonds are scheduled to be settled, on October 28th and the town's bond rating was affirmed at double A by Standard and Poor's, which is only two notches from the highest possible rating, which is a triple A. The town will be able to pay off and or refinance the Series A bonds, which is 30 million 600 thousand in 5 years and the Series B bonds in 7 years.

8. Subcommittees. – An Ordinance Sub-committee meeting tomorrow night at 5:30 in the Town Council Chambers.

9. New Business.
   a. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of $4,954.60 to be placed into the Police Overtime line item 010.50130.020.0000.9010. Funds received from the Connecticut Department of Transportation for DUI enforcement activities.

      Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Desena: I move to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2026/2027 in the amount of $4,954.60 to be placed into the Police Overtime line item 010.50130.020.0000.9010. Funds received from the Connecticut Department of Transportation for DUI enforcement activities.

      Discussion: none.

      Motion passed unanimously

   b. 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 19th day of October, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Rachael Ryan: I move to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

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

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, taxpayers have applied for Tax Refunds pursuant to Connecticut General Statues, Refunds of Excess Payment: and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector certified the refunds in accordance with the of Refund Statues; 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 $3,578.65 to line item 010.50341.043.0102.9010 from the General Fund for tax refunds.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 5th day of October, 2026.

Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Rachael Ryan: I move to approve the resolution authorizing the payment of tax refunds.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

d. Executive Session. Time in executive session 7:14 p.m.

1. Pending Litigation - Tax Appeal – Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford v. Town of Watertown, property located at 669 Platt Rd., Watertown.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Robert Desena: I move to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending Litigation – Tax Appeal – Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford v. the Town of Watertown, property located at 669 Platt Road, Watertown. In attendance will be Atty. Paul Jessell and the Town Council members present.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

Out of executive session 7:25 p.m.

e. Consider authorizing settlement of the tax appeal in the matter of Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford v. Town of Watertown for property located at 669 Platt Rd., Watertown.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded Robert Desena: I move to authorizing settlement of the tax appeal in the matter of Catholic Cemeteries Association of the Archdiocese of Hartford v. the Town of Watertown for property located at 669 Platt Rd., Watertown.

Discussion: none.

Motion passed unanimously

10. Adjournment.

Motion: Ken Demirs seconded by Rachael Ryan: to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

_____
Jonathan Ramsay, Chairman
Watertown Town Council

Approved: _____
Susan King, Clerk

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: ALAN MICHAEL
(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: October 19, 2026

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Name: Bill Donston
(please print)

Address: 105 Dunrobin Lane
Watertown, CT 06795

Signature: William A Donston

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Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024

WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

Date of Meeting: 10/19/24

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

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Name: Barbara Zukauskas
(please print)

Address: 11 Mallory Rd
06795

Signature:

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Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024

10/19/26

Tonight, I will continue my series of five questions concerning financial accountability, transparency, and the decisions affecting Watertown residents.

At the October 5 meeting, the Town Manager discussed a memorandum highlighting more than five years of accomplishments, including identifying a fraudulent $1,800 invoice.

I'm glad the invoice was caught. But reviewing expenditures and protecting taxpayer money are responsibilities of municipal management.

Should we be applauding the performance of routine responsibilities, or measuring the actual results delivered to taxpayers?

Meanwhile, Watertown faces millions in Waterbury-related debt, more than $75 million in post-employment benefit obligations, and pressure on its financial reserves.

And now the Town is pursuing approximately $8.5 million from the Fire District, which maintains it paid every single invoice it received.

If this dispute results in litigation, residents could face legal expenses on both sides.

Apparently, moving a financial obligation from one publicly funded organization to another is easier than explaining how we got here.

That brings me to tonight's five questions.

Question 1: What measurable standards does this Council use to evaluate the Town Manager's accomplishments, particularly concerning financial management, infrastructure, and long-term liabilities?

2: Regarding the fraudulent $1,800 invoice, what internal controls identified the problem, what corrective actions were taken, and how has the Town's fraud detection process improved? Beyond the Town Manager's personally funded training, which may also benefit his private investigative business, what measurable improvements have actually been implemented to protect taxpayer dollars?

3: The Town Manager discussed personally funding his Certified Fraud Examiner training. Public records also connect him to INTEGRA CHK LLC, a business associated with investigative services. Has the Council reviewed his outside professional activities for potential conflicts, and what safeguards protect Town personnel, Police Department resources, and confidential information from private use?

4: Before pursuing the Fire District for millions, has the Council evaluated the potential legal expenses, rate increases, infrastructure consequences, and financial impact on residents who may ultimately bear costs on both sides?

5: Who authorized the disputed payments to Waterbury, when did Town leadership recognize the accumulating financial exposure, and when will residents receive a complete public accounting of those decisions?

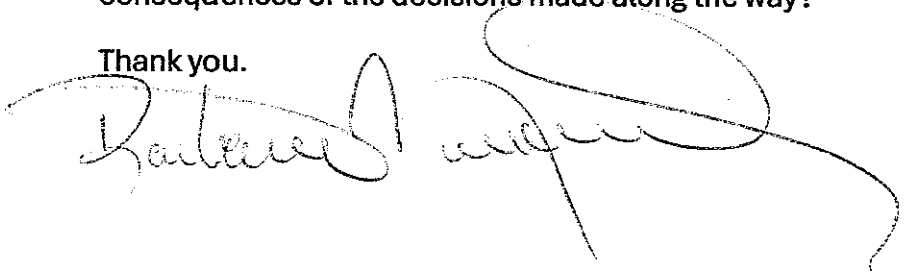
These are questions about public money and public responsibility, not personal accusations.

Residents should not have to search through years of financial records to understand how millions were spent or why they may be asked to pay more.

Finding a questionable $1,800 invoice is important. Explaining the decisions behind a multimillion-dollar financial obligation is essential.

And before we celebrate accomplishments, shouldn't we also examine the financial consequences of the decisions made along the way?

Thank you.



WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FORM

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

Name: __Katherine Camara _____
(please print)

Address: ___31 Cottage Place, Oakville, CT

Signature: _____

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Town Council Adopted: 12/16/2024

Town Council **Regular Meeting October 19, 2026 Line item 9b**

Bill	Name	Address	City/State/Zip	Prop Loc/Vehicle Info.	Reason	Tax	Int	Fee	Refund
2024-03-0061303	LAMOUREUX GARY J	427 RIVERSIDE ST	OAKVILLE, CT 0677	2019/3N1AB7AP5KY441623	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	243.32	-	-	243.32
2024-03-0064600	NGANGA DENIS M	173 FALLS TER	OAKVILLE, CT 0677	2012/5TDJK3DC6CS035244	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	201.57	33.26	5.00	239.83
2025-03-0052330	BROPHY ROBERT W	1405 KING OAK LOOP	CONWAY, SC 2952	2017/KMHGN4JE4HU167673	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	40.26	-	-	40.26
2025-03-0053257	CCAP AUTO LEASE LTD	1601 ELM ST STE 800	DALLAS, TX 75201-	2023/1C4JJXP69PW605131	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	537.15	-	-	537.15
2025-03-0054709	DANAHER BRIAN P	618 FRENCH ST	OAKVILLE, CT 0677	2023/1GCPDEEK3PZ293831	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	10.00	-	-	10.00
2025-03-0055330	DESENA LAWRENCE P	316 DAVIS ST	OAKVILLE, CT 0677	2011/1FTFW1EFXBKD15889	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	12.53	-	-	12.53
2025-03-0055842	DORIA VITO J JR	PO BOX 297	WATERTOWN, CT 0	2016/3CZRU6H74GM715574	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	37.66	-	-	37.66
2025-03-0059986	IRACE DONNA M	46 HILLTOP RD	OAKVILLE, CT 0677	2009/3FAHP07199R106575	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	85.13	-	-	85.13
2025-03-0064737	NISSAN INFINITI LT LLC	PO BOX 22059	NASHVILLE, TN 372	2023/5N1BT3AB3PC753673	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	40.29	-	-	40.29
2025-03-0067757	SALCEDO MICHAEL P	351 LOVLEY DR	WATERTOWN, CT 0	2024/5UX33EM03R9T18603	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	1,132.75	-	-	1,132.75
2025-03-0071001	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60	2023/WAUABCF58PA031775	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	556.49	-	-	556.49
2025-03-0071038	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60	2023/WA1BBAFY5P2080426	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	549.79	-	-	549.79
2025-03-0071041	VW CREDIT LEASING LTD	1401 FRANKLIN BLVD	LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60	2023/WA1GAAFY4P2118365	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	64.23	-	-	64.23
2025-03-0072074	ALL ACCESS RIGGING CO	2503 BRODHEAD RD	ALIQUIPPA, PA 150	2002/1GBP7D1C42J513294	12-129 Refund of Excess Pmts	47.22	-	-	47.22
TOTAL						3,558.39	33.26	5.00	3,596.65