

WATERTOWN, CONNECTICUT
WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

A Public Hearing was held by the Watertown Water and Sewer Authority on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

Chairman James Sugden called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 PM. He read the Notice of Public Hearing as written below.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO WATER AND SEWER RATES**

**Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
Watertown High School Auditorium
324 French Street, Watertown, Connecticut 06795**

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 7-239 and 7-255, the Watertown Water and Sewer Authority hereby gives notice of a Public Hearing to receive public comment concerning proposed amendments to water and sewer rates and charges.

Said Public Hearing will be held at 7:00PM on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at Watertown High School Auditorium.

The proposed amendments include:

1. revisions to standard quarterly fixed service charges and water and sewer quantity rates for customers served under Connecticut Public Water System No. CT1530021;
2. revisions to applicable quarterly fixed service charges and sewer quantity rates for customers served under Connecticut Public Water System No. CT1539031;
3. corresponding adjustments to special customer classifications, unless otherwise required by an applicable agreement or law;
4. consideration of the planned rate schedule for Fiscal Years 2028 through 2031;
5. an annual financial and operational review process; and
6. related amendments to the Authority's rate structure presented in the hearing materials.

The proposed initial water adjustment would increase standard water quarterly fixed service charges and the water quantity rate by 25.5 percent. The proposed initial sewer adjustment would increase standard sewer quarterly fixed service charges and the sewer quantity rate by 31 percent. The resulting proposed charges, together with the planned rates for Fiscal Years 2028 through 2031, are set forth in the attached Proposed Rate Schedule.

If adopted following the public hearing, the initial rates would take effect upon adoption and would apply only to usage occurring after the effective date. Because customers are billed quarterly in arrears, usage periods occurring before the effective date would remain subject to the existing rates. If adopted at the end of August 2026, the earliest affected bills are anticipated to be the bills for September through November 2026 usage.

At the public hearing, users of the waterworks system, owners of property served or to be served, owners of property against which sewer charges would be levied, and other interested persons will have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates and charges.

Copies of this notice, the proposed rate schedule, and supporting hearing materials will be available for public inspection at least ten days before the hearing at the Watertown Town Clerk's Office, 61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, Connecticut, and at the Water and Sewer Authority office, 747 French Street, Oakville,

Connecticut, during regular business hours. The materials will also be posted on the Town of Watertown website.

Written comments may be delivered or mailed before 2:00 p.m. on the date of the hearing to: Watertown Water and Sewer Authority, Attn: Chairman, 747 French Street, Oakville, Connecticut 06779, or submitted by email to wsa-info@watertownct.org. Written comments received before the hearing will be made part of the public hearing record.

BY ORDER OF THE WATERTOWN WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

James Sugden, Chairman
Water and Sewer Authority

Date of Notice: August 12, 2026

Mr. Sugden conducted a roll call. Members present were Chairman James Sugden, Joseph Masi, Adam Simonsen, Raymond Primini, Keith Franson, Thomas Claire, and Marisa Mancini-Cavallo. Also present were Town Manager Mark Raimo, Mike Maker of NewGen Strategies, and Conor Dukas of NewGen Strategies.

Chairman Sugden turned the Public Hearing over to the representative of NewGen Strategies.

Mike Maker of NewGen Strategies and Solutions presented an overview of the proposed water and sewer rate adjustments. He reviewed the Authority's operating expenses, significant increases in wholesale water and wastewater treatment costs, anticipated capital projects and debt obligations, and the need to maintain adequate reserves. Mr. Maker explained that the financial projections indicate proposed water rate increases of approximately 25.5% for the first three years, followed by 3% increases, and sewer rate increases of approximately 31% for the first three years, followed by inflationary increases. He noted that the projections are based on current financial assumptions and may change in future years.

Conor Dukas, Senior Consultant with NewGen Strategies and Solutions, reviewed the current and projected water and sewer rate structures, sample customer bills, and comparisons with rates in other Connecticut municipalities. He explained that the proposed increases would result in an estimated 29% combined quarterly bill increase for a median residential customer using approximately 10,000 gallons per quarter, or approximately \$61 per quarter. Mr. Dukas noted that while the proposed rates would move Watertown toward the upper-middle range compared with other municipalities, they would remain competitive. He concluded by recommending adoption of the proposed increases,

continued investment in capital improvements, and annual review of rates and financial projections to reflect changes in operating costs, wholesale charges, capital needs, and debt service.

Chairman James Sugden opened the public comment portion of the hearing and explained the procedures for participation. Speakers were asked to sign in with their name and address and were initially limited to three minutes, with a second round of up to two minutes to be provided after all speakers had an opportunity to comment. Chairman Sugden requested that comments remain relevant to the proposed water and sewer rates and that all participants conduct themselves respectfully.

Chairman Sugden also entered into the public hearing record a written letter received from Nancy Drum of Watertown, Connecticut.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place, questioned whether the municipal rate comparisons presented reflected current or future rates and was advised that the latest published rates were used. Ms. Camara expressed concerns regarding the proposed increases, including the costs associated with infrastructure improvements and repayment of judgment-related debt.

Richard Rozanski, 35 Reynolds St., questioned the allocation of proposed rate revenues among Waterbury wholesale costs, Authority operations, capital improvements, reserves, and judgment-related debt. NewGen representatives and Authority members provided additional clarification regarding the projected cost allocations.

Katherine Camara, 31 Cottage Place, questioned legal costs related to Waterbury's sewer rates and requested that customer bills separately identify amounts attributable to judgment-related debt.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Sugden closed the Public Hearing at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Franson, Secretary
Water and Sewer Authority

Approved by: _____