1. Call Meeting to Order.
   Mary Ann Rosa, Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call.

   PRESENT: Mary Ann Rosa, Chair
   Ken Demirs, Vice Chair
   Robert Desena
   Anthony DiBona (Remote)
   Gary Lafferty
   Carina Noyd
   Jonathan Ramsay
   Rachael Ryan
   Robert Retallick

   ABSENT: None

   OTHERS PRESENT: Mark A. Raimo, Town Manager
   Susan Zappone, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director

4. Recognitions – Older American’s Month in Watertown

   Mr. Raimo read the proclamation for Older American’s Month in Watertown

   Proclamation
   Older Americans Month 2024
Whereas, May is Older Americans Month, a time for us to recognize and honor Watertown older adults and their immense influence on every facet of American society; and
Whereas, through their wealth of life experience and wisdom, older adults guide our younger generations and carry forward abundant cultural and historical knowledge; and
Whereas, older Americans improve our communities through intergenerational relationships, community service, civic engagement, and many other activities; and
Whereas, communities benefit when people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds have the opportunity to participate and live independently; and
Whereas, Watertown must ensure that older Americans have the resources and support needed to stay involved in their communities — reflecting our commitment to inclusivity and connectedness; and

Now, therefore, the Watertown Town Council does hereby proclaim May 2024 as Older Americans Month. This year’s theme, “Powered by Connection,” emphasizes the profound impact of meaningful interactions and social connection on the well-being and health of older adults in our community.

We call upon all residents to join in recognizing the contributions of our older citizens and promoting programs and activities that foster connection, inclusion, and support for older adults.

Dated at Watertown, Connecticut this 6th day of May, 2024.

Mary Ann Rosa, Chair
Watertown Town Council

Proclamation was presented to Senior Center Director Laura Garay.

5. Minutes.
   a. April 15, 2024 – Regular Meeting

Motion: Mr. Demirs seconded by Mr. Retallick: I move to approve the Regular Meeting minutes dated April 15, 2024, as presented.

Ms. Noyd requested that the minutes be amended to reflect on page 10, Public Participation:

“Al Mickel … Mr. Mickel asked if there has been any discussion on how you came up with your vote tonight was there a caucus done by the Republican Party to stick with the $800,000… to which Ms. Rosa said yes. Further, Miss Noyd continued: and if the Financial Subcommittee should have been included, the minutes should reflect Ms. Rosa affirmatively answered.

Motion as amended passed unanimously.
b. April 15, 2024 – Special Town Meeting

Motion: Mr. Demirs seconded by Mr. Retallick: I move to approve the Special Town Meeting minutes dated April 15, 2024, as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. April 11, 2024 – Budget Public Hearing

Motion: Mr. Demirs seconded by Mr. Retallick: I move to approve the Budget Public Hearing Minutes dated April 11, 2024, as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Chairman’s Report

a. Correspondence.

Ms. Rosa acknowledged a letter from Dosch King concerning a bid issue he has which has been referred to the Town Attorney.

Ms. Rosa indicated that there were around 60 plus emails concerning the school nurses that were cut from the parochial schools.

Also included in correspondence is an email from the Jameson Pub inviting members to their ribbon cutting ceremony on May 10, 2024, from 3:30-5:30 and all Town Council members were invited to attend.

7. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports

None.

8. Town Manager’s Report.

Following the Town Manager report, the Town Council added an item to the agenda:

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Ramsay that the following item be added to the agenda for tonight’s meeting under item “i” “Discussion and possible action on staffing levels at the Watertown Police Communications Department.”
Ms. Rosa stated that a motion was in order to add to the agenda also an additional item for Executive Session:

Motion made by Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Retallick: I move to add to the agenda item Executive Session discussion regarding Pending Litigation: City of Waterbury vs. Town of Watertown.

Motion passed unanimously.


a. Consider a resolution in support of a $2,000,000 grant application to the State of Connecticut Department of Housing to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and authorize the execution of an associated Assistance Agreement. It is intended to apply for public housing modernization at 1091 Buckingham Street.

Motion: Mr. Demirs moved and seconded by Mr. Retallick to approve the resolution in support of a $2,000,000 grant application to the State of Connecticut Department of Housing to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and authorize the execution of an associated Assistance Agreement.

Motion passed unanimously.

b. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $1,315.55 for Police overtime. Funds received for the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation for distracted driving and high visibility enforcement.

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Desena to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $1,315.55 for Police overtime. Funds received for the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation for distracted driving and high visibility enforcement.

Motion passed unanimously.

c. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $1,934.72 for Police overtime. Funds received for participation in the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Statewide Violent Crime Task Force.

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Ms. Ryan to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $1,934.72 for Police overtime. Funds received for participation in the State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Statewide Violent Crime Task Force.
Motion passed unanimously.

d. Consider an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $13,485.16 for Police overtime. Funds received from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation from a Rural Roads Speed Grant.

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Desena to authorize an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $13,485.16 for Police overtime. Funds received from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation from a Rural Roads Speed Grant.

Motion passed unanimously.

e. Consider a resolution appointing an auditor for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 audits.

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Retallick to approve the resolution appointing King King and Associates as auditors for the Fiscal year 2023-2024 audits.

Motion passed unanimously.

f. Discussion and possible action on sale of right of way off of Georgetown Drive.

There will be two motions for this agenda item.

Motion by Mr. Demirs and seconded by Ms. Ryan, move to waive the policy for the sale of real property regarding Town owned Land located on Georgetown Drive as recorded in the Watertown Land Records in Book 536 Page 128, identified as Right of Way “Third Piece” between Lot #14 and Lot #15.

Motion passed (6-3)
In Favor: Mary Ann Rosa, Ken Demirs, Robert Desena, Anthony DiBona (Remote) Jonathan Ramsay, Rachael Ryan
Opposed: Gary Lafferty, Carina Noyd, Robert Retallick

I move to authorize the sale of Real Property located on Georgetown Drive – recorded in the Watertown Land Records in Book 536 Page 128, identified as Right of Way “Third Piece” between Lot #14 and Lot #15 for $5,000 subject to Planning and Zoning 8-24 approval and additionally subject to review of related documents by the Town Attorney, along with the condition that the driveway be done according to the drawing attached to the letter from Attorney Jessell, dated May 3, 2024.

(Attached)

Motion passed (8-1)
In Favor: Mary Ann Rosa, Ken Demirs, Robert Desena, Anthony DiBona (Remote) 
Jonathan Ramsay, Rachael Ryan, Gary Lafferty, Carina Noyd, 
Opposed: Robert Retallick

g. Consider a resolution authorizing an appropriation of $6,294 for tax refunds.

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Ramsay to approve the resolution authorizing an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of $6,294 for tax refunds.

Motion passed unanimously.

h. Consider a resolution authorizing tax refunds.

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Ramsay to approve the resolution authorizing tax refunds.

i. Discussion and possible action on staffing levels at the Watertown Police Communications Department.”

Motion: Mr. Demirs and seconded by Ms. Ryan that due to the critical need to hire staff at the Watertown Police Department Communications Division, the Town Manager is authorized to proceed with modifying the staffing level of the department to up to eight full-time staff members and up to three part-time staff members. Any budget impact requiring additional funding will be brought to the Town Council for further consideration.

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Executive Session.

Mr. Demirs and seconded by Mr. Retallick move to enter into executive session (8:10 p.m.) for the purposes of discussing Pending Litigation for two matters 1. Fairways and Greens, LLC vs. Town of Watertown Tax Appeal and 2. City of Waterbury V. Town of Watertown. In attendance will be the Town Council Members present, the Town Attorney and Town Manager.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business, Continued – Return to regular session at 8:26 p.m.

a. Consider authorizing the approval of a settlement agreement for a tax appeal by Fairways and Greens, LLC vs. Town of Watertown
Motion: Mr. Demers and seconded by Ms. Ryan I move to authorize the settlement agreement for a tax appeal by Fairways and Greens, LLC vs. Town of Watertown.

Motion passed unanimously.

12. Public Participation.


Motion made by Mr. Demers and seconded by Mr. Retallick to adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.