

Regular Council

January 26

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Prior to the start of the meeting, Judge Daniel G. Hazard administered the oath of office to newly appointed Council members Scott Jahns and Nicholas Sargent.

The regular meeting of the Waterville Council was called to order by Mayor Tim Pedro at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Waterville Municipal Building.

The prayer was offered by Mayor Pedro. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and led by Mr. Sargent and Mr. Jahns.

Present at roll call were Mary Duncan, Wayne Wagner, Tim Pedro, Rod Frey, Scott Jahns, Nicholas Sargent and Todd Borowski.

Also present this evening was Jon Gochenour, Municipal Administrator; Austin Klapp, Assistant Law Director and Jeni Malaczewski, Recording Secretary.

Staff Present:

Tiffany Bachman – Finance Director
Joe Valvano – Police Chief
Doug Meyer – Fire Chief
Rob Binkley – Public Works Director

Citizens Present:

Please see Citizens' Sign-In Sheet, Exhibit A, Page 1 for a list of people present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Frey moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026 Regular Council meeting. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Citizens Comments

Dave Weber, 4902 Rudgate Blvd., Toledo, Ohio, gave an update on the activities of his organization which seeks to delay the demolition of the Interurban Bridge by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Staff Reports

Administrator: Jon Gochenour

- The Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District (FTUCD) will be holding a joint meeting on February 9 at 6 p.m. in the Waterville Municipal Building to appoint a new Trustee for the Cemetery District for the City of Waterville. The regular annual FTUCD joint meeting will be held May 11 at 6 p.m.

Austin Klapp: Assistant Law Director

- No Report

Finance Director: Tiffany Bachman

- Reviewed details from the December 2025 Month End Finance Report highlighting fund balances and income tax revenues.

Treasurer: Steve Schult

- Reviewed details from the December 2025 Month End Treasurer's Report.

Police Chief: Joe Valvano

- Working on Annual Report
- Thanked Public Works for great job keeping the roads clear during the recent snowstorm. These effort resulted in no incidents during the storm.

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Fire Chief: Doug Meyer

- Asked residents to please keep all fire hydrants clear of snow.
- Thanked Public Works for the great job keeping the roads clear during the recent snowstorm.

Public Works Director: Rob Binkley

- Stated Public Works are continuing to work to clear all the snow from the recent snowstorm.

Communications from Council Members/Committees

Mrs. Duncan

- Welcome to newly appointed Council Members, Scott Jahns and Nicholas Sargent.

Mr. Frey

- Welcome to newly appointed Council Members, Scott Jahns and Nicholas Sargent.

Mr. Wagner

- Welcome to newly appointed Council Members, Scott Jahns and Nicholas Sargent.

Mr. Borowski

- Welcome to newly appointed Council Members, Scott Jahns and Nicholas Sargent.

Mr. Jahns

- Thanked the Mayor and Council for the Council seat appointment.

Mr. Sargent

- Thanked the Mayor and Council for the Council seat appointment.

Mayor Pedro

- Planning to attend the January 30 Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) annual meeting as well as the Northwest Ohio Mayors and Managers Association (NOMMA) annual meeting, the upcoming Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) annual meeting and the Toledo Chamber of Commerce annual legislators breakfast meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. ORDINANCE 11-25 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF WATERVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 12-25 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Third Reading and Legislative Action

The Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the budget at their November 21, 2025 public meeting. The 2026 Appropriations have been revised to include actual 2025 ending fund balances. As expected, most of the actual 2025 ending balances have resulted in increased "beginning balances" for 2026 over earlier budgetary projections. The budget has been revised from the original budget submittal to include an increase in transfers out of the General Fund (\$40,000) to the Park and Green Space (225) Fund as well as an increase for repairs to the Fire Station (\$200,000). The deadline set by the City Charter for adoption of the 2026 Operating Budget is March 1, 2026.

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Mayor Pedro made a motion to suspend the rules to allow for the passage of Ordinance 11-25 as an emergency measure. Mr. Frey seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mayor Pedro - yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Frey– yes, Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Sargent – yes and Mr. Jahns – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pedro made a motion to move for the passage of Ordinance 11-25 as an emergency measure. Mr. Frey seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Jahns – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Sargent – yes and Mayor Pedro – yes. The motion passed unanimously

Executive Session

Mr. Sargent made a motion to move into Executive Session for Consideration of a Matter per ORC 121.22(G)(1): To Consider the Appointment of a Public Official at 8:37 p.m. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mayor Pedro – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Sargent – yes, Mr. Jahns – yes and Mr. Wagner – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Mr. Borowski made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular Council meeting at 9:21 p.m. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION 03-26 A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 24-24 AND APPOINTING AUSTIN KLAPP AS LAW DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF WATERVILLE

With the recent resignation of former Law Director Kati Tharp, the City Charter requires the appointment of a Law Director by City Council. It is the recommendation of Ms. Tharp, the Municipal Administrator and the Police Chief that current Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor Austin Klapp be appointed as Law Director of the City of Waterville.

Mr. Frey moved to adopt Resolution 03-26. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote with Mr. Wagner abstaining.

Other Business - none

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, Mr. Wagner made a motion to close the meeting at 9:48 p.m. Mr. Sargent seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Jon D. Gochenour, Clerk of Council

Timothy G. Pedro, Mayor