

RESOLUTION

Page 1 of 3

Authorizing the Dissolution of the Transportation Commission and the Creation Of the Transit Committee

Council Member GARRABRANT, Shane A.
 Council Member KIMBALL, Robert O.
 Council Member OSBORNE Jr, Douglas E.
 Council Member SHOEN, Benjamin P.
 Mayor PIERCE, Sarah V.C.
 Total

YEA	NAY
X	
X	
X	
X	
X	
5	0

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Watertown is responsible for establishing policies and structures that best support the efficient and effective operation of City government, and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1974, the City established a Transportation Commission to provide input and recommendations on transportation-related matters, and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 1997, the City combined the Paratransit Committee into the Transportation Commission to serve in an advisory role, and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission has recently sought expanded authority and increased involvement of City staff and resources, which exceeds the advisory role originally contemplated by the City Council, and

WHEREAS, following the appointment of a new Transit Director, the City conducted a review of the structure, scope, and operational demands of the Transportation Commission to ensure alignment with current City priorities and staffing resources, and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to move toward a more streamlined and nimble advisory structure that complements existing efforts, including the work of the Transit Director and the Complete Streets Committee, and

WHEREAS, the City responded to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by developing a complementary paratransit plan, and the establishment of the City Transportation Planner will satisfy all applicable requirements related to paratransit planning and oversight, thereby eliminating the need for a separate Paratransit Committee, and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to continue to receive focused, timely, and practical advisory input on transit-related matters in a manner that is efficient and aligned with current City priorities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby directs:

RESOLUTION

Page 2 of 3

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YEA	NAY
X	
X	
X	
X	
X	
5	0

1. Dissolution of Transportation Commission:
 The Transportation Commission of the City of Watertown is hereby dissolved, effective immediately.

2. Creation of the Transit Committee:
 There is hereby established a Transit Committee, which shall serve in an advisory capacity only.

3. Purpose and Role:
 The purpose of the Transit Committee shall be to support the Transit Director and the Complete Streets Committee by providing advisory input on transit-related matters as directed.

4. Duties and Responsibilities:
 The Transit Committee may be tasked with the following responsibilities when directed by the City Council, the City Manager, the Transit Director, or the Complete Streets Committee:
 - Reviewing specific transportation or transit-related issues assigned to it;
 - Evaluating policies, plans, or initiatives related to transit services and infrastructure;
 - Providing written findings, recommendations, or reports to the City Council, Transit Director, or Complete Streets Committee; and
 - Offering advisory input on implementation of adopted transportation and transit plans.

5. The Transit Committee shall have no authority to make policy decisions, direct staff, expend funds, or act on behalf of the City.

6. Membership and Appointments:
 The Transit Committee shall consist of five (5) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the City Council.

7. Terms of Appointment:

RESOLUTION

Page 3 of 3

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YEA	NAY
X	
X	
X	
X	
X	
5	0

Members shall serve three-year terms, and may be reappointed at the discretion of the City Council.

8. Organization and Procedures:

As an advisory body only, the Transit Committee:

- Shall not be required to elect a chairperson;
- Shall meet only as needed at the direction of City staff or committees; and
- Shall function solely in a consultative capacity without independent authority.

9. Paratransit Committee:

Any prior requirement or authorization for a Paratransit Committee is hereby deemed satisfied and no longer necessary, as the City has fulfilled all related obligations and will continue to do so with the Transit Director and Transportation Planner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council expresses its appreciation to the members of the former Transportation Commission for their time, service, and contributions to transportation planning and policy discussions within the City of Watertown, and that any matters previously under review by the Transportation Commission may, at the discretion of the City Manager or Transit Director, be referred to the Transit Committee or other appropriate City body, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen