

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
January 6, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding

Present: Council Member Roxanne M. Burns
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.
Council Member Stephen A. Jennings
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso
Mayor Graham

Also Present: Sharon Addison, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: Jim Mills, Ken Mix, Kurt Hauk, Gene Hayes, Mike Sligar, Mike Lumbis, Brian Phelps, Chief Herman

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Designating Depositories of City Funds for 2014
- Resolution No. 2 - Establishing 2014 County Tax Rate
- Resolution No. 3 - Amendment No. 93 to the Management And Management Confidential Pay Plan
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Lease Agreement, Watertown Rams, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Salary Structure, and Annual Pay Increase for Watertown Housing Authority Employees
- Ice Storm Cleanup
- Elected and Appointed Officials, NYS Retirement System, New Regulation Reporting Requirements
- Parking on Clinton Street
- Sales Tax Revenue – November 2013
- City of Watertown – Second Full Time Judge and Court Requirements

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 16, 2013 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Mayor Graham welcomed Council Member Stephen A. Jennings.

COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one spoke.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Designating Depositories of City Funds for 2014

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS Section 30 of the City Charter requires the City Council to designate each year at its first meeting some incorporated bank or banks or trust company located in the City of Watertown for the deposit of all moneys belonging to the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following banks be and they are hereby designated as depositories of the City of Watertown, New York for the year beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014:

Community Bank, N.A.
Key Bank
WSB Municipal Bank

And,

BE IT RESOLVED that Community Bank, N.A., Key Bank and WSB Municipal Bank each be required to either execute a bond, deliver to the City of Watertown, New York approved collateral or to deposit at a mutually agreed upon depository approved collateral of a value up to TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000).

Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler recused himself because he is an employee of Community Bank, NA and left Council Chambers.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Council Member Butler returned to Council Chambers.

Resolution No. 2 - Establishing 2014 County Tax Rate

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, by resolution dated November 12, 2013, and in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law Article 9 Section 904 has certified to the City that the contribution of the City of Watertown to the taxes of the County of Jefferson for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2014 is \$7,721,781.53, and

WHEREAS the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, by resolution dated December

10, 2013, and in accordance with New York State Environmental Conservation Law Section 15-2123 subdivision 6, has directed the City to levy and collect the unpaid Hudson River Black River Regulating District Annual Assessment for the period ending June 30, 2014 for parcel 01-14-121.00 owned by Watertown River Properties in the amount of \$3,771.34,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby does levy the said unpaid Hudson River Black River Regulating District Annual Assessment for the period ending June 30, 2014 for parcel 01-14-121.00 owned by Watertown River Properties in the amount of \$3,771.34, so ascertained and directed and to be certified to the City and to be extended on the Assessment Rolls by the City Assessor, as provided by Section 115 of the City Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Council shall and hereby does levy the said aggregate amount of taxes of \$7,721,781.53 and unpaid Hudson River Black River Regulating District Annual Assessment for the period ending June 30, 2014 for parcel 01-14-121.00 owned by Watertown River Properties in the amount of \$3,771.34, so ascertained and directed and to be certified to the City and to be extended on the Assessment Rolls by the City Assessor, as provided by Section 115 of the City Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City does hereby levy a total fee of \$7,725,552.87 to be collected at a rate of \$7.461923 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, of which County tax levy is \$7,703,557.72 and includes \$18,223.81 in omitted taxes.

Secoded by Council Member Butler and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 - Amendment No. 93 to the Management And Management Confidential Pay Plan

Introduced by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby approves Amendment No. 93 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan, effective December 21, 2013 for the position listed below, as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Librarian III	\$58,000

Secoded by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Burns clarified that this position's salary was adjusted to be more in line with the status quo of the library staff and to ensure that people are not making more than their supervisor. She noted that this was a request from the Library Board.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Approving Lease Agreement, Watertown Rams, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns a facility known as the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds and the Fairgrounds are a community recreational facility, and

WHEREAS the City desires to promote future recreational activities at the Fairgrounds for the valid public purpose of the benefit, recreation, entertainment, amusement, convenience and welfare of the people of the City, and

WHEREAS in pursuit of that public purpose, the City desires to contract for the use, operation, management and maintenance of the Fairgrounds baseball facilities and all baseball-related activities, and

WHEREAS Watertown Rams, Inc., owns and operates a summer collegiate baseball team, as a member and franchise of the Perfect Game Collegiate Baseball League, and

WHEREAS Watertown Rams, Inc., desires to have its team play baseball games within the confines of the Fairgrounds baseball fields and is in a unique position to contract to use, operate, manage and maintain the Fairgrounds baseball facilities, and

WHEREAS the City has undertaken a substantial capital improvement project for the Fairgrounds in furtherance of the public purpose of keeping baseball in the City for the recreation, entertainment, and welfare of the people of the City, including the economic benefit such a team can bring,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Lease Agreement with the Watertown Rams, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Lease Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler asked if the Rams were current with their financial obligations with the City.

Ms. Addison confirmed that they were.

Council Member Butler asked if the City reserves the right to charge for parking during a non-Rams event.

Attorney Slye replied that if it is a non-Rams event that the City has permitted the Rams to host then it would be a condition of the hosting. Otherwise, he said that if it is a non-Rams event that the City decides it will permit there, then it is irrelevant.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Approving Salary Structure, and Annual Pay Increase for Watertown Housing Authority Employees

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS in conformity with the requirements of the New York State Public Housing Law § Section 32, Sub Division 1, compensation for Watertown Housing Authority employees can be fixed only upon the approval of the local legislative body, which is the City Council of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Housing Authority has reported that based on a comparability review of salaries for their employees with prevailing local government salaries, it is the desire of the Watertown Housing Authority Board to authorize a two percent (2%) cost of living increase for all employees effective January 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS by resolution adopted on December 19, 2013, the Watertown Housing Authority Board approved a two percent (2%) cost of living increase for all employees, effective January 1, 2014, by modification to its existing Administrative and Maintenance salary structures,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the 2014 salary structure for all employees of the Watertown Housing Authority which contains a two percent (2%) cost of living increase, effective January 1, 2014, salary structures are attached and made part of this resolution and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sharon Addison, is hereby authorized and directed to forward certified copies of the resolution to the Watertown Housing Authority.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting yea.

STAFF REPORTS

Ice Storm Cleanup

Council Member Macaluso asked how long it normally takes to remove the Christmas trees.

Gene Hayes, Superintendent of Department of Works responded that it could last into March or April but generally the bulk of the pickup is completed from the beginning of January through Mid-February.

Council Member Macaluso asked if the cleanup from the ice storm could be incorporated into the Christmas tree pickup.

Mr. Hayes stated that they are picking up Christmas trees at night in between the snow removal from the recent storms. He said that this process will continue for Christmas trees and some debris can be picked up with that, but the bulk of the debris will need to be picked up with special equipment that will reach out and pick up the whole pile. He advised that if there is a quiet night he can do some of this pickup because there is 24 hour coverage available.

Council Member Butler expressed concern that there may be repeated trips down the same streets and asked if this should be addressed block by block within the neighborhoods when the weather is more cooperative.

Mr. Hayes explained that if the plows try to push the snow banks back with the anticipated two feet of snow that is expected overnight, then the debris in the margins will be pushed into the sidewalks or streets causing additional problems. He suggested that his crews should pick up what is currently in the margins now and then do a full cleanup in the spring. He advised that this will give the property owners plenty of time to do their cleanups.

Council Member Butler questioned whether this cleanup should be subcontracted out.

Mr. Hayes further explained that if this ice storm had been declared as a state of emergency, like the previous ice storms had, then FEMA would have provided money and the cleanup could have been put out to bid.

Council Member Burns suggested that the City contact ReEnergy, a biomass company on Fort Drum which takes debris such as this and recycles it. She noted that this company will pay for the debris material and this could help offset the cost.

Mr. Hayes advised that he has already contacted this company and has sample contracts to review. He explained that there are three different options available which will assist with the processing costs. He indicated that the most efficient way to deal with this is to transport the debris to the City's quarry and then ReEnergy can chip it in order to reduce the size for transporting. He noted that the City does not have a chipper that would handle this volume.

Mayor Graham mentioned that there is a conference call scheduled this evening for various representatives throughout the county regarding the latest emergency declarations for the upcoming storm.

Elected and Appointed Officials, NYS Retirement System, New Regulation Reporting Requirements

Mayor Graham mentioned that the individuals affected by this have been made aware of it.

Parking on Clinton Street

Council Member Butler said that he would support an ordinance be drawn for the next meeting.

City of Watertown – Second Full Time Judge and Court Requirements

Mayor Graham said that there have been meetings this past week and each Council Member has received a tour of the floor space available within the Court Offices. He reviewed the history of the City Court explaining that the staff used to be paid by the City until the State took the staff over. He explained that there is a fairly clear obligation to be accommodating but there are limitations as to the square footage and funds available.

Sales Tax Revenue – November 2013

Council Member Butler pointed out that the revenue is down again. He said that he is concerned with this and stressed that if this trend continues then the City will need to start taking action before budget discussions begin.

Mayor Graham advised that as a position become vacant then Council should look at it and authorize whether it should be filled.

NEW BUSINESS

Snow Removal

Council Member Burns thanked Mr. Hayes and his staff for a great job in staying ahead of the recent storms.

Council Member Butler agreed.

City Court 2nd Full-Time Judge Appointment

Council Member Butler noted that one judge was elected and the other judge was appointed by the Mayor as a part-time judge. Now that both positions are full-time, he suggested that both positions should be elected. He asked that Attorney Slye research this.

Mayor Graham agreed that since they are two identical positions then the filling of the positions should be done the same way. He told Council that Judge Palermo is aware that this may be changed to an elected position. He advised that this should be resolved prior to 2018 which is the expiration of the current term.

Snowtown USA

Council Member Butler congratulated Erin Gardner, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation and her staff on the success of these events.

Mayor Graham agreed with Council Member Butler. He said that he has heard that many people were pleased that this was going on again.

Tree Analysis after the Ice Storm

Council Member Butler mentioned that Mike Lumbis, City Planner was in attendance and said that he looks forward to the tree analysis to be done as a result of the ice storm. Mr. Butler said that he will fully support any tree planting that is needed.

Mayor Graham said that there are some trees on Pearl Street that were planted over 15 years ago and they are getting close to cable wires.

Mr. Lumbis explained that any planting done under the wires should be small maturing trees such as flowering trees. He is aware of the trees that the Mayor is referring to and they are Ash trees which have been targeted by disease and will soon be lost.

Council Member Jennings asked if National Grid trims trees which are close to the wires.

Mr. Lumbis confirmed that they did.

Purcell Project on Outer Bradley Street

Mayor Graham mentioned that this project is mostly in the Town of Pamela and only a small sliver of it is in the City. He said that there was an assumption that this project would have a Water and Sewer District formed but this must be approved by Council. He suggested that when a property adjacent to the City wants these services then it should seek annexation into the City or agree to a direct sale of these services. He stressed that Council should be involved at the front end of this type of request.

Motion was made by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns to move into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:39 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk