

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
March 17, 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, Amie Davis, Deputy Chief Randall, Chief Herman, Gene Hayes, Beth Morris, Brian Phelps, Matt Owen, Mike Sligar, Barb Wheeler, Erin Gardner, David Wurzburg

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Appointment to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Katherine Freund
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment
- Resolution No. 3 - Adopting the Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Contract for Professional Services With Avalon Associates Inc. and Neighbors of Watertown Inc. for a FY 2014 HOME Application to North Country HOME Consortium
- Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing Application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant, Fire Department
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving Supplemental No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$550,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Costs of the Design for the Reconstruction and Expansion of the City's Fairgrounds Arena, in and for Said City
- Purcell Development and the Garland City Trailer Park
- Impact of Two Tier Approach for Bulk Sales to Town Water Districts
- Billing Adjustments to Water and Sewer Charges
- Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Public Hearing
- Board and Commission Appointments
- Local Government Efficiency (LGE) North Country Regional Shared GIS Services
- Palmer Street Extension
- Letter from Watertown Sunday Softball League
- Letter from New York State Department of Health
- Spring Drop Off Flyer

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 March 3, 2014 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from NYS Department of Health in regards to water service for the proposed industrial park on Rt 12 in the Town of Pamelaia.

Above communication was placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one spoke.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 – Appointment to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Katherine Freund

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that Katherine Freund, 1535 State Street, Watertown, New York, is hereby appointed to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees, to fill the unexpired term of J. Clancy Hopkins, which term expires December 31, 2018.

Seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Graham pointed out that Ms. Freund was in the audience. He said that she comes highly recommended and is very dedicated to the Library.

Council Member Butler thanked Ms. Freund and wished her luck.

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

Resolution No. 2 – Authorizing the Sale of Surplus Vehicles and Equipment

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has accumulated surplus vehicles and equipment at the Department of Public Works, the listing of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS these items may have some value best determined by on-line auction, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by on-line auction, of surplus vehicles and equipment from the Department of Public Works, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final acceptance of such bids shall constitute acceptance of the same by the City Council.

Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 – Adopting the Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grand Program

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS Section 104 (a) (3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and Federal Regulations (24 CFR 91.105) require that the City of Watertown adopt a Citizen Participation Plan for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and

WHEREAS, the Citizen Participation Plan details how the City plans to involve residents, community organizations and agencies as the City develops its Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plans and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the CDBG Program, and

WHEREAS the City's draft Citizen Participation Plan was published on January 30, 2014 and a 30-day public comment period was held from February 3, 2014 to March 5, 2014, and

WHEREAS copies of the draft plan were made available for public viewing at City Hall, the Flower Memorial Library, in several Watertown Housing Authority buildings, on the City's web site and was distributed to local constituency groups and organizations identified in the plan, and

WHEREAS a notice of the public hearing was published in the *Watertown Daily Times* and the City Council held a public hearing on the proposed plan on March 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., and

WHEREAS during the 30-day public comment period and during the public hearing, no public comments were received on the draft Citizen Participation Plan,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the attached Citizen Participation Plan for its CDBG Program.

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

Resolution No. 4 – Approving Contract for Professional Services With Avalon Associates Inc. and Neighbors of Watertown Inc. for a FY 2014 HOME Application to North Country HOME Consortium

Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns

WHEREAS grant funding is available through the North Country HOME Consortium to support local housing programs, and

WHEREAS Avalon Associates Inc. has been selected as the City of Watertown's community development consultant for the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and

WHEREAS a Contract for Professional Services between the City of Watertown, Avalon Associates Inc. and Neighbors of Watertown Inc. has been drafted, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Contract for Professional Services with Avalon Associates Inc. and Neighbors of Watertown Inc. for a FY 2014 HOME Investment Partnership Program application to the North Country HOME Consortium, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Sharon Addison, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract on behalf of the City Council
Seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Butler asked how much money was available with the HOME consortium application.

Ken Mix, Planning Coordinator replied that it was approximately \$150,000.

Council Member Butler asked if Avalon's role would change now that the City will receive the CDBG funds every year.

Mr. Mix said that it would not change with the HOME program. He explained that the North Country HOME Consortium is a limited amount of money that can only be used for housing rehab. He clarified that nothing would change for CDBG.

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

Resolution No. 5 – Authorizing Application for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Grant, Fire Department

Introduced by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings

WHEREAS the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is accepting applications for funding through (date), and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department has prepared an application that meets the intended purpose of this grant, which will allow the Department to purchase smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors for distribution to the public, and

WHEREAS the application, in the amount of \$36,611, requires a matching fund of 10% from the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Fire Department to submit a grant application in the amount of \$36,611 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Fire Chief Dale C. Herman is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application 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 mentioned that 1,000 smoke detectors and 500 carbon monoxide detectors would be purchased and he asked how they would be distributed.

Dale Herman, Fire Chief said that if the fire department gets a call and a bad smoke detector is discovered then it would be replaced. In addition, he stated that the Fire Educator makes an effort with rental properties to ensure that there is an appropriate supply of detectors for the premises. He also explained a program through the CAPC in which detectors are distributed stating that some people come to the station requesting them. He said that they currently distributed approximately 50-60 smoke detectors per year so he does not need to distribute 1,000 of them but only needs to have them available for distribution.

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

Resolution No. 6 – Approving Supplemental No. 1 to Professional Services Agreement, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS on July 15, 2013, the City Council of the City of Watertown approved the Professional Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. in the amount of \$99,790 for the design of the rehabilitation of the Fairgrounds Municipal Arena, and

WHEREAS Change Order No. 1 has been submitted for the detailed design and construction support services for the Fairgrounds Municipal Building Upgrade Project not to exceed the amount of \$510,403, bringing the total contract amount to \$610,193,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown approves Supplemental No. 1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this Resolution is contingent upon City Council approving a Bond Ordinance to cover the expenses associated with this project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Sharon Addison is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Change Order documents 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 noted that option 4 does not include the parking lot but Council had discussed that area and thought it was important aspect of the overall project. He asked if this is something that could be done in-house.

Kurt Hauk, City Engineer responded that it was taken out in order to decrease the costs and he thought that it could be done in-house.

In regards to the benches and landscaping, Mr. Hauk told Council Member Butler that this is just the beginning of the concept and there will be many changes until the end product is reached. He said that the important thing is to figure out what works best with the arena in all the different configurations.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$550,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Costs of the Design for the Reconstruction and Expansion of the City’s Fairgrounds Arena, in and for Said City

Introduced by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the specific object or purpose hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act to the extent required, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the issuance of bonds of said City to finance costs of said specific object or purpose; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the specific object or purpose of paying costs of the design for the reconstruction and expansion of the City’s Fairgrounds Arena, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$550,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$550,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$550,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance. The amount of bonds to be issued will be reduced by the amount of any appropriations of current funds to pay part of the cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is five years, pursuant to subdivision sixty-two of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such

manner, as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The faith and credit of said City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 6. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Comptroller and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk.

Section 7. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as he shall deem best for the interests of the City, provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, he shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the City Comptroller shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.

Section 8. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the City by the facsimile signature of the City Comptroller, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the City), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the City Comptroller. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the City not to impose and collect from registered owners of such bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine.

Section 9. This ordinance shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this ordinance, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 10. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this ordinance are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 11. This ordinance, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in full in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

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

Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof

STAFF REPORTS

Purcell Development and the Garland City Trailer Park

Mayor Graham explained this memo and recent developments explaining that the Department of Health has asked for a suitable water system for the Garland City Trailer Park located on outer West Main Street. He said that a proposal was put forward to connect this with the development of the Purcell Property on outer Bradley Street. He stressed that this would be built at no cost to the City. He explained the reasons why he has changed his view on this and said he would like this process to move along.

Motion was made by Mayor Graham for Council to authorize participation in the creation of a Town of Pamela Water District in the area designated on the map with the expressed intent that the rate charged be the same tier one rate that the Town of Watertown is charged.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings.

Council Member Butler said that he has supported this water district all along.

Mayor Graham stressed that the water districts should be treated the same as the City residents in terms of fees because he would never support a contract in which a water district pays less than City residents.

Council discussed the rate that was charged to the Town of Watertown in the past and now with the current contract. The possibility of changing the Code to clarify the charges was reviewed and it was agreed that the outside users should not be charged less than the City residents.

Council Member Burns indicated that she will abstain from voting because her son is employed by one of the parties involved. She left Council Chambers.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing motion and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Burns abstaining.

Council Member Burns returned to Council Chambers.

Impact of Two Tier Approach for Bulk Sales to Town Water Districts

Mayor Graham commented about the anomaly in the Code regarding water rates and noted there is a two tier system within the City, where the higher volume users get the advantage of the second tier. He proposed that the advantage of living in the city should be that you get the second tier rate on volume and the outside entities should not. He asked that an ordinance be drawn to reflect this so that the outside users are not paying more than the inside users but more importantly is not paying less than the inside users.

Council Member Butler asked if it would accompany a contract with the Town of Watertown users and asked if the Town wished to renew the contract to buy water from the City.

Attorney Slye responded that he is unsure if negotiations have commenced with the Town.

Ms. Addison replied that the desire is to continue but that the rate is only one part of the contract.

Mayor Graham said there are a couple of things to note, in that he received some assurances from the Manager that the City's ability to sustain the current rate in the coming fiscal year is there. He noted that the contract should coincide with the charges listed in the Code, and there will be a slight change for some outside users.

Attorney Slye said the concern, as he has negotiated the contracts with them before, is that they feel they can resolve a unilateral change by the City of a large amount. Their point, he added, is that if changes are tied to the Code then that leaves them to the whim of Council, as opposed to a contract.

Mayor Graham said Council would only raise water rates out of necessity, to sustain the operation of the system.

Council and Attorney Slye discussed the \$37.00 rate and how it was stated in the contract.

Ms. Addison said there is a clause that if the rates change then it is open for negotiations.

Mayor Graham said his understanding is that for the last five years, the contract was on the tier one rate.

Attorney Slye replied that what the City did was combine all the water district contracts into one large contract, as there had been four or five different contracts. The timeline, he said, was approximately when the City did development on outer Washington Street. He reiterated that negotiations could be reopened.

Discussion debated over whether the pricing should be set by the Code or set in the contract.

Council Member Macaluso commented that if the rate was covered by the Code and if the rate specifies a certain dollar amount, it would be for everyone.

Mayor Graham said the question of allocation is not an issue because there is not a supply problem.

Attorney Slye said there are other parts of the contract, as the City Manager mentioned, that are very important such as where is the meter, who will read it, who gets the bill, when must it be paid and whether it violates the statute of limitations if they do not pay, etc. He said there are essential clauses in contracts that are part of the agreement and added that years ago when the Town of Watertown did not pay its sewer bill, City officials had to meet with Town and County officials which created the first water contract.

Discussion centered on wording of the contract as it relates to the tier one rate, with Attorney Slye ensuring that the contract will be satisfactory in ensuring the tier one rate is paid by the water district.

Mayor Graham pointed out that the tier one rate is the City rate. He suggested that the contracts be put in place because now there is a level of uncertainty. He explained that there is currently no contract but service cannot be shut off if it is not paid correctly.

Attorney Slye said in his opinion it carries over, as there cannot be any substitute for the contract extending as a matter of law by continuing to provide service pursuant to that contract.

Mayor Graham replied if that is the case, then that contract is in perpetuity. He added that this should have been resolved before it expired.

Council Member Burns inquired when it expired.

Ms. Addison said December.

Council and staff discussed the contract as it relates to billing, including how they are set up with respect to outside districts. Currently, the Code states that bill needs to be paid in 20 days and the Town of Watertown would like their contract to give an additional 10 days.

Mike Sligar, Water Superintendent explained that the Code indicates that bills are dated on the 1st of the month and are due on the 20th of the month. With respect to the outside district, the bills go out when the certified readings are received which is not always before the 1st of the month. Therefore, the contracts read that the bills are due on the 20th day subsequent to the billing tender date. He advised that the Town is requesting that the contract be changed to 30 days from the billing date.

Mayor Graham asked who reads the meters in the outside districts and what the recourse is for the meters not being read in a timely manner.

Mr. Sligar replied that certain meters are read by the Towns and certain meters are read by the City. In regards to calibration, he indicated that it is done by a 3rd party.

Council Member Macaluso commented that if the due date is extended for users outside the City then it should be extended for the City residents as well. She stressed that it should be consistent throughout.

Council Member Burns noted that they want extra time but their bills do not always go out by the 1st of the month like the City residents. She questioned why their readings are not submitted to the City in order to be billed by the 1st of the month same as inside users. Therefore, she remarked that the City is not in a position that provides outside users with an advantage that inside users do not have.

Council agreed that outside users should be treated the same as inside users including being charged penalties. The location of the meters and the reading of them were discussed and Council requested staff to provide more detailed information in the form of a report at a future meeting.

Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

Mayor Graham explained the memo and the need for a public hearing.

Motion was made by Council Member Stephen A. Jennings to schedule a Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan for Monday, April 7, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Board and Commission Appointments

Council instructed staff to contact the current individuals with expiring terms to determine if there is an interest in continuing with another term.

Council Member Butler stated that he will speak to the individuals from the Empire Zone Admin Board. He pointed out that this Board does not meet regularly but business annual reviews still need to be done until the ten year period finishes. He also stated that the funds would need to be dispersed once the program is discontinued but that process is still undetermined.

In regards to the Board of Assessment Review Board, Mayor Graham said there is still one vacancy and Council is accepting suggestions.

Local Government Efficiency (LGE) North Country Regional Shared GIS Services

A report was available for Council's review.

Palmer Street Extension

Mayor Graham described this street stressing that it is in bad shape and in need of repair so he had asked staff to put a report together for Council. He stated that it is not a City-owned street but the City continues to patch and plow it at public expense which suggests to the public that it is a publicly sanctioned thoroughfare. He remarked that at some point the City needs to decide to discontinue this practice and close it because it is a danger or take some level of responsibility for it. He mentioned that Mr. Battista installed a street light at his own expense. He said that when Council approved the site plan for the Palmer Street Apartments in the mid 1980's, it created a difficult situation.

Council Member Macaluso said that she is not opposed to fixing it but she is not interested in doing that right now.

Mayor Graham reiterated that the City needs to stop maintaining and plowing it and put up a sign that says that the street will not be maintained by the City.

Council Member Burns agreed with the Mayor stating that the average person thinks that it is a City street. She said she has never been able to justify why the City does maintain it and we cannot do the improvements that we want because the City does not own it. She noted that there are a lot of new

homes in that area. She questioned the impact on school buses if the road was to be closed. Referring to past reports of the costs associated with improving this, she thinks that an improvement could be done without making it a multimillion dollar project.

Attorney Slye reviewed the history in determining ownership noting that it evolved to the heirs of two individuals but the additional money was not approved to continue with the abstract of title. He explained that the easiest process would be to continue with the abstract search, give appropriate notices to the last known owner, and get a court order stating that necessary notices were done. He stressed that this would be the easiest and cleanest way for the City to take ownership.

In regards to closing the streets, Attorney Slye questioned how the City could close a street that it does not own. Justification for the minor repairs to a street that is not owned, he said is because the fire and police department need to be able to access the properties for public safety. He advised that Council's options are to continue with the current process, take ownership of it, or if it is a private street, private landowners can develop it.

Council Member Butler noted that there are a lot of streets such as South Meadow Street, Dimmick Street, Flower Avenue East, and Orchard Street that are more heavily travelled and are in need of repair. He thinks that these streets should be prioritized in regard to the need for repairs and put into the Five-Year Plan.

Council did not take further action.

Letter from Watertown Sunday Softball League

Erin Gardner, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation explained that this group has had flat fees in the past but she is trying to move away from that because she has more groups asking for multiple field rentals. She further explained that the multitude of these groups is not City residents and she is charging \$30 per field to be consistent. In regard to this organization she indicated that there are 15-20 members per team and there are two teams per field so it calculates to approximately \$1 per person to play a game.

Mayor Graham noted that over the years the City fees have been low and that they were unfortunately waived with and without the consent of Council. He applauded Ms. Gardner for enforcing the rules.

Council Member Macaluso asked if the other groups are paying this amount.

Ms. Gardner stated they were.

Council Member Burns pointed out that many teams from outside the City want to use our fields because the City has quality fields. She commended Ms. Gardner for trying to have the fees be more equitable and make this department more fiscally viable.

Council Member Butler commented that a mutual ground should be reached and a more reasonable flat fee should be charged.

Ms. Gardner noted that the letter does not reflect correct numbers because if last year had been charged without using a flat fee agreement, then the fee would have been \$3360.

Council Member Macaluso pointed out that this group has paid the same rate for 10 years and she did not did think that \$3000 was unrealistic.

Mayor Graham advised that the majority of Council feels the fee should be consistent with the Code.

Billing Adjustments to Water and Sewer Charges

Ms. Addison explained the memo stressing that it would give the City Manager the ability to abate the billing charges for unusual circumstances such as a toilet running while a homeowner was on vacation.

Council agreed that they would rather have these come to Council for approval.

The following reports were available for Council's review:

Letter from New York State Department of Health regarding Fluoride Spring Drop Off Flyer

NEW BUSINESS

City Court

Mayor Graham reported that Judge Tormey visited today in order to look at the area for the second court room and the configuration will be changing again. He said they want to look at another scenario that might be less obtrusive to the City's finances. He stated that this allows the Court to seek creative ways to utilize their existing resources because Judge Palmero becomes fulltime on April 1st. He noted that there is nothing that the City can do until they provide feedback back to the City.

Second Fulltime Judge – Appointed verses Election

Mayor Graham stated that Attorney Slye provided Council with a memo (on file in the City Clerk's Office) regarding this and explained that the NYS Legislature would be the one to change this. He further explained the highlights of the memo stating that if Council would like to proceed, then a local law would need to be adopted.

Council Member Burns said she thinks this should be initiated on behalf of the City residents and that she would support this.

Council Member Butler agreed.

Mayor Graham asked for a draft of the local law.

Irish Festival

Council Member Butler thanked that Irish Festival Committee for providing another successful event.

Stairs/Walkway to the Library from the City Hall Parking Lot

Council Member Butler said that he received a complaint stating the library parking lot is small and he wondered if steps and a walkway could be put in place from the City Hall Parking Lot in order to access the side entrance of the library.

Council Member Macaluso remarked that it is dark back there and said that it is not that far to walk around City Hall to the side entrance.

Mayor Graham stated that it was going to be done at one point but then was put on hold. He thought it would be a good idea.

Bus Transportation for Job Fair

Ms. Addison told Council that the Watertown Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Job and Career Expo on April 10th and is requesting City's support in providing bus service from the Workplace to the Bruce Wright Memorial Conference Center. She explained that extending this route for the hours of 10:30 am to 5:30 pm would cost approximately \$650.

In response to Mayor Graham inquiry, Ms. Addison said this would be a one-time thing.

Council agreed.

Motion was made by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:58 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:58 p.m. by motion of Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders

City Clerk