

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF WATERTOWN
March 9, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR.
COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**

Discussion Items:

Mayor Graham noted that there would be no presentation on Parking on Public Square as Mr. Hauk was not able to attend the meeting. He added that he continues to get comments on the issue.

Mayor Graham commented on the closing of Covidian and the loss of 250 jobs therein.

Council Woman Burns asked how many other locations the company has in New York State.

Mayor Graham replied that there are three other sites and that he read that the company remains committed to staying in the state but that the loss of so many private sector jobs is a huge hit to our area.

Winter Operations Summary Report-

Council Member Smith asked if the outstanding obligation for salt is what we need to purchase from the County.

Mrs. Corriveau said that it is but that she does not know what remains in the contract. She told Council that the County tracks what is purchased and used and will let Council know when the end date for purchases is.

Council Member Butler asked how well these figures line up with the budget.

Mrs. Corriveau said that the numbers are pretty close in all areas.

Council Member Smith asked how well treated salt worked versus untreated.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that she will check with Mr. Hayes.

Council Member Burns reviewed the total purchase of salt and noted that the City has decreased its total salt usage.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that the decrease is a direct result of the use of the GPS systems in the trucks. She told Council that the City will look at getting in on the state contract, issued after the fiscal year begins.

Council Member Butler asked if the City should examine other salt providers besides the state.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that Mr. Hayes and Mr. Cleaver recommend going through the state.

Council further discusses salt purchasing.

Council Member Butler asked if snow removal downtown went better than anticipated.

Mrs. Corriveau said there were a lot of man hours spent removing snow and a lot of salt used. She noted that there was much more snow hauling done this year than in the past.

Council Member Butler asked how much private hauling is budgeted for.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that \$12,000 was budgeted for private hauling.

Fire Chief-

Council Member Clough asked if the City is going to start looking for a new fire chief and if the City is obligated to keep the chief on staff since it is known that he is looking for another job.

Mrs. Corriveau said he is not in a position to resign and would only be removed on disciplinary charges. She added that she would not recommend removing the Chief.

Council Member Smith inquired if he is obligated to give notice in writing.

Mrs. Corriveau said he is not.

Mayor Graham commented that the webpage announcement regarding the selection of Chief Gaumont in Texas was premature.

Mercy Hospital-

Mayor Graham told Council that he continues to be encouraged on this issue and that he and Mrs. Corriveau will meet with the top person in that organization.

DEC Meeting-

Mayor Graham noted that he attended this meeting regarding money to be spent on Engine Street.

Stimulus Money-

Mayor Graham asked about this.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that she downloaded the application and that approximately \$79,000 is available for the City.

Washington Street Sidewalks-

Council Member Butler asked if the design was complete and what remains to be done.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that the sidewalks on outer Washington Street are not in the stimulus project. She added that the City may do the work but that it depends on what other projects DPW has to do.

Security Cameras at Library-

Council Member Smith noted the security cameras are up and running in the library.

Mrs. Corriveau said they are not on the exterior of the building yet.

40 Under 40-

Mayor Graham congratulated Mr. White and Mrs. Lewis for their selection in the 40 NNY Leaders Under 40.

Disintegration of Cement in Public Square-

Council Member Butler noted that the cement work in front of The Crystal is showing signs of pitting, crumbling and shattering and inquired about the City's course of action in repairing it.

Mrs. Corriveau said she agrees that it is badly damaged and that this would be a question for Mr. Hauk regarding the warrantee on the work.

Council Member Clough asked if any snow removal equipment could have done this.

Mrs. Corriveau said she did not think that was the cause.

Council Member Burns stated that she cannot believe that there would be no warrantee on the work, especially since it has not even been one year since its completion. She asked if the same company did the work on State Street and Public Square.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that the same company did both locations and stressed that there is a real art to placing concrete to minimize bubbling and crumbling. She also said that the City's mix was used in Public Square.

Ice Arena-

Council Member Butler inquired about plans for the ice arena.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that they were delivered late this afternoon. She said that staff will go through the plans and that they need to be 'cleaned up' by Bernier & Carr.

Multimedia Presentation-

Mr. White showed the multimedia presentation done by Justin Sorensen of the Watertown Daily Times regarding crow hazing. He noted it can be accessed from the City's website.

Motion was made by Council Member Clough to move into executive session to discuss collective bargaining, seconded by Council Member Butler and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into executive session at 7:43 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR WORK SESSION WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 8:40 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCILMAN CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Amanda C. Lewis
Deputy City Clerk