

**ADJOURNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
March 12, 2012  
7:00 P.M.**

**Mayor Jeffrey E. Graham Presiding**

**Present:** Council Member Roxanne M. Burns  
Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr.  
Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso  
Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith  
Mayor Graham

**Also Present:** Mary M. Corriveau, City Manager

**City staff present:** Ken Mix, Kurt Hauk, Elliott Nelson, Eugene Hayes, Chief Goss

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution 1 - Approving Lease and Service Agreement for Spare Bus Program Between the City of Watertown and Franklin County
- Resolution 2 – Amendment No. 84 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan
- Sewall’s Island Redevelopment Plan Update
- Watertown Local Development Corporation, Option Request.
- Thompson Park Conservancy Lease
- Town of Watertown Sewer

**Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk**

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution 1 - Approving Lease and Service Agreement for Spare Bus Program Between the City of Watertown and Franklin County**

**Introduced by Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith**

WHEREAS the New York State Department of Transportation has determined that small rural transit systems generally have fewer spare and back-up vehicles to rely on when their fleet experiences mechanical failures or their buses are out of service for extended periods of time,

and

WHEREAS a new Federal Section 5311 Rural Transit System Program has been designed to assist rural transit providers by strategically locating backup and spare buses for use by small rural transit systems, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown participates in said program by housing one of the backup and spare buses, and

WHEREAS Franklin County, has notified NYSDOT of their desire to utilize the spare bus titled to the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Lease and Service Agreement for Spare Bus Program between the City of Watertown and Franklin County, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution,

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

**Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

**Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

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

**Resolution 2 – Amendment No. 84 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan**

**Introduced by Council Member Roxanne M. Burns**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 84 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan, effective upon appointment of Erin E. Gardner to the position listed below, as follows:

Position	Salary
Superintendent of Parks and Recreation	\$69,000

Upon successful completion of one year of service in this position, the salary will increase by \$1,000.

**Seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso**

**Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Roxanne M. Burns, seconded by Council Member Teresa R. Macaluso and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Graham expressed his appreciation to the City Manager and staff for ending this process with a good result.

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

Mrs. Corriveau introduced Erin E. Gardner to Council and stated that she has accepted the position of Superintendent of Parks and Recreation. She reviewed her educational background stating that she attended Jefferson Community and Utica College before obtaining her Masters Degree from the University of Phoenix. She explained that Ms. Gardner is currently the administrator of Bluefield Manor Housing which is a sister facility of Ives Hill Retirement Community and noted that her duties and responsibilities include overseeing the management of day to day operations such as food service, facility maintenance, human resources and finances. She added that Ms. Gardner has the character, work ethic and enthusiasm that this position needs.

**Erin Gardner** told Council that she is very excited for this opportunity and is looking forward to developing goals to help make the Department of Parks and Recreation better for the City of Watertown.

Mrs. Corriveau thanked Eugene Hayes and Kurt Hauk for their assistance in this process.

## **DISCUSSIONS**

### **Irish Festival Parade Route**

Mrs. Corriveau stated that Council Member Smith called her today to talk about the parade route for the Irish Festival Parade and she asked Police Chief Joseph Goss to be present this evening to answer questions.

Council Member Smith commented that in the past the parade route started in the JB Wise parking lot and continued through Public Square onto Washington Street and there was never an issue.

**Chief Joseph Goss** stated that in order to close off Public Square then a no parking ban would need to be in place by 7:00 a.m. He explained that this parade route would entail closing Arsenal Street, Washington Street, Franklin Street and Court Street. He added that traffic could continue down State Street on Mill Street but would need to travel to Main Street to continue to the west side of the City because Black River Parkway would be closed. He pointed out that this process would require an additional six officers to help with the parade detail where as the normal parade route could be handled by on-duty personnel with no overtime. He said that the normal parade route is closed a block at a time by the lead police car and that the DPW follows the parade to remove the barricades to open the streets up. By closing the Square, he indicated that more people are being detoured and three state highways (State Route 3, State Route 11, and State Route 12) are shut down. In addition, he stated that businesses on the Square are affected by

blocking off parking. He reminded Council that the parade route in the City Code is Washington Street and he feels that this route is highly attended. He noted that his concerns were discussed with Mr. Hennessey and Mr. Gaffney and that he made his recommendations to the City Manager.

Council Member Smith commented that the traffic would only be detoured approximately three hours and noted that larger parades are held in New York City and Syracuse causing far more traffic and logistical problems. He remarked that he remembers when this was put into the Code because there were concerns that alternate routes would want to be used but it was put in there so that the alternate routes could be approved. He said that he feels too much was made out of something that could be so simple and was done in the past. He mentioned that this is only a few hours of inconvenience for traffic and that the idea of Public Square was to make it more utilized by events such as this.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that Public Square works when only the north side is closed because traffic can still flow east from Arsenal Street and can travel west from State Street onto Black River Parkway.

Chief Goss indicated that with this proposed parade route, Black River Parkway is going to be closed. He reminded Council that when traffic is barricaded, some vehicles still go around the barricades and continue onto the closed section of the street. In order to close off the square, he would have to have an officer stationed at the American Corner and at the end of State Street. He reiterated that he was asked for his opinion and Washington Street is a nicer parade route.

Council Member Butler asked if the new access road into the JB Wise lot could be used for the start of the parade and it would eliminate the use of the Black River Parkway.

Chief Goss commented that a tractor trailer is in the parade and this road is a steep incline.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that this was discussed and was not a good option from the Irish Festival's perspective.

In regards to parade safety, Chief Goss said that smooth surfaces are better when kids are standing on floats and there is more risk of people falling off the floats when there are more turns. He suggested that Council google "parade accidents" to see incidents that have occurred in other communities. He stated that his main concern is safety and feels that Washington Street is smooth and straight which makes it the best route.

Council Member Butler asked why The Irish Festival had concerns with the Washington Street parade route.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that it was too long of a route for the Irish Festival Parade if started at the High School and for the past few years, this parade started at the Rouse Building.

Chief Goss mentioned that the parade can line up on either Paddock Street or Winslow Street and the police will assist with temporary no parking signs on Winslow Street. He reminded Council

that when Washington Street is closed, Holcomb Street, Sherman Street and Myrtle Avenue run parallel to it which makes detouring easier.

Council Member Butler stated he respects Chief Goss's opinion as well as the City Manager and it is her decision but this is an event that draws thousands of people to the Watertown area every March. He said the City might have to spend a little more money to honor the request even though it is inconvenient and in his opinion, these are accommodations that should be made.

Chief Goss advised that if every time there is an event and accommodations need to be changed, it will be expensive. He explained that he is looking at his overtime budget.

Council Member Smith stated that the City should be able to spend extra money on positive events within the community.

In response to Council Member Burns' inquiry, Chief Goss stated that the committee seemed satisfied with his response.

#### **Car Accident involving Police Officer**

Council Member Smith questioned the recent accident involving a Police Officer driving a Police Car.

Chief Goss stated that the Police Officer was responding to a domestic dispute and the mist over the Mill Street Bridge created ice on the road which caused the police car to lose control striking a telephone pole on the passenger side. He explained that the Crash Management Team is investigating and he had notified the City Manager but does not have a final report yet. He further explained that the Police Officer did receive injuries and will be out of work for a few days. He mentioned that the Police Officer has been spoken to but this will be addressed further once he returns to work.

Council Member Smith stated that he does not like hearing about things like this on the news and asked if the Council could be notified of such events.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that this was an accident and she was informed Sunday morning. She added that the City does have a lot of vehicle accidents and wondered if Council wanted to be notified every time there is a accident.

Council Member Smith pointed out that this involved a lot of damage and an injury.

Chief Goss stated that damages were only sustained by a city car and if there had been another vehicle involved they would have been called.

#### **Sewall's Island Redevelopment Plan Update and Watertown Local Development Corporation, Option Request.**

**Ken Mix**, Planning and Community Development Coordinator reminded Council that the Watertown Trust was to take the lead in the development of this after the cleanup was complete. He reviewed the six areas of opportunity through the LWRP process and showed Council possible drawings of what the development could look like. He pointed out that there is an area consisting of a landfill that will not structurally hold buildings without a significant investment. He stated that this process identified the desire for more recreation on the island and there is some white water that has long been the interest of some white water boaters but it needs access. He also showed an example of how the railroad tresses could be turned into the pedestrian walkway. He explained the Watertown Trust is talking to some residential developers and it needs to be determined which areas are available for developing. He said the areas held out are the landfill area, the railroad line across the island and a 50 foot strip around the edge which leaves 3.6 acres at the site of the foundry, a couple of acres on the other side of the railroad line and 3.9 acres on Water Street.

Mayor Graham asked if the second railroad bridge connects to someone else's property

Mr. Mix replied that this area was City owned property.

Council Member Macaluso asked if this area would not have any commercial property.

Mr. Mix replied that it depends on how much space the housing developers need and that there is a lot of commercial space available elsewhere in the City. He explained hydroelectric would be promoted in this district and that it has already been zoned for a use as water dependent or water enhanced. He mentioned that today's water plants are not really an industrial use and does not cause a lot of noise which would make is compatible with residential space.

Council Member Butler asked if the clean up was done.

Mr. Mix stated that the documentation is almost complete and the formal submission to the DEC is targeted for April.

Council Member Butler commented that it would be good to have this redeveloped.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that the fact that there is an organization interested in it and willing to take the lead is good for the City. In response to Mayor Graham's question, she stated that she has seen the draft contract and there may be some things that might need to be changed but the City has not entered into negotiations yet.

Council concurred that the City Manager is authorized to enter into discussion to implement an agreement.

### **Thompson Park Conservancy Lease**

Mrs. Corriveau stated that the City entered into a one year lease with the Conservancy based on some concerns from the prior year but noted that the lease has been in place since the early 1990's with only minor modifications. She explained that the expiration of the lease is June 30<sup>th</sup>

which coincides with the Syracuse Symphony's July concert. She pointed out that the uncertainty of the contract prior to this concert makes it difficult to preplan for this event. She told Council that this is a no cost contract so it does not matter whether it expires at the end of December or June. She proposed a 30 month lease which would run from July 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.

Council Member Smith asked if the contract gives them the ability to control all concession sales during the events held at Thompson Park.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that the Conservancy has the ability to sell during other events not held by other not-for-profit organizations but only has exclusive rights to the Syracuse Symphony.

Council Member Smith asked if a hot dog stand could set up in the park on a hot sunny day. He added that right now the only way to access the concession stand is to pay to get into the zoo.

Mrs. Corriveau read from the contract and confirmed that the Conservancy only has exclusive rights on the zoo property not the whole park but can sell concession items throughout park but not during events that are used to raise funds for a not-for-profit organization. She further clarified that the Conservancy will have exclusive rights during the Syracuse Symphony Concert and Fireworks held in July. She explained that someone else could sell food at the park any time besides the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Mayor Graham pointed out that a mobile vendor needs to get a permit from the Clerk's office.

**John Wright**, Executive Director stated that there is a vending machine at the pool and commented that the zoo concession stand is accessible through the ticket booth area without paying the entry fee. In response to Council Member Butler's inquiry, he said that the July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert raised approximately \$12,000 and it is one of their bigger fundraisers. He stated that he appreciates that the City allows the Conservancy to have exclusive rights to this event. He also explained that he does not have enough staff to venture out beyond the current concession capabilities.

Mayor Graham suggested Council renew the contract through the end of 2014 with the current language and Council concurred.

#### **Aviary/Education Center**

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that 90% of the plans should be received this week.

#### **Hockey Team – 1000 Islands Privateers**

Mrs. Corriveau stated that she is getting ready to meet with the owner and president of the Privateers and wanted to get more direction from Council. She noted that the Privateers want exclusive rights to sell signage on the boards throughout the facility, exclusive rights to alcohol sales, exclusive rights to two offices, expansion of the concession stand, exclusive rights to sell their apparel and a new home team locker room.

Mayor Graham commented that the City Manager and staff should have the authority to have discussions with the team in order to resolve some of the issues. He indicated that scheduling should be able to be worked through and signage is not sold by the City so it would be a revenue source for the team. In regards to the concession stand, he said that the City has been successful in building on what they had but thinks that it could be expanded further to accommodate these events. He added that the expanded concession stand gives the City a stake in the revenue stream. He reminded Council that the law states that if someone is selling alcohol for that many events then they should have a license so he agreed with that. As far as the locker room and office, he felt that this could be worked out and some things could be moved around.

Council Member Smith suggested the referee room could be expanded into the concession room and the current Parks and Recreation Office space could be divided. He stated that some creative thinking could help for the short term.

Mayor Graham advised that the City maintain the Parks and Recreation Office space.

Mrs. Corriveau reminded Council that this office space will also house another individual when the Program Manager position is filled.

Mayor Graham pointed out that a trailer or a temporary closure could be used the first year. He also stated that there will be some expenses on the City's part but the City should be sharing in the revenue stream and there needs to be assurances that the City will be paid in an appropriate manor.

Council Member Smith pointed out that youth hockey pays ½ of the season upfront and the remaining ½ mid season. He noted that the time the hockey team is asking for is dead ice time. He indicated that the fee for renting the ice is stated in the code so there should not be a discount on that.

Mayor Graham stated that the City needs to be upfront with their concerns and if there are evolving roadblocks along the way then it should be addressed by Council. Otherwise, he expressed confidence in the City Manager and staff moving ahead with this.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that she has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow with the team and wanted to understand where the Council was as a whole prior to that meeting.

Council Member Burns stated that the feedback that she has received is of growing support and excitement for this. She said this is a nice way to round out the activities at the Ice Arena. She asked if the party room is used very often.

Council Member Smith replied that it is used quite a bit for birthday parties and as a meeting room for minor hockey and figure skating.

Mayor Graham suggested that the referee room could be used to make a larger concession and tables could be added so that parties could be held in the concession area.

Council Member Smith suggested that there may be extra space where the second zamboni is kept.

Mayor Graham mentioned that this will take the arena to a higher level and there will be a broader base use of the arena by the community which would justify the expense of the capital improvements that are needed.

Council Member Burns said she would like to see that there are assurances in place that a not-for-profit such as the DPAO would be able to have a sharing relationship on the concessions.

Council discussed that if the City is going to retain the concession stand then it has to be larger and enhanced to support year-round events.

Council Member Macaluso stated that she supports this but sees a lot of issues that need to be resolved such as if the City will get something in return after putting so much expense into the building and what will happen if the hockey team decides not to return to the ice arena next year. She wants to make sure the City is protected but feels the City Manager will address these concerns.

Mrs. Corriveau confirmed that the team will practice during the day and that the only conflict in scheduling will be with the Family Skate Night on Friday nights, Rock and Skate on Saturday nights and hockey tournaments on some weekends.

Council Member Butler advised that the initial spending should be in areas that will not only benefit the team but also benefit the City and create temporary office space initially. He stated that the City could have a timeline in place for other improvements based on how well the first few years go.

### **Restrooms at Thompson Park**

In response to Council Member Butler's question, Mrs. Corriveau stated that the restrooms are closed until the weather is better because they are not winterized.

**Eugene Hayes**, Superintendent of Department of Public Works stated that the restrooms are usually opened in mid-May but may be earlier this year due to the mild weather.

### **Clock Tower Lights**

Mrs. Corriveau presented to Council a report showing the estimated costs associated with changing the backdrop lighting on the Town Clock and stated that the real issue is the safety of the personnel.

Council Member Smith stated that if the bulbs go out now then they need to be changed and safety needs to be addressed.

Mr. Hayes explained that the Clock Tower was usually only accessed twice a year to adjust for day light savings and replace any bulbs that needed replacing. He indicated that if there is a

possibility of operating out of this area quite a bit then safety becomes an issue. He stressed that the more times staff enters into a potentially dangerous zone then the more the City should be conscience of the safety aspect of it. He suggested that certain things such as anchor points need to be in place to ensure that someone does not fall through the glass because it is a 90 foot drop. He advised that some bulbs cannot be reached simply and someone must stand inside the window well which is 23 inches to install the lights.

Council Member Macaluso asked if something could be put in the center of the tower that illuminates out towards the face of the clock. She noted that she did not realize that it was this dangerous up there and wondered if there was some other way to light the clock.

Mr. Hayes responded that something could possibly be put on the center of the “doghouse”.

Council Member Smith stated that if there are identifiable safety problems then it should have nothing to do with changing the bulbs green and the safety issues should be addressed.

Mr. Hayes remarked that the work order is based on two people.

Council Member Smith summarized that the cost of this is \$300 and if the Irish Festival is willing to pay \$300 then in his opinion, the City should do it and the safety issues should still be addressed at some point.

Council Member Butler pointed out that if this is a hazard then no lights should be put up there because he does not want to put any City employees at risk. He stressed that the safety issues should be corrected first.

Mr. Hayes mentioned that not only are there health and safety concerns that could be fixed with proper scaffolding, anchor points, and rails, but masonry and glazing work needs to be done in the tower. He reminded Council that the clock faces were not included in the repairs that were done in 2008.

Council Member Butler agreed with Council Member Macaluso’s idea of putting floodlights on the “doghouse” and directing the light out.

Mrs. Corriveau suggested that they try the floodlights to see if it works and reiterated that she does not want to put staff at risk.

Council Member Burns stated that Mr. Hayes’ memo educated Council and the public on the safety concerns and noted that now that Council has publicly identified a safety issue, she is very concerned.

In regards to Council Member Butler’s inquiry, Mr. Hayes stated that the most dangerous part is standing in the window well but some lights require a lot of reaching. He added that it would be safer if they could work off the “doghouse” but he would still suggest putting up railing.

Mrs. Corriveau summarized that staff will look at using floodlights for this week but stated the safety issues as well mortar work still needs to be addressed for long term.

### **City Manager's Update**

Mrs. Corriveau mentioned that the City Manager's Update was available for review and that this would be her last report to Council.

### **Septic at Barben Avenue Property**

Council Member Smith stated he was contacted by a Barben Avenue resident that has a septic system on his property that is in need of repair and wants to connect to the City sewer.

Mrs. Corriveau pointed out that this resident should contact the Engineering Department about this.

### **Advantage Watertown**

Council Member Smith stated that this committee was briefed on Factory Street and the Woolworth Building but Council was not. He wondered what the purpose of this group is because they are an advisory group but he does not know who they are advising. He noted that the people in this group are not elected or appointed by anybody and he stated that there is not a Council resolution that created this body. He added that they have created a priority list but he does not understand who is receiving these priorities.

Mayor Graham mentioned that there have been members on the board that have recently asked what the purpose of the group is. He explained that it was part of the LWRP process and was to a brainstorming type group of stakeholders of the downtown and river area. He stated that they have not received any briefings that are proprietary.

Council Member Smith stated his concern is that this is a group that is not elected or appointed by an elected group but is using tax payers' funds via use of City staff. He wondered if any organization would be able to use City staff without authorization by Council.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that Advantage Watertown is the LWRP advisory committee and it started as Quality Communities.

**Kenneth Mix**, Planning and Community Development Coordinator clarified that there were originally three committees (Downtown Development Committee, Quality Communities Committee and LWRP Committee) with similar interests in downtown and the river redevelopment and they were combined into one group. He remarked that he thought they were initially set up by Council.

Council Member Smith stated that he asked for research to be done and a resolution was not found.

Mr. Mix said that they started advising on LWRP but have evolved into other discussions. He indicated that they are merely a sounding board and do not have the authority to take action on anything.

Council Member Smith stated that he not criticizing the good intentions of the members and the time that they give but his point is that they are using City tax payers' dollars by utilizing City staff's time. Again, he reiterated that this was not approved by Council.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that this had Council approval and the fact that the approval was not found does not mean it did not happen.

Council Member Smith asked for a copy of the resolution.

Mayor Graham commented that it originated through the LWRP process but if Council does not want it to occur then that is fine. He noted that because the group gets news coverage then they have the imprimatur of a public body that does something when it gets reported in the newspaper such as "City Board eyes parking lot".

Council Member Smith addressed the Committee's priority list and wondered if the priorities were meant for City staff. He noted that this is part of Council's role.

Council Member Macaluso stated if Council cannot find anything that states it approved it then it can be dismantled but she feels the group does good things.

Mrs. Corriveau clarified that the group is a sounding board for staff and Council is invited to every meeting as well and receives minutes from each meeting. She stated that these members are asked to come to the meetings and give their input as community business people and economically developers. She said that this is a different group of people than Council and they are willing to give their time to the City. She indicated that the priority list resulted from discussions about issues that the City as a whole needs to start thinking about and said these are the same ones that are on Council's list.

Mr. Mix stated that the committee would like to set down with Council and discuss the priority list but a meeting has not been scheduled yet.

Council Member Burns stated that she was familiar with when the committee was set up and was one of the original members but mentioned that in all these years, the committee has not met with Council. She stated her concern is that the average tax payer sees this as a City committee setting these priorities and therefore interprets this as City government doing this which is misleading. She said that if this is an advisory committee on where the community should go then City Council should play a role.

Mayor Graham wondered if there is a statutory requirement of the LWRP process that this body must exist.

Mrs. Corriveau clarified that she, Mr. Mix and Mr. Nelson attend the meetings and at the last meeting, Mr. Hauk discussed the Factory street project which has already been presented to Council. She added that the discussion on the Woolworth Building is no different than what was in the paper. She stated the committee was invited to attend Council's work session when Mr. Traynor will be present because some are downtown property owners and they are concerned over this building.

Council Member Smith requested more information on how this committee was originated and expressed his concerns over this committee using staff time and posting their minutes on the City website.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that the answers to Council Member Smith's questions will be researched further.

## **A D J O U R N M E N T**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:06 P.M. by motion of Council Member Jeffrey M. Smith, seconded by Council Member Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

*Ann M. Saunders*  
City Clerk