

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
April 21, 2008
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
ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE**

City Manager Corriveau presented the following reports to the Council:

- 1 - Approving the "ZBA" Basics: An Overview of ZBA Powers and Duties: Workshop on April 23, 2008 As Valid Training for Meeting the New York State Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials Training Requirement
- 2 - Reappointment to the Empire Zone Board, James Fitzpatrick
- 3 - Reappointment to the Empire Zone Board, Robert Lawlor
- 4 - Reappointment to the Empire Zone Board, Peter Sovie
- 5 - Approving Agreement for use of Buildings and Grounds, Watertown City School District
- 6 - Acceptance of Sanitary Sewer Easement, 234 and 238 Bellew Avenue
- 7 - Authorizing Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to the State Multi-Modal Program, Downtown Streetscape Enhancement Project, Contract No. D022606
- 8 - Accepting Agreement with Systems Development Group for Continuing Image Mate Online Assessment Software Support
- 9 - Establishing Assessment Charge for Sidewalks, 2008-09 Pursuant to Section 93 of the City Charter
- 10 - Approving the Special Use Permit Request Submitted by David Kolakowski, to Allow a Garage for Storage of Motor Vehicles Within a Neighborhood Business Zoning District, Located at 1092 Coffeen Street, Parcel No. 8-32-101
- 11 - Approving Agreement With Lu Engineers for 2008 Traffic Engineering Work
- 12 - Request by City Council of the City of Watertown for Enactment of a Special Law
- 13 - 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing – Resolution No. 9 – Establishing Assessment Charge, 2008-09 Sidewalk Improvement Special Assessment Program
- 14 - 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing – Resolution No. 10 – Approving the Special Use Permit Request Submitted by David Kolakowski, to Allow a Garage for Storage of Motor Vehicles Within a Neighborhood Business Zoning District, Located at 1092 Coffeen Street, Parcel No. 8-32-101
- 15 - Tabled Resolution – Approving Agreement for Bus Advertising Services, Inkwell Graphix

- 16 - Public Hearings for 2008-09 Operating Budgets and 2008-09 through 2012-13 Capital Budget
- 17- Executive Session
- 18 - Fiscal Year 2006-07 Audit Report

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 April 7, 2008 was dispensed with and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Clough, seconded by Council Member Smith and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

Claim against the City was received from Tammy Castor for damage to her vehicle when she struck a pothole on Walker Avenue.

ABOVE PLACED ON FILE

Notices of Petition for Board of Assessment Review were received from Walgreens and Arsenal Street Associates.

ABOVE PLACED ON FILE

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

S.G. Gates, Dorsey Street, addressed the chair advising Council that there will be a meeting on Thursday, April 24th at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express to plan a dog walk fund raiser in early June. He stated that he would like to have the dog park built this summer and would like Council to decide on a location.

Wayne Zimmer, Katherine Street, addressed the chair concerning the security in City Hall and mentioned that the County building has security at the front door.

Mayor Graham commented that a police officer will be present at all Council meetings as general security and to check the building.

Mr. Zimmer also commented that much of what Mr. DeFranco stated at a previous meeting was true. He said that he had also heard from other downtown business owners in regards to the Downtown Development Specialist not visiting their business. He discussed using that position to work on projects on Eastern Boulevard and how it should

be geared more toward the downtown area.

Michael McCarthy, Francis Street, addressed the chair remarking that the city buses should go to the mall until at least 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

He also commented that the restrooms at Thompson Park are not accessible enough for the disabled. He also stated that there should be a new ice arena in an effort to bring more people to the City and to put more people to work.

Donna Juliani, 227-229 Sterling Street, addressed the chair concerning no curbs in front of her house and the fact that cars are constantly parking upon the grass strip between the roadway and the sidewalk, thus ruining the grass. She also expressed concern with the houses located at 233-35 Sterling and 209 Sterling. Both houses are vacant. Both have broken windows and have people going in them at night. Ms. Juliani said that she had called the City several times and nothing has been done. She also supplied photos of the properties to the Council.

Mayor Graham remarked that Mr. Hayes will be notified about the curbing. He also asked the City Manager for a report concerning these two properties.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

AT 7:30 P.M. MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ESTABLISHING ASSESSMENT CHARGE, 2008-2009 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

Wayne Zimmer, Katherine Street, addressed the chair questioning an estimate of \$600 from the City for two blocks on his property. He also remarked that if the City took care of their own sidewalks, the citizens would have more incentive to take care of theirs. He also commented that he had asked the sidewalk engineer to come to his property and he never came.

Council Member Butler remarked that the notice of the public hearing was just received by the property owners on Friday and he didn't feel that this was enough notice.

Mr. Hauk explained that the original letter was sent out quite some time ago. The letter this week was merely a reminder. The notice was also published in the Watertown Daily Times. He also explained that the dates listed in the letter were deadlines. The first deadline is for the City to know if the City crews are doing the work and the second deadline is so the Comptroller is made aware of the property owner wanting to opt into the special assessment program.

Council Member Butler responded that he sees a flaw in the process since once the cost is established, there is only a short time for the property owner to get estimates.

Mr. Hauk explained that the \$5.00 estimate had already been put in the letter as that was what had been used in the past. However, the City will work with the property owner if they are waiting for a contractor.

Council Member Butler asked about warranty work on the blocks previously put in and asked how many years the City would honor for the warranty.

Mr. Hauk explained that this would be situational. If there is a defect issue, it isn't usually with new blocks but with repaired ones.

Attorney Slye explained that these are City sidewalks that the City feels need to be replaced and therefore, the City can do it. The City crews will do the work and the cost will be passed on to the abutting property owners, per City Charter.

Michael McCarthy, Francis Street, addressed the chair asking why the sidewalk information hadn't been put on the Hotline and asked if the City had given any thought to the accessibility of these sidewalks for the handicapped.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED AT 7:47 P.M.

AT 7:30 P.M. MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING APPROVING THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST SUBMITTED BY DAVID KOLAKOWSKI, TO ALLOW A GARAGE FOR STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN A NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT, LOCATED AT 1092 COFFEEN STREET, PARCEL NO. 8-32-101

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

David Kolakowski, owner of the property, addressed the chair offering to answer any questions that Council might have.

Mayor Graham explained that Council may have questions at the time the resolution is brought up for a vote.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED AT 7:49 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS the New York State Chapter 662 of the Laws of 2006, which took effect on January 1, 2007 requires all municipal planning and zoning officials to have four hours of training per year, and

WHEREAS the training must be approved by the City Council before it can be used to meet the new training requirement, and

WHEREAS the Fort Drum Regional Liaison Organization, in collaboration with the Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence County Planning Departments, the NYS Tug Hill Commission, and the Center for Community Studies at JCC is sponsoring a “ZBA Basics: An Overview of ZBA Powers and Duties” workshop on April 23, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Jefferson Community College,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that the “ZBA Basics: An Overview of ZBA Powers and Duties” workshop is approved to provide two hours of training toward meeting the New York State Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials training requirement.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS New York State has designated an Empire Zone (formerly Economic Development Zone) pursuant to Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law within the Town of Watertown and the City of Watertown on July 27, 1994, and

WHEREAS Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law requires that an Empire Zone Board (formerly Economic Development Zone Administrative Board) be in place to oversee the operation of the Zone, and

WHEREAS there exists a vacancy on the Board for a Zone Education Representative,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby reappoints to the Empire Zone, as a zone educator, for a term expiring on May 31, 2011:

James Fitzpatrick
837 Holcomb Street
Watertown, New York

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.

WHEREAS New York State has designated an Empire Zone (formerly Economic Development Zone) pursuant to Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law within the Town of Watertown and the City of Watertown on July 27, 1994, and

WHEREAS Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law requires that an Empire Zone Board (formerly Economic Development Zone Administrative Board) be in place to oversee the operation of the Zone, and

WHEREAS there exists a vacancy on the Board for a Zone Business Owner Representative,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby reappoints to the Empire Zone, as a zone business owner, for a term expiring on May 31, 2011:

Robert Lawlor
1006 Holcomb Street
Watertown, New York

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS New York State has designated an Empire Zone (formerly Economic Development Zone) pursuant to Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law within the Town of Watertown and the City of Watertown on July 27, 1994, and

WHEREAS Article 18-b of the New York State General Municipal Law requires that an Empire Zone Board (formerly Economic Development Zone Administrative Board) be in place to oversee the operation of the Zone, and

WHEREAS there exists a vacancy on the Board for a Town of Watertown Representative,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby reappoints to the Empire Zone, as a zone town representative, for a term expiring on May 31, 2011:

Peter Sovie
19250 Woodside Drive
Watertown, New York

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR. AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to run a Summer Recreation Program within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Watertown City School District is willing to authorize the City to use its facilities for said purpose, and

WHEREAS there is no cost associated with the Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown City School District, and

WHEREAS the City deems the providing of a Summer Recreation Program to be a benefit to the citizens of the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement between the City and the Watertown City School District, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey E. Graham, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract on behalf of the City of Watertown.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS the NYSDOT, during its reconstruction of Bellew Avenue in 2002, determined that there was a need to construct a small sanitary sewer main along the easterly margin of Bellew Avenue, that enabled sanitary lateral hook-ups for the existing house located at 244 Bellew Avenue and for future development at both 234 and 238 Bellew Avenue, and

WHEREAS in order for the City to adequately maintain, repair, reconstruct, etc. this line as a small "main", the City must secure a 10' wide Sanitary Sewer Easement from the existing owner of record of 234 and 238 Bellew Avenue, Parcels No. 813107.100 and 813107.200, and

WHEREAS the said owner of record of both parcels is listed as Oasis Properties, LLC, and

WHEREAS their authorized agent, Mr. Eugene Lehman, is in full agreement regarding the creation of and subsequent granting of the necessary 10' wide Sanitary Sewer Easement to the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the City of Watertown to obtain title to the Sanitary Sewer Easement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey E. Graham, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Sewer Easement on behalf of the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager shall take all steps necessary to record the City's interests in the easement at the office of the Jefferson County Clerk.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS in October 2004, the City of Watertown entered into an Agreement with New York State for the Multi-Modal Program administered by the NYS Department of Transportation ("NYSDOT"), for the Downtown Watertown Streetscape Enhancement Project, P.I.N. 7803.92.321 (the "Project"), and

WHEREAS the original Agreement between the City and the State of New York had an expiration date of December 31, 2006, which was subsequently amended to March 31, 2008, and

WHEREAS the City and the State of New York are desirous to amend the expiration date to December 31, 2009,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown, hereby approves Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to the Downtown Watertown Streetscape Enhancement Project, P.I.N. 7803.92.321, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Mary M. Corriveau, is hereby authorized and directed to execute Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to the Multi-Modal Program Funding on behalf of the City Council of the City of Watertown.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown was previously awarded a grant by the NYS Office of Real Property Services;

WHEREAS, this provides funding to support web-based delivery of real property information within the City on our website;

WHEREAS, the information include sales history, property owner information, property tax information and individual structure characteristics;

WHEREAS, this web-based delivery system provided by Systems Development Group benefits property owners, real-estate firms, tax attorneys and departmental staff who require this information on a regular basis on-demand;

WHEREAS, the grant awarded requires the City of Watertown to maintain the annual software support provided by Systems Development Group to preserve the real property on-line service,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement between the City of Watertown and Systems Development Group, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Mary M. Corriveau, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Burns asked if the City was making any inroads with paying on line.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that the Comptroller's Office is still looking into this.

Council Member Butler asked if this resolution was for the Assessment Department only.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that it will handle the Assessment Department's data which will be open to the public to view.

Council Member Butler referred to the fact that enhancements are covered but the custom enhancements are not through the program. He asked if we have ever had custom enhancements.

Mr. White explained that the fee is \$1,000 per year for the City and there have been some changes made in the past.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS a public hearing was held in accordance with Section 93 of the City Charter on April 21, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. to hear public comment concerning whether all or a portion of the cost for proposed sidewalk improvements to the streets identified in the attached proposed special assessment district, shall be a charge or expense upon the abutting properties, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that it shall fix the charge to be paid by the abutting property owner at \$ 5.00 per square foot, with the remaining cost being paid by the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, pursuant to Section 93 of the City Charter, hereby fixes the charge to be paid for the proposed sidewalk improvements to the streets identified in the attached proposed special assessment district to be paid by the abutting property owner at \$5.00 per square foot, with the remaining cost being paid by the City.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH TO SET THE COST AT \$5.00 PER SQUARE FOOT. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution as amended, Council Member Smith remarked that he had received some phone calls, not against the program, but questioning the process. He remarked that the letters were confusing and that setting the rate tonight does create a short time to make a decision.

Council Member Butler asked if an inspection is done when they go out to do the work, since the original inspection was done last fall and they might have already had the work completed.

Mr. Hauk explained that the City inspects a wider area than what will be done during the fall and then once Council has approved the area, letters are sent out. The letters state that they can contact the Engineering Department with any questions they might have. The City doesn't reinspect in the spring until they are ready to work at the property, unless the property owner contacts us.

Council Member Clough commented that when the program was done on Hoard Street, the property owners contacted the City and engineering revisited the properties. It cut down on the number of blocks that needed to be done. He commented that the City has really been working with the residents. He also commented that it was understood that the LeRay Street property owners would only be paying \$5.00 per square foot for their own blocks as well.

Mrs. Corriveau stated that this is correct.

Council Member Smith suggested that in the future, the correspondence concerning this program be made clearer.

Mr. Hauk explained that they have been trying to do just that.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that a pamphlet has been put together for the program as well.

Council Member Smith remarked that there is a need to formalize a warranty in some way.

Mr. Hauk agreed.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AS AMENDED AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

WHEREAS Lu Engineers are currently conducting traffic counts for the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS City Engineer Kurt Hauk is recommending that the City enter into an Agreement with Lu Engineers to conduct traffic studies and traffic signal design at various intersections within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS a Proposal for Engineering Services from Lu Engineers has been received, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement with Lu Engineers to conduct traffic studies and traffic signal design at various intersections within the City, at a cost of \$25,300, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Mary M. Corriveau, is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.

Referring to the foregoing resolution, Council Member Clough asked Attorney Slye if the City would be liable if they didn't follow through on the recommendations as a result of the study.

Attorney Slye explained that if the City follows the recommendations, they would receive immunity. The City could be found liable if they fail to mark areas as the study would indicate.

Council Member Butler asked about the study that was done at the intersection of Holcomb and Mullin.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that this was not a study, but rather a traffic count.

Council Member Smith remarked that some of these intersections up for the study were included in the streetscape program.

Mr. Hauk explained that only the one at Clinton and Holcomb had been included in that program.

Council Member Clough asked about the Factory and Polk intersection and the fact that he believed that this was going to be held off until Factory Street was redone. He said that this could totally eliminate parking for those businesses near that corner.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that this intersection came up in the discussions when Polk Street was changed.

Mayor Graham remarked that the problem is that once the study is commissioned, the result is what it will become. Therefore, he said that he would like to wait on the study at that intersection.

Mr. Hauk commented that the City had received comments from business owners in that area and that is why the Factory/Polk intersection was being considered in the study.

Council Member Smith commented that the sidewalks in that area are wider and wondered if when Factory Street was rebuilt if the sidewalks could be narrowed so that on street parking could come farther into the area.

Mr. Hauk responded that these were thing that could be looked at.

Council Member Burns asked who the business owners were that contacted the City and asked what their concerns were.

Mr. Hauk said that he had received phone calls from some businesses on Polk Street concerning the intersection with Factory Street and being able to turn left.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that Mrs. Hoffman had spoken with business owners on lower State Street who were also concerned about the Factory Street intersection.

Council Member Clough remarked that this intersection should be done when Factory Street is done, not now.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that staff is just trying to be responsive to concerns.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO REMOVE #4 TRAFFIC STUDY AT FACTORY STREET AND POLK STREET INTERSECTION FROM THE RESOLUTION.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Attorney Slye advised Council that the resolution shouldn't be voted on at this time due to the fact that the City may have to renegotiate with Lu Engineers since #4 was removed.

Discussion was held concerning the traffic signal design for the Summit Wood entrance.

Mr. Hauk advised what was involved in this process.

Council Member Smith questioned why Mr. Green and the City's Electric Department couldn't do this as they handle timing issues throughout the City.

Mr. Hauk explained that the City did purchase software that will allow us to do some of the work in house. However, some things still need to be done by traffic engineers.

Mayor Graham referred to the intersection at Holcomb and Mullin and remarked that at some point a decision will have to be made by someone relative to a light or a four-way stop sign and there are people who have that expertise and it doesn't cost \$25,000.

Council Member Clough referred to the work done by Mr. Fraser at that intersection.

Mr. Hauk responded that Mr. Fraser did the traffic counts and would be working with Lu Engineers on this study.

Council Member Burns asked if a study had ever been done at this intersection.

Mr. Hauk said that he has not been able to find information on one being done.

Council Member Burns commented that this has been an issue for 25 years. She asked since the City doesn't have a traffic engineer, if we use one from Jefferson County.

Mr. Hauk explained that while the county does have a traffic engineer, they don't usually get involved in this type of study.

Council Member Butler remarked that he sees this as a flawed process. There is a problem at the intersection and it can only be fixed by either putting up a traffic light or having a four way stop.

Mr. Hauk explained that what the City needs are the best solutions. The intersection could be reconfigured or a four-way stop or light could be placed there. The alignment could also be altered or a change in sight distance could be made. Therefore, there are more than just two options.

Mrs. Corriveau commented that the City took the first step last year when the parking configuration was changed.

Council Member Smith commented that he doesn't understand what has to be designed for a traffic signal. A pole is put up, wire is strung and the electric department does the timing.

Mr. Hauk, referring to Summit Wood, advised that there will need to be four bases, an easement obtained from SMC, new conduit run and the design of the signal completed.

Council Member Smith asked if plans from the major street reconstruction of State Street could be borrowed for this signal design.

Mr. Hauk explained that the Washington Street project is not the same as the one on State Street.

Council Member Smith suggested contacting the manufacturers and telling them what we need.

Mr. Hauk explained how the design plans must be stamped by a professional traffic engineer. Otherwise, there will be a disclaimer clause on the plans.

Council Member Smith asked that Mr. Green be contacted to attend a Council meeting to give input on this.

Mrs. Corriveau will ask Mr. Green to attend the next meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO TABLE THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER PETER L. CLOUGH

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns the Fairgrounds in the City of Watertown known as the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds, and

WHEREAS the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds are classified as park lands and, therefore, are inalienable pursuant to General Municipal Law §20(2) absent special approval of the State Legislature, and

WHEREAS an entity now known as Watertown Family YMCA, Inc. has expressed interest in entering into a land lease with the City of Watertown for the operation of an existing indoor family sports facility at the Fairgrounds for public recreation and use, and

WHEREAS this indoor family sports facility promotes the health and general welfare of the public, as well as promotes commerce and tourism in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown deems it to be in the best interest of the City to lease Fairgrounds land for the purposes of encouraging recreation, and

WHEREAS the City Council, by resolution dated December 17, 2007, authorized the Mayor to seek State legislative approval, and

WHEREAS legislation was introduced under Senate Bill S7156a and Assembly Bill A10358a, and

WHEREAS a resolution approving a Home Rule Request must be made after the introduction of the bills in the Legislature,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Home Rule Request introduced in the Senate under Bill Number 7156a and in the Assembly under Bill Number 10358a, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall take all steps necessary to assure timely filing of the certification of this approval.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA.

THE RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST SUBMITTED BY DAVID KOLAKOWSKI, TO ALLOW A GARAGE FOR STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES WITHIN A NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT, LOCATED AT 1092 COFFEEN STREET, PARCEL NO. 8-32-101 WAS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL. (Introduced on April 7, 2008; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety on page 75 of the 2008 Minutes Book).

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Smith asked about the number of vehicles being stored in the garage.

Mr. Kolakowski advised that the garage will be 24' x 48' and will be used to store his two vehicles and a lawn mower plus smaller items.

Council Member Butler remarked that there had been some opposition to this from the property owner across the street. He asked if he was going to be working on vehicles in the garage.

Mr. Kolakowski explained that he is not working on any vehicles. He also indicated that the set back is 10' more than the City Code requires. In addition, there is no house across

from him. He explained that there is an apartment building on one side of him and a vacant City owned lot and a car wash on the other side. The closest house across the street is down the hill and it has a commercial sign in front of it.

Council Member Burns stated that she doesn't believe that this is an unreasonable request.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

THE RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT FOR BUS ADVERTISING SERVICES, INKWELL GRAPHIX WAS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL. (Introduced to Council on March 17, 2008; tabled; appears in its entirety on page 64 of the 2008 Minutes Book).

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mrs. Corriveau advised Council that Inkwell has run ads in the chamber newsletter. In addition, Inkwell has said that they weren't opposed to putting signs on the buses in an effort to sell the ad space.

Council Member Burns asked if the City could do the same thing.

Mayor Graham suggested using the space to notify people of programs and information that the City might need to get out.

Mrs. Corriveau advised that if Council wants the City to use it ourselves, the only costs would be putting together the ad copy.

Council Member Burns remarked that we have put too much time on this. Either we try to make money on it or let non-profits use it.

Mayor Graham and Council Member Burns both commented that they are not against Inkwell.

Council Member Clough asked if we have looked at someone in the Planning Department working on this.

Mrs. Corriveau reiterated the fact that the City is not in the business of selling ads.

Council Member Clough asked if Citibus would handle this.

Attorney Slye advised that an alternative would be for us to put a franchise up for auction and award it to the highest bidder.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO PUT THE FRANCHISE FOR BUS ADVERTISING OUT TO BID.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS AND DEFEATED WITH ALL VOTING NAY EXCEPT COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH VOTING YEA

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR GRAHAM TO DO THE BUS ADVERTISING IN HOUSE.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA.

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AND DEFEATED WITH ALL VOTING NAY.

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COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS

State Street/Union Street Parking Lot

Council Member Butler asked that signage be placed on this lot to indicate that it is public parking.

CSX Crossing at Burdick Street

Council Member Clough asked that this be checked into as it is in need of repair.

Street Cleaning

Council Member Smith asked when the street cleaners would be out as he hasn't seen any on Keyes Avenue.

He was advised that they have been out on the streets already.

Curbs on Marra Drive and Pawling Street

Council Member Smith commented that he would like to see curbs on Marra Drive and Pawling Street added to the budget. He also advised that he would be out of town on Monday, April 28th and he didn't want to have Council have to rehash certain items in the budget when he returns.

Mayor Graham commented that schedules do become problematic. However, he feels that meeting should go on at the scheduled time.

It was decided that Council Member Smith will put his concerns in a written format to be addressed at next week's budget session.

Public Hearings Scheduled

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE 2008-09 OPERATING BUDGETS AND THE 2008-09 THROUGH 2012-13 CAPITAL BUDGET FOR MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008 AT 7:30 P.M.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT HISTORY OF A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL.

MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:35 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 9:35 P.M. UNTIL MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008 AT 7:00 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER CLOUGH, SECONDED BY MAYOR GRAHAM AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk