

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
June 12, 2006  
7:00 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT:**           **COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY  
COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH  
COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF  
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH  
MAYOR GRAHAM**

**ALSO PRESENT:**   **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU  
CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE**

Mayor Graham wished to thank Dave Honan for his service on the Planning Board.

**Items for Discussion:**

Police Chief Joseph Goss addressed Council on the issue of the Eastside Community Police Office. Chief Goss said that he checked with Captain Reff and other officers in the City and they came to the conclusion that the police office gives the community a false sense of security. Chief Goss also pointed out that to save the City money, it would make sense to close the Community Police Office when the lease is done June 30.

Mayor Graham responded that it is not an issue of money but rather not providing a police station. He suggested that the Police Department consider using City Hall as a satellite station.

Councilman Clough stated that with no community policing centers what will promote community policing.

Chief Goss told Council that officers stopped in during the day at the community office which is a concept embraced by all of the police force. He said, however, that it is not effective to have an officer at the community office when there are only six officers on each shift throughout the day. He also suggested changing the sign on the community office from Watertown Police Department to Watertown Information Center.

Councilman LaBouf asked what hours the volunteers are at the office.

Chief Goss responded that three volunteers try to run the office Monday through Friday 9a.m. to 5p.m.

Councilman Smith said he agrees with Councilman Clough and hopes the North side station would reopen. He added that it would be beneficial for a neighborhood police office to be open to deal with neighborhood issues.

Chief Goss told Council that he is not opposed to keeping an office open but he would recommend changing the sign. He said his first responsibility is having officers in cars to respond to calls.

Mayor Graham said the City would be better off long-term having a police presence in City Hall.

Councilman Clough told Council that the concept of community policing will be gone with the closing of the police office. He said he thinks it is sending the community the wrong signal.

Councilman Smith asked if there were any light-duty officers available to man the police office.

Chief Goss said there was one but light-duty officer but said light-duty means they don't interact with the public due to issues like injuries and has duties like filing records and reports.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council she understands Councilman Clough's desire to keep the community policing center but at this time the City doesn't have the man-power to keep them staffed as they should be staffed.

### **Police Department Record Check Fee Proposal**

Mrs. Corriveau said there has been an increase in the number of record checks and the fee has not been increased since 1988. She said the recommendation is to raise the fee from five dollars to ten dollars.

Mayor Graham told Mrs. Corriveau to prepare whatever ordinance is necessary to make the change.

### **Violations for Trash/Codes**

Councilman Clough suggested doubling the fee for those who are in continuous violation of Codes regarding trash around a property.

Councilman Smith asked what the condition is of the house on Boyd Street.

Councilman Bradley replied that it is repaired.

Mrs. Corriveau said she could get the report from Codes.

Councilman Clough asked what the City should do about absentee landlords.

Attorney Slye told Council that there was a resolution on the table in the past to have landlords register. He said in this situation the City could clean-up the garbage and mow the lawns and add that to their taxes or take the landlords to court.

Mrs. Corriveau said the person in violation is charged all costs associated with the clean-up.

Mayor Graham asked when Codes officials drive around and see violations such as high grass or garbage strewn around a property do they do anything about it.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that they are supposed to but added that they are a complaint driven office and they are not out looking for offenses.

Councilman Bradley mentioned that he would like to see the landlord registration proposal.

### **Transportation Enhancements Program Grant**

Mike Lumbis, City Planner, addressed Council about the Transportation Enhancements Program Grant. He said that there are several projects that could be included in this program including a Court Street/Arsenal Street Streetscape Enhancement Project, a Rails to Trails Project between Waterworks Park and the Black River Trailway and a bicycle and pedestrian path between the proposed Summit Wood project on Washington Street and Thompson Park.

Mayor Graham asked how far the Streetscape project will extend up Franklin Street.

Mr. Lumbis replied that it now goes to the end of the Burdick building.

Councilman Bradley suggested tying the work on Court, Arsenal and Franklin Streets together.

### **Palmer Street**

Attorney Slye referred to the prepared report containing letters regarding determining the ownership of the lands which constitute Palmer Street and Palmer Street Extension and requested direction from Council on the next steps.

Mrs. Corriveau said the issue came up when a resident had concerns with the condition of the road.

Councilman Clough asked if it is worthwhile to continue looking for the heir to Palmer Street.

Attorney Slye replied that it is not a dedicated City street and rhetorically asked what benefit is gained if the City takes title to that land.

Mayor Graham commented that there must be deeds for this land.

Attorney Slye responded that deeds were given for all property in this area except for the roadway. He added that deeds were given up to the edge of the road not up to the center.

Councilman LaBouf said there is nothing preventing the City from paving and repairing the road.

Attorney Slye replied that is correct because it is not benefiting one person.

### **Riverside Gardens LLC – Agreement for Public Services**

Mrs. Corriveau referred to a report with letters dating back to August 2004 when Council approved an Agreement for Public Services between the City of Watertown and Riverside Gardens, LLC. This Agreement called for the City to install water and sewer laterals from its mains on Huntington Street in exchange for Riverside's agreement to construct and maintain for five years, public restrooms on their property. The City work was completed, during the summer of 2004, at a cost of just over \$21,000. To date, the public restrooms contemplated in the Agreement have not been constructed.

A letter from Blackwater said the work would be finished by May 2006. A representative from the Small Business Development Center working with Blackwater since 2004 said that based on their current plan, an opening in May 2007 would be more realistic.

Mrs. Corriveau said she wanted input from Council before granting what appears to be another request for delay in construction.

Mayor Graham said there are not a lot of options other than to proceed on their timetable.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that they have no right to ignore their contract and as City Manager it is her duty to make sure they live up to their end of the bargain.

Councilman Smith commented that it appears they are trying to move forward.

Mayor Graham asked what they are using for restrooms now.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that port-a-potties are brought in for public use.

### **Board and Commission Appointments/Vacancies**

Mayor Graham reviewed the various openings on the boards included in the report.

Councilman Clough asked if Council wants new appointments to the Empire Zone Administrative Board to be City residents.

Mayor Graham replied that they should live within the City.

Mrs. Corriveau added that they should live within the Zone which includes the City and Town of Watertown.

Councilman Clough added that the new individual must be a member of a community organization.

### **Community Reports**

Mrs. Corriveau told Council there were three Community Reports provided as information for Council including: 2005 Summer Tourism Season Business Confidence Survey, Executive Report (November 2005), prepared by the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council; 2005 Seasonal Resident Survey Report, prepared by the 1000 Islands International Tourism Council; and 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Survey of the Community, prepared by the Center for Community Studies.

### **Acknowledge IHC Team**

Mayor Graham congratulated the IHC team for their victory this weekend and wanted to do something for the players on the team.

Mrs. Corriveau thanked Sgt. Wood from the City Police Department for escorting the team bus.

### **Street Names**

Councilman Clough asked what the status is of the new street names.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that she has a list.

Councilman LaBouf told Council that he has an email from Mrs. Dutton and her staff who researched names of historical City residents from the early 1900s. Councilman LaBouf wished to thank Mrs. Dutton and her staff on their work.

### **Community Survey**

Councilman LaBouf asked who provides the funding for the Community Survey.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that it is a County-wide survey funded by Community Bank.

Work Session ended at 8:55 p.m.

Amanda C. Lewis  
Deputy City Clerk