

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN**

August 2, 2010

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**

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

City Staff Present: Ken Mix, Jim Mills, Bob Cleaver, Gary Pilon

City Manager Corriveau presented the following reports to the Council:

- 1- Public Hearing Authorizing Spending From Coagulation Basin Reserve Fund
- 2- Authorizing the sale of Bicycles, Miscellaneous Items and Equipment at Public Auction
- 3- Authorizing Public Auction for Sale of City Owned Properties
- 4- Authorizing Public Sale of City Owned Tax Sale Certificates
- 5- Accepting Proposal for Flu Shots, North Country Urgent Care
- 6- Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a 34 Space Parking Lot at 585 Rand Drive, Parcel No. 8-29-105
- 7- Changing the Zoning Classification for Parcels in the 500 Block of Jefferson and Olive Streets and the 200 Block of Mechanic Street From Light Industry to Residence C and in the 400 and 500 Blocks of Factory Street, 300 Block of Mechanic Street and the 200 and 300 Blocks of High Street From Light Industry to Commercial
- 8- Resolution Approving the Special Use Permit Request Submitted by James Petersen to Allow an Automobile Sales Lot for Up to 5 Vehicles at 500 Main Street West, Parcel No. 1-01-122
- 9- Offer to Purchase Property Adjacent to Stewart's at 220 South Massey Street

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 July 19, 2010 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Smith, seconded by Council Member Butler and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

From **Robert Petersen**, B.O.B. Rafting, to make a purchase offer for a 25 foot wide, 180 foot long section of Edmund Street located on the south side of West Main Street.

ABOVE PLACED ON FILE

PRIVELEGE OF THE FLOOR

Tucker Wiley, Cape Vincent, Union President of Firefighters, addressed the chair concerning the position of a new fire chief and asked when that vacancy will be filled.

Wayne Zimmer, Katherine Street, addressed the chair inquiring about bids for Riggs Avenue.

Mary Desrosier, 575 West Main Street, addressed the chair asking how much property she can buy on Edmund Street.

RESOLUTIONS

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS in adopting the 1998-99 Water Fund Budget, the City Council approved establishing a Repair Reserve Fund for the costs associated with dredging and pumping of the coagulation basin, and

WHEREAS the City has found that this dredging process needs to be done every two to three years to improve the quality of water coming into the City's water treatment plant, and

WHEREAS the decision was made to establish a reserve fund to spread the expense over a three year period rather than have a large spike in expenses every three years, and

WHEREAS the City has issued and received bids for the dredging, and

WHEREAS on Monday, August 16, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., the City Council of the City of Watertown held a public hearing to discuss the expenditure of funds from this reserve fund, and

WHEREAS it has been determined that the expenditure of these funds is in keeping with the purpose for the reserve fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the appropriating of funds to pay for the dredging at the City's coagulation basin.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.

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

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has acquired a number of abandoned bicycles and miscellaneous items and equipment, the listing of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS these bicycles and miscellaneous items have some value best determined by public auction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by auction, of abandoned bicycles and miscellaneous items and equipment, and to further declare all bids final and sales complete while said auction is conducted, 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

Council Member Butler noted that Mr. Mills does a good job with these auctions but would like to see it start at a later time.

Council Member Burns said she would support a start time of 5:15 p.m. since most people work until 5:00 p.m.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO HAVE AN AUCTION START TIME OF 5:15 P.M.

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 AS AMENDED AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns certain lots of land acquired at Tax Sale and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as follows:

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Address</u>
6-04-209.000	523 Jefferson Street
11-12-130.001	VL Flower Avenue East
7-11-216.000	111 Rear Scio Street
1-10-307.000	100 Alexandria Avenue
1-10-308.000	101 Alexandria Avenue
1-10-310.000	103 Alexandria Avenue
1-10-124.000	89 Alexandria Avenue
1-10-125.000	90-93 Alexandria Avenue
3-06-404.000	M30 Charles Street
3-06-403.000	M32 Charles Street
3-06-405.000	M31 Cleveland Street
3-06-406.000	33 BK Stuart Street
3-06-407.000	35 Stuart Street
3-09-101.000	36 Stuart Street
1-24-202.000	59 Woodley Street
1-24-201.000	60 Woodley Street
7-03-314.000	425 Court Street
4-23-103.000	VL-4 Water Street
4-23-102.000	VL-6 Water Street
4-16-102.000	VL-5 Water Street
4-05-123.003	670 Rear Grant Street
12-02-113.001	165 Rear Union Street

and,

WHEREAS title said land has been retained by the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems the properties to be excess and not required for any City purposes, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to ensure that properties such as those listed above be brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Code and all City of Watertown zoning and health codes within one (1) year of their sale to subsequent buyers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 13 adopted by the Council, on June 6, 1977, the Comptroller of the City of Watertown be and he hereby is authorized to publish a Notice of Sale of the parcels of land above mentioned once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown to the effect that said parcels of land will, at 4:00 p.m. on the 8th day of September, 2010, in the 3rd Floor City Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 245 Washington Street, be offered individually for sale to the highest bidder and there present, under the conditions herein set forth:

The aforesaid parcels are conveyed, together with all rights and privileges affecting the same, and also together with all buildings, improvements and appurtenances located upon said described parcels, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Comptroller be and he hereby is authorized to accept bids for said parcels, in an amount not less than the minimum price set below, subject to the rights of the said City Council to reject any and all bids, and

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Minimum Bid</u>
6-04-209.000	523 Jefferson Street	\$ 500
11-12-130.001	VL Flower Avenue East	\$ 100
7-11-216.000	111 Rear Scio Street	\$ 100
1-10-307.000	100 Alexandria Avenue	\$ 100
1-10-308.000	101 Alexandria Avenue	\$ 100
1-10-310.000	103 Alexandria Avenue	\$ 100

1-10-124.000	89 Alexandria Avenue	\$ 100
1-10-125.000	90-93 Alexandria Avenue	\$ 400
3-06-404.000	M30 Charles Street	\$ 100
3-06-403.000	M32 Charles Street	\$ 100
3-06-405.000	M31 Cleveland Street	\$ 100
3-06-406.000	33 BK Stuart Street	\$ 100
3-06-407.000	35 Stuart Street	\$ 100
3-09-101.000	36 Stuart Street	\$ 100
1-24-202.000	59 Woodley Street	\$ 100
1-24-201.000	60 Woodley Street	\$ 100
7-03-314.000	425 Court Street	\$ 400
4-23-103.000	VL-4 Water Street	\$ 500
4-23-102.000	VL-6 Water Street	\$ 100
4-16-102.000	VL-5 Water Street	\$ 100
4-05-123.003	670 Rear Grant Street	\$ 100
12-02-113.001	165 Rear Union Street	\$ 100

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the highest bidder deposit at least 10 per cent (10%) of the bid price at the same time of each said successful bid with the City Comptroller, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said parcels of land shall be then sold to the successful bidder for cash or certified funds only, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Notice of Sale, any offer to purchase, and any deed issued by the City contain a provision that if the property sold is not brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the State Fire Prevention and Building Code and all City of Watertown zoning and health codes within one (1) year of the City's delivery of the deed to the buyer, the City shall have the right to seek reversion of title to the City, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said bids shall be submitted to the Mayor and City Council for their approval or rejection, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City reserves the right to withdraw any parcel prior to the public sale of said parcels.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO

Mayor Graham noted that the minimum bids seem to be round numbers and said that resolution four has large amounts set for the properties. He added that it is fair to say that there is no guarantee that the City will get those amounts.

Council Member Smith stated that based on past discussions it is better to get the properties out of the City's hands and he said he thought there were not going to be base amounts set.

Mr. Mills replied that base amounts have been set in the past.

Council Member Burns suggested setting a policy for the future such as making a person purchase the property if they were to use it.

Mayor Graham stated that he would rather have no minimum bids listed for resolutions three or four.

Attorney Slye noted that a person cannot be made to buy any piece of property.

Council further discussed the issue of tax sale certificates and the requirement of collecting payments due.

Council Member Smith commented that one of the issues discussed at the work session was the issue with the Laundromat on Court Street.

Mayor Graham replied that concerning the Laundromat, the lien holder did not protect its interest so the property was sold back to the previous owner. He added that resolution three should not have any minimum bid stated.

Mr. Mills told Council that most of the properties do start at quite a low number.

Council Member Butler inquired how often the City gets the minimum bid.

Mr. Mills answered that it depends on the property and that the minimum bid is generally ten percent of the assessed value.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that some of the properties have been sold by the City but the City has gotten them back.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR GRAHAM TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO READ \$100.00 FOR ALL MINIMUM BIDS.

THERE WAS NO SECOND.

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

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

WHEREAS the City of Watertown is the owner of certain tax sale certificates on various lots of land as designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as follows:

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Original Tax Sale Certificate Amount</u>	<u>Tax Sale Certificate Amount Plus Subsequent Taxes (floor amount)</u>
01-01-128.000	560 Main Street West	\$ 6,445.35	\$ 82,540.35
07-07-203.000	430 Court Street	\$ 3,312.92	\$ 68,392.28
05-14-103.000	1543 State Street	\$ 3,537.59	\$ 22,825.06
01-17-210.001	451 Martin Street	\$ 1,608.97	\$ 21,049.88
01-17-209.000	465 Martin Street	\$ 1,766.77	\$ 17,523.24

and,

WHEREAS the City Council does not wish to take title to these properties,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 13 adopted by the Council, on June 6, 1977, the Comptroller of the City of Watertown be and he hereby is authorized to publish a Notice of Sale of the tax sale certificates for the land above mentioned once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown to the effect that said parcels of land will, at 4:00 p.m. on the 8th day of September, 2010, in the 3rd Floor City Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 245 Washington Street, be offered individually for sale to the highest bidder above the minimum cost as set by the City Comptroller and their present, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Comptroller be and he hereby is authorized to offer for sale said tax sale certificates with the minimum bid starting at ~~the tax sale certificate amount, together with all accrued taxes,~~* \$100.00 subject to the rights of the said City Council to reject any and all bids, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the highest bidder deposit at least 10 percent (10%) of the bid price at the same time of each said bid with the City Comptroller, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said tax sale certificates shall be offered for sale for cash only, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the said bids shall be submitted to the Mayor and City Council for their approval or rejection, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City reserves the right to withdraw any tax sale certificate prior to the public sale of said certificate.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR.

Council Member Smith noted that these are undesirable properties and encourages getting the tax sale certificates off of the City's hands.

Mayor Graham asked how long the City has held these.

Mrs. Corriveau said that the Martin Street properties have not been on the list too long.

Council Member Butler commented that he does not see the properties being sold at the listed prices and that the City can reject a low-ball offer.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that no interest or penalties are included in the figures.

Council Member Butler asked what the properties are assessed for.

Mr. Mills reviewed the assessments.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR GRAHAM TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO SET THE MINIMUM BIDS AT \$100.00.

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 AS AMENDED AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received proposals to supply and administer immunizations for the standard seasonal flu virus, per our requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to submit proposals were issued to fourteen (14) local medical facilities with only one (1) proposal received, which was publicly opened and read in the City Purchasing Department on Thursday, July 22, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Agent Robert J. Cleaver reviewed the proposal received, and it is his recommendation that the City Council accept the proposal submitted by North Country Urgent Care, 21017 NYS Route 12F Watertown, New York, in the amount of \$30 per injection with a 100 injection minimum and 220 injection maximum,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, accepts the proposal from North Country Urgent Care to administer flu shots to interested employees and retirees of the City of Watertown.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA, EXCEPT COUNCIL MEMBER BUTLER AND COUNCIL MEMBER MACALUSO VOTING NAY

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS

WHEREAS Matthew J. Cooper, P.E. of Bernier Carr & Associates, has made an application for site plan approval on behalf of the Watertown Family YMCA, Inc., for the construction of a 34 space parking lot at 585 Rand Drive, Parcel No. 8-29-105, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on July 27, 2010, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 239-m and adopted a motion that the project does not have any significant county-wide or inter-municipal issues and is of local concern only, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on July 6, 2010, and recommended that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the site plan, contingent upon the following:

1. The applicant must coordinate the RV pedestal removal/relocation with the City of Watertown and add it to the Demo & Site Plans.
2. The applicant must provide additional existing contours and/or spot elevations at the northeast end of the site so the drainage patterns can be evaluated to ensure positive drainage is provided.
3. The catch basin detail must be revised to show rubber boot connections from the pipe to the structure.
4. The applicant must provide calculations and a drainage area map for analysis of the existing catch basin and associated storm sewer.
5. The applicant must provide a detailed Erosion & Sediment Control Plan for the proposed work, including a detail for Inlet Protection.

6. The applicant must coordinate the existing light pole relocation with the City and add this information to the Demo & Site Plans.
7. The applicant must provide an updated photometric plan for the lighting layout.
8. For all existing trees to remain, the applicant must add further details and/or symbols to the drawings to provide for 4' high construction fencing installed in an eight (8) foot square around each tree or to the tree's dripline, whichever is greater.
9. The applicant must comply with the City's tree ordinance regarding the removal of City owned trees and their replacement.
10. The applicant must increase the entrance curb radii to a similar size as the adjacent radius off of Rand Drive and the exit curb radii should be increased as well.
11. A detail for a curb wipedown must be provided.

And,

WHEREAS the applicant submitted a revised site plan to the City Engineering Department on July 29, 2010 that meets all of the conditions recommended by the Planning Board, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form, responding to each of the questions contained in Part 2, and has determined that the project, as submitted, is Unlisted and will not have a significant effect on the environment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown declares that the proposed construction and site plan constitute an Unlisted Action for the purposes of SEQRA and hereby determines that the project, as proposed, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is an express condition of this site plan approval that the applicant provide the City Engineer with a copy of any change in stamped plans forming the basis for this approval at the same time such plans are provided to the contractor. If plans are not provided as required by this condition of site plan approval, the City Codes Enforcement Officer shall direct that work on the project site shall immediately cease until such time as the City Engineer is provided with the revised stamped plans. Additionally, any change in the approved plan which, in the opinion of the City Engineer, would require Amended Site Plan approval, will result in immediate cessation of the affected portion of the project work until such time as the amended site plan is approved. The City Codes Enforcement Officer is requested to periodically review on-site plans to determine whether the City Engineer has been provided with plans as required by this approval, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, that site plan approval is hereby granted to Matthew J. Cooper, P.E. of Bernier Carr & Associates, on behalf of the Watertown Family YMCA, Inc., for the construction of a 34 space parking lot at

585 Rand Drive, Parcel No. 8-29-105, as shown on the revised site plan submitted to the City Engineer on July 29, 2010.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER TERESA R. MACALUSO

Council Member Butler commented about the safety issue of not having a walkway from the building to the far end of the parking lot.

Mrs. Corriveau noted that there is a walkway in the abutting lot but it is not located next to the building due to falling ice and snow from the roof.

Peter Schmitt, 19743 Co. Rt. 65, YMCA CEO, addressed the chair regarding the sidewalks and also noted that the lighting in the parking lots will be upgraded. He added that there is not enough distance to put in a sidewalk that would clear the eaves then have the parking lot.

**

PUBLIC HEARING

MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE DEPUTY CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:30 P.M. CONCERNING THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST SUBMITTED BY JAMES PETERSEN TO ALLOW AN AUTOMOBILE SALES LOT AT 500 MAIN STREET WEST.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.

No one spoke.

MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED.

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Steven Wright, Bernier Carr & Associates, addressed the chair saying that the parking lot cannot be relocated because an eight-foot buffer zone must be in place between the lot and Rand Drive.

Council Member Butler commented that he is concerned about the bigger lot.

Mr. Schmitt said that he knows about the concerns regarding the level of light and that they will look at the sidewalk issues.

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

ORDINANCE

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH

BE IT ORDAINED where the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, is considering changing the zoning classification in the 500 blocks of Jefferson Street and Olive Street and the 200 block of Mechanic Street from Light Industrial to Residence C and in the 400 and 500 blocks of Factory Street, the 300 block of Mechanic Street and the 200 and 300 blocks of High Street from Light Industrial to Commercial, and

WHEREAS the Tax Assessment Parcels proposed to be changed from Light Industrial to Residence C are as follows:

6-04-103.000	6-04-115.000	6-04-126.000
6-04-104.000	6-04-116.000	6-04-202.000
6-04-105.000	6-04-116.001	6-04-203.000
6-04-106.000	6-04-117.000	6-04-204.000
6-04-107.000	6-04-118.000	6-04-205.000
6-04-108.000	6-04-119.000	6-04-207.000
6-04-109.000	6-04-120.000	6-04-208.000
6-04-110.000	6-04-121.000	6-04-209.000
6-04-111.000	6-04-122.000	6-04-210.000
6-04-112.000	6-04-123.000	6-04-211.000
6-04-113.000	6-04-124.000	6-04-212.000
6-04-114.000	6-04-125.000	6-04-213.000

and

WHEREAS the Tax Assessment Parcels proposed to be changed from Light Industrial to Commercial are as follows:

6-04-101.000	6-04-206.000	6-04-229.000
6-04-127.000	6-04-214.000	6-04-230.000

6-04-128.000	6-04-217.000	6-04-231.000
6-04-130.000	6-04-222.000	6-04-233.000
6-04-132.000	6-04-223.000	6-04-235.000
6-04-132.001	6-04-224.000	6-04-236.000
6-04-133.000	6-04-225.000	6-04-237.000
6-04-133.001	6-04-226.000	6-04-238.000
6-04-201.000	6-04-227.000	6-04-239.000

and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown recommended said zone changes at its meeting held on July 6, 2010, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zone changes on August 16, 2010 after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of negative findings of the impact of the proposed zone changes according to the requirements of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the proposed zone changes,

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the zoning classifications be changed from Light Industrial to Residence C and Commercial for the Tax Assessment Parcels as listed above, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the zoning map of the City of Watertown shall be amended to reflect the zone changes, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown or printed as the City Manager directs.

SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER JR.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE FOR AUGUST 16, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.

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

THE RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST SUBMITTED BY JAMES PETERSEN TO ALLOW AN AUTOMOBILE SALES LOT FOR UP TO 5 VEHICLES AT 500 MAIN STREET WEST, PARCEL NO. 1-01-122 WAS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL (Introduced on July 28, 2010; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety on page 147-148 of the 2010 Minutes Book.)

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

Council Discussed the Following Topics:

Offer to Purchase Property Adjacent to Stewart's at 220 South Massey Street

Mayor Graham stated that no costs have been incurred by the City in this matter.

Council Member Smith said to go ahead with the offer.

Mayor Graham noted that a resolution is needed.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that one will be ready for the next meeting.

Exploration of Caves Beneath the City

Doug Anderson, 123 West Division Street, presented to Council (not on file in the Office of the City Clerk) information gathered regarding the system of caves under the City of Watertown including a history of caves in Jefferson County. He noted that there is a general curiosity on the matter with no documentation to say what is actually there.

Mayor Graham noted that this is not something that is on the Council's radar.

Mr. Anderson replied that this could be of some use as a tourist attraction.

Mayor Graham said that he shares in the curiosity but there needs to be an academic organization or the like that is willing to do research.

Mr. Anderson noted that the Syracuse University Outing Club has experienced cavers who have explored many similar caves.

Council Member Smith commented that this sounds like a great idea and had heard many stories about the caves. He said that it is important that the group have experience and noted the liability issues.

Council Member Burns stated that she thinks this is a wonderful idea and suggested working with the City Planning Department.

Mayor Graham said that access could be an issue.

Council Member Smith suggested that staff and planning present a project.

Mr. Anderson noted that the idea was halted last time because the DEC said white nose syndrome in bats was spreading through cave contamination. He added that caves are no longer 'off limits.'

Mayor Graham said it would be good to conceptualize the idea.

Edmund Street

Mayor Graham commented that both Mr. Peterson and Mrs. Desrosier are present for discussions.

Mr. Mix commented that action on this hinges on direction from City Council.

Council Member Butler recommended looking at the land to get a better understanding of what can be done for these residents. He suggested cleaning up the heavily overgrown area and noted that he has no problem selling the land to interested parties. Council Member Butler said that Mr. Peterson's plan seems reasonable.

Council Member Smith said that he had spoken to Council Member Butler on this topic and is not adverse to selling property to both parties. He added that if the City owns the street, it should be maintained.

Mayor Graham reiterated that it does serve as a functioning street for these neighbors but said he does not recommend selling it on the basis of a neighbor dispute.

Council Member Burns stated that she does not recommend selling the street to one private owner since there are other property owners who have shown interest.

Mayor Graham commented that he feels it is not fair for Council to compel people to come up with a solution to a problem and that this is not a correct way to approach this issue.

Council Member Burns said she has not visited the property since the issue came up years ago.

Mrs. Desrosier addressed the chair saying that her family has maintained a home and the street for 50 years and that Mr. Peterson is only at his property a couple times a week and on the weekends.

Council Member Burns reiterated that Mrs. Desrosier is a property owner at 575 West Main Street, that the property has been in the family for 58 years and that she is asking for some land

so her dog can have unrestricted outdoor space. She said she recommends that Council go to Edmund Street as a body so everyone is on the same page.

Mayor Graham suggested that the boundary lines are marked before Council arrives.

Attorney Slye mentioned that there may be other solutions to this issue such as granting a license to Mrs. Desrosier to use the City's property to accommodate her without interfering with the rafting business.

Robert Peterson, 23873 NYS Rt. 342, addressed the chair saying that he does not want to be made 'the heavy' in this situation and told Council that when the street is blocked by Mrs. Desrosier's vehicles is when he has an issue. He also voiced his concern regarding her dog, who he said sometimes comes right to the property line and has on occasion snapped its leash.

Council and staff discuss and agree to meet next Monday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Edmund Street.

Mrs. Corriveau said she will make sure all abutting property owners are aware of the meeting.

Planning Board Appointment

Council Member Butler commented on the appointment of Larry Coburn to the Planning Board.

Franklin Street Walkway

Council Member Butler stated that vehicles often block the walkway from Franklin Street onto Public Square and suggested that signage point out where cars should stop.

Mrs. Corriveau replied that this topic has been assigned to engineering staff who will determine what signage is needed and where.

Noise Ordinance

Council Member Butler noted that he has received a lot of support for the ordinance and has been told that it is a problem in other communities.

Council Member Macaluso said she is happy that the issue has been raised.

2010 Report on Local Governments

Mrs. Corriveau reviewed this briefly with Council, pointing out municipalities' responses to economic challenges and recommended that Council read it.

Increased Population

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that the area is at the 'high-water' point for military in the area as there have been several homecomings and trainings.

Fountain Meeting

Mrs. Corriveau noted that there will be a meeting on Wednesday with the artist painting the fountain.

Sign on Arsenal Street

Council Member Butler commented on an inappropriate portable sign in front of a bar on Arsenal Street.

Mrs. Corriveau said she would have Codes look into it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:40 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 9:20 P.M. UNTIL MONDAY, AUGUST 9, AT 7:00 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER

**SMITH, SECONDED BY MAYOR GRAHAM AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING
YEA.**

Amanda C. Lewis
Deputy City Clerk