

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
September 17, 2007  
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  
ATTORNEY ROBERT J. SLYE**

City Manager Corriveau presented the following reports to the Council:

- 1 - Approving the "Zoning Administration" Workshop on September 19, 2007 as Valid Training for Meeting the New York State Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials Training Requirement
- 2 - Sponsoring and Supporting An Application for Restore NY Funding – 497 Newell St.
- 3 - Rejecting the Bid for the Construction of the Black River Parks Project
- 4 - Approving Agreement Between the City of Watertown and State of New York Unified Court System
- 5 - Approving Lease Agreement Between the Jefferson County Historical Society and the City of Watertown, Stone Street Parking Lot
- 6 - Approving the Site Plan for the Addition of 6 Car Wash Bays to Precision Car Wash, Located at 1020 Coffeen Street, Parcel No. 8-29-10
- 7 - Authorizing the Issuance of \$205,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay Additional Costs of Reconstruction of State Street Between Public Square and Eastern Boulevard, In and For Said City
- 8 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated July 9, 2007 Authorizing the Issuance of \$355,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of Replacement of a Water Main on Ontario Drive (North and South), In and For Said City, To Increase the Estimated Maximum Cost Thereof And the Amount of Bonds Authorized to \$395,000
- 9 - Local Law No. 8 of 2007 – Amending City Charter, TITLE XIII, Assessment And Collection of Taxes
- 10 - Jefferson County Courthouse Commitment

**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 September 4, 2007 was dispensed with and accepted as written by motion of Councilman Clough, seconded by Councilman Smith and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

From Rosalie Cavise opposing the dog park

### **ABOVE PLACED ON FILE**

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Dave Krayenvenger, 656 Leray St., addressed Council regarding the summons he received to repair his sidewalks. He stated that he has several neighbors who are on fixed incomes and cannot afford to repair the sidewalks. He also mentioned that the problem is not necessarily fixing the sidewalks but having them repaired by September 28.

Councilman Clough mentioned that he had received a call on the sidewalk issue.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council she will talk to Codes but added that it is the property owner's responsibility to repair the sidewalks.

Councilman Clough suggested a follow-up discussion with Mr. Hauk to see if Leray Street can be added to the sidewalk program next year.

Charles Holland, 679 Leray St., mentioned that one of his neighbors needs to replace her whole sidewalk but cannot afford to do so. He said he was told that only Council can put areas of the City in the special assessment districts.

Mayor Graham reminded Council that the City was looking to work on areas near schools first.

Wayne Zimmer, Katherine Street, addressed Council about the dog depot on Lansing Street and mentioned that having a dog park at Thompson Park would displace wild animals forcing them further into the City.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**AT 7:30 P.M. MAYOR GRAHAM ASKED THE CITY CLERK TO READ THE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE PROJECT OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED FOR AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING UNDER THE RESTORE NY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM.**

**MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING OPEN.**

No one spoke.

**MAYOR GRAHAM DECLARED THE HEARING CLOSED AT 7:31 P.M.**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF**

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 “Zoning Administration” Workshop on September 19, 2007 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 “Zoning Administration” Workshop is approved to provide two hours of training toward meeting the New York State Municipal Planning and Zoning Officials training requirement.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF**

WHEREAS the City of Watertown is eligible for grant funding under the Restore NY Communities Initiative, and

WHEREAS the City Council has considered two proposals that could qualify for funding under that program and selected one project to be included in an application that will be submitted to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC), as follows:

Rehabilitation of an existing three-story brick mill building at 497 Newell Street to create new commercial space and apartments at this location on the Riverwalk that has been developed along the Black River in downtown Watertown, and

WHEREAS this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the proposed financing is appropriate for the project, and the project will facilitate effective and efficient use of the available public resources so as to preserve the existing community resources and promote economic development activities that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities in the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council will sponsor an application for Restore NY funding for this project and will administer the grant in compliance with all applicable rules and regulations established by ESDC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Mary M. Corriveau, is authorized to sign the application and any agreements required by ESDC for grant funding that results from the application.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received a sealed bid for the Black River Parks Project involving the construction of riverfront improvements at the Abe Cooper Site on Factory Street, the Veterans Memorial Riverwalk, Hole Brothers Park on Newell Street and the Fairgrounds, and

WHEREAS plans and specifications were issued to twelve (12) prospective bidders, with one (1) bid being received and publicly opened and read in the City Purchasing Department on Thursday, September 6, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Agent Robert J. Cleaver, City Planner Michael A. Lumbis, and Downtown Development Specialist Christine E. Hoffman reviewed the bid of \$1,300,000 submitted by Con Tech Building Systems, Inc. of Gouverneur, NY and are recommending that it be rejected,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York rejects the bid submitted by Con Tech Building Systems, Inc. of Gouverneur, NY for the construction of the Black River Parks Project.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY**

WHEREAS the City of Watertown, New York is responsible for providing and maintaining space for the operation of City Court, and

WHEREAS reimbursement for such services is available to the City from the Unified Court System of the State of New York,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Court Cleaning and Minor Repair Program Agreement between the City of Watertown and the State of New York Unified Court System for Fiscal Year 2007-2008, and

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

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY**

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has, for some time, leased real property from the Jefferson County Historical Society for purposes of operating a municipal parking lot with access from Stone Street and Clinton Street within the City of Watertown (Stone Street Lot), and

WHEREAS it has been determined that it is in the best interest of the City to continue to lease said property from the Jefferson County Historical Society in accordance with the terms defined in the Lease Agreement, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolutions, and

WHEREAS the term of the attached Lease Agreement is from October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2027,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the city of Watertown approves the Lease Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Historical Society, and

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

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF**

WHEREAS Tim Hogan, P.E., of Hogan Engineering, on behalf of Evergreen Family, FLP, has made application for site plan approval, for the addition of 6 car wash bays to Precision Car Wash located at 1020 Coffeen Street, Parcel No. 8-29-103, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on September 4, 2007, and recommended that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the site plan dated August 21, 2007.

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form, responding to each of the questions 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 the proposed construction and site plan constitute an Unlisted Action for the purposes of SEQR and hereby determines that the project, as proposed, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that site plan approval is hereby granted to Timothy Hogan, P.E., of Hogan Engineering, on behalf of Evergreen, FLP, for the addition of 6 car wash bays to Precision Car Wash located at 1020 Coffeen Street, Parcel No. 8-29-103, as shown on plans submitted to the City Engineer dated August 21, 2007.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

## **ORDINANCES**

### **INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH**

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital purposes hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act to the extent required, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, by bond ordinances dated September 3, 2002, August 18, 2003, February 22, 2005, January 2, 2007, and June 18, 2007, the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, authorized the issuance of \$13,265,000 bonds of said City to pay the cost of the reconstruction of State Street between Public Square and Eastern Boulevard, including engineering services, right-of-way incidentals and acquisitions and incidental expenses in connection therewith, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the issuance of \$205,000 bonds of said City to finance additional costs of said specific object or purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For paying additional costs of the reconstruction of State Street between Public Square and Eastern Boulevard, including engineering services, right-of-way incidentals and acquisitions and incidental expenses in connection therewith, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, a specific object or purpose, there are hereby authorized to be issued an additional \$205,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$13,470,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is as follows:

- (a) by the issuance of the \$600,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to bond ordinance dated September 3, 2002 (Ordinance No. 4);
- (b) by the issuance of the \$750,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to bond ordinance dated August 18, 2003 (Ordinance No. 7);
- (c) by the issuance of the \$10,700,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to bond ordinance dated February 22, 2005 (Ordinance No. 1);
- (d) by the issuance of the \$375,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to bond ordinance dated January 2, 2007 (Ordinance No. 1);
- (e) by the issuance of the \$840,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to bond ordinance dated June 18, 2007 (Ordinance No. 2); and
- (f) by the issuance of the additional \$205,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, provided, however, that the amount of bonds ultimately to be issued will be reduced by the amount of any State and/or Federal aid or any other revenue received by said City for such specific object or purpose.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision twenty of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, calculated from November 15, 2005, the date of the first obligation issued for such purpose.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The faith and credit of said City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 6. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Comptroller and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk.

Section 7. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as he shall deem best for the interests of the City, provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, he shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the City Comptroller shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.

Section 8. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the City by the facsimile signature of the City Comptroller, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the City), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the City Comptroller. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the City not to impose and collect from registered owners of such bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine.

Section 9. This ordinance shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this ordinance, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 10. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this ordinance are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 11. This ordinance, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in summary in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA EXCEPT COUNCILMAN SMITH VOTING NAY.**

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT MOVED BY COUNCILMAN CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN LABOUF AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing ordinance, Council discussed its displeasure with the cost overruns on this project.

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF**

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to increase the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose from \$355,000 to \$395,000, an increase of \$40,000 over that previously authorized;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, as follows:

Section A. The ordinance of this Council dated and duly adopted July 9, 2007, authorizing the issuance of \$355,000 bonds to pay the cost of replacement of a water main on Ontario Drive (North and South), in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, is hereby amended, in part, to read as follows:

“ . . . .

“Section 1. For the specific object or purpose of paying the cost of replacement of a water main on Ontario Drive (North and South) in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$395,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

“Section 2. It is hereby determined that the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$395,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$395,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this ordinance.”

Section B. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by the ordinance dated and duly adopted July 9, 2007, as amended by this ordinance, may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this ordinance are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section C. Upon this ordinance taking effect, the same shall be published in summary in summary in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, together with a notice of

the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section D. This resolution is effective immediately.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN JEFFREY M. SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING YEA**

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT MOVED BY COUNCILMAN LABOUF, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

### **LOCAL LAW**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH**

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown is empowered to adopt amendments to the Watertown City Charter, by Local Law, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Charter and desires to have the language in the Watertown City Charter be more precise as it relates to assessment practices, and

WHEREAS the City Council also desires sections of Watertown City Charter in conflict with the New York State Real Property Tax Law be amended to remove said conflicts, and

WHEREAS the City Council also desires to more clearly define the valuation date and taxable status date of the City of Watertown and provide a more acceptable timeframe between the valuation date and taxable status date for the preparation of the City of Watertown's assessment rolls,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that Section 109 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§109. 1. The taxable status date in the City of Watertown shall be deemed to be the December 1st immediately preceding the filing of the tentative roll. The valuation date in the City of Watertown shall be the July 1st immediately preceding the filing of the tentative roll. The Assessor shall make and complete, on or before the 15th day of January in each year, the tentative assessment rolls for the city. The Assessor on or before the 31st of March shall make and complete the final assessment rolls of the city. It shall be the duty of the Assessor to make assessments for all local improvements in accordance with the provisions of this Act. Said Assessor shall also keep his/her office in City Hall and shall keep the same open during business hours on all business days.

2. When the Assessor shall have completed his/her tentative assessment roll, he/she shall file it in his/her office and shall give notice by publication thereof in the official newspaper of the city once that (1) such roll is completed and filed and that all persons interested may examine the same at the Assessor's office; (2) that on the second Tuesday of February next ensuing, the Board of Assessment Review will sit to hear complaints on the same.

3. Upon completion of the tentative assessment roll the Assessor shall meet informally with property owners for a minimum of three (3) days, not less than 10 days prior to the second Tuesday of February. As a result of these meetings the Assessor may file verified correction of errors to the tentative roll with the Board of Assessment Review, stipulate to an agreed upon assessment with the complainant per Real Property Tax Law §524 Para. 3 or make recommendations to the Board of Assessment Review acting on a properly filed complaint.

The Assessor shall make no changes to a filed tentative roll except by the direction of the Board of Assessment Review.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 110 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§110. At least a majority of the members of the Board of Assessment Review shall meet to hear complaints in relation to assessments on the second Tuesday in February in each year. The hours of said hearing shall be for a period of at least four hours, not necessarily continuous between nine o'clock in the morning and ten o'clock in the evening but in no event less than two hours after six o'clock in the evening. The board of assessment review may hold as many adjourned hearings as necessary to hear all complaints. When said Board has finished its review, it shall forthwith certify its decisions and determinations, and file the same in the office of the Assessor. It shall be the duty of the Assessor to prepare the assessment rolls according to the decisions and determinations of the Board of Assessment Review.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 111 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§111. Complainants appearing before the Board of Assessment Review shall be required to file a statement under oath specifying the respect in which the assessment complained of is excessive, unequal or unlawful, the statement must be made by the person assessed or whose property is assessed or by some person authorized to make such statement and who has knowledge of the facts stated therein. The Board of Assessment Review may administer oaths, take testimony and hear proofs in regard to any such complaint and the assessment to which it relates, it may require the person assessed or his agent or

representative or any other person to appear before it and be examined concerning such complaint and to produce any papers relating to such assessment with respect to his property or his residence for the purpose of taxation. The Board of Assessment Review shall, after said examination, fix the value of the property of the complainant and for that purpose may diminish the assessment thereon. If any such person or his agent or representative shall willfully neglect or refuse to attend and be so examined or to answer any material question put to him, such person shall not be entitled to any reduction of his assessments. Minutes of the examination of every person examined by the Board of Assessment Review upon the hearing of any such complaint shall be taken and filed in the office of the City Clerk.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 112 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§112. The Assessor shall immediately, upon the filing with him/her by the Board of Assessment Review of its decisions and determinations, proceed to prepare the final assessment roll for the ensuing year. He/she shall make such changes therein as may be directed by the Board of Assessment Review.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 113 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§113. On or before the 31st day of March, the final assessment roll or a certified copy thereof, when thus finally completed, shall be filed in the office of the City Clerk. The Assessor shall forthwith cause a notice to be published once in the official newspaper, that such assessment roll has been finally completed and stating that it has been so filed and will be open to public inspection.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 114 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§114. Any person, persons, company or corporation may, within thirty (30) days after the final completion and filing of the assessment roll and the publication of the notice thereof as required by the preceding section, present to a Justice of the Supreme Court or at a special term of the Supreme Court in the Fifth Judicial District a petition duly verified, setting forth that the assessment is illegal, specifying the grounds of the alleged illegality, or if erroneous by reasons of overvaluation, stating the extent of such overvaluation, or if unequal in that the assessment has been made at a higher proportionate valuation than the assessment of other property on the said

roll, specifying the instances in which said inequality exists and the extent thereof and that he, they or it, as the case may be, will be injured thereby. Such petition must show that the application has been made in due time to the Board of Assessment Review to correct the assessment. From and after the presentation of said petition, the provisions of Article 7 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, as to the procedure for the review of assessments by certiorari, shall be applicable.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 115 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§115. The County Legislature shall equalize the assessment roll with those of the other towns of the county, as required by law, and shall, by resolution, adopted on or before the 15th day of December in each year, ascertain and direct the amount of tax to be levied, assessed and raised in the City of Watertown for county and other lawful purposes within the control of such County Legislature and shall, on or before said date, certify such resolution under the Seal of the county to the Assessor. The Council shall thereupon direct that the amount required by such resolution be levied and the said county tax extended on the assessment rolls for that year by the Assessor as herein provided, together with a sum to be fixed by the Council annually to meet partially the city's obligation to pay for property sold by the City Comptroller for delinquent county tax at the annual tax sale held by the City Comptroller pursuant to the Charter of the City of Watertown and to meet partially the expenses of the city in carrying out the assessment and tax collection functions for the county tax required of the city. Such amount shall be known as the county tax budget for the City of Watertown and as levied, assessed and extended on the assessment rolls for the year shall be raised by tax upon the real property liable to taxation in the city according to the valuations thereof as fixed in said rolls. Such amount or taxes when so levied, assessed and extended shall be known as the "county tax" and shall be due and payable on the 15th day of January in each year.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 118 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§118. The rolls upon which such assessments are made, herein called and known as "assessment rolls," shall be prepared so as to conform so far as practicable with the general requirements of law. Subject to the provisions of law, the city tax and the county tax may be apportioned and extended upon the same roll or the same copy of such roll or upon separate copies of such roll. The Council may direct and prescribe how and in what manner the same shall be done and when completed.

And,

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that Section 147 of the Watertown City Charter shall be amended to read as follows:

§147. After the city shall have acquired the title to any lands sold for taxes, such lands shall be exempt while owned by the city from all taxes.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State, provided, however, that such Local Law is subject to a permissive referendum and the City Clerk shall proceed to notice such fact and conduct such referendum if required by petition.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMAN SMITH TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOREGOING LOCAL LAW FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.**

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

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**COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**Jefferson County Courthouse Commitment**

Council reviewed the Courthouse report from Mr. Mills.

**Newell Street Project**

Mayor Graham commented that this project will create housing.

Councilman LaBouf inquired about the timetable.

Mrs. Corriveau told Council that the applications are due by the end of September and an announcement should come by the end of the year.

**Sex Offender Legislation**

Mayor Graham told Council the governor had recently vetoed legislation regarding housing of sex offenders in hotels/motels. He added that he has communicated with Governor Spitzer on the topic. Mayor Graham said he invites Council members to write letters to state politicians on the issue.

Councilman Smith commented that he thinks it would be best if the letter comes from the Mayor and that the end goal is to make a change.

Councilman LaBouf stated that he has drafted another letter regarding sex offender legislation and that Council members have the opportunity to sign it. He added that the letters will be sent to Assemblyman Aubertine, Senator Wright, and Senator Bonacic. Councilman LaBouf continued that he thinks this legislation could do something positive.

Councilman Smith said he believes that residents are not as worried about notification as they are about placement of sex offenders near family neighborhoods. He added that he believes it best not to back one specific bill but rather the concept, which is what he says the Mayor's letter does.

### **Public Nuisance Legislation**

Councilman Clough stated he had requested information about public nuisance laws and that he hopes to discuss the issue at a work session after Council had time to review the packet.

Mrs. Corriveau said she would put it on the schedule in October.

### **Moot Property on Ward Street**

Councilman LaBouf asked if Mr. Moot had turned in certain paperwork to City Codes regarding the repairs to his home on Ward Street.

Mrs. Corriveau answered that Codes did receive the documents and City staff will discuss implementation.

Councilman LaBouf commented that some Ward Street residents told him they have received correspondence from Attorney Burrows regarding Mr. Moot. Neighbors stated that they have seen him staying overnight at his residence and bringing in more refuse.

Attorney Slye said that if the City gets a Judicial Order and Mr. Moot continues to occupy his home, he would be found in contempt of court. He added that although he does not know what the letter said specifically, he believes that it directs residents to contact Codes when they see Mr. Moot at his home.

Mayor Graham stated that the City should receive a copy of the letter the residents received.

### **Clock Repairs**

Councilman Smith wished to commend Knowlton Technologies for its work on the clock.

### **Paddock Street Home**

Councilman Smith suggested Codes look at a home on Paddock Street which is accumulating junk.

### **Welcome Reporter**

Mayor Graham welcomed Robert Brauchle, the new City reporter from the Watertown Daily Times. Mayor Graham also wished outgoing reporter Cory Nealon well as he takes a new job in Pittsburg, PA.

### **Mohawk Street**

Mayor Graham commented that the home at 522 Mohawk St. is in disrepair. He added that neighbors have said they need to set traps to help control the abundance of animals surrounding the home.

Mrs. Corriveau said that Codes is actively working with the owner to remedy the problem. She added that the property has been cleaned and the trees have been trimmed.

Mayor Graham suggested that the City review the section in the Code book regarding covering vehicles with tarps and perhaps Engineering could come up with something more stringent.

### **911 Calls**

Mr. Zimmer told Council that the County should have the 911 system repaired by January. He said that he recently had to call 911 and needed to give directions to the dispatcher.

Mrs. Corriveau reminded Council that the State Police barracks get all 911 cell phone calls.

### **Dog Nursing Home**

Mayor Graham shared an article about nursing homes being opened up for dogs in Japan. For \$800 month, aging dogs can get complete care.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR THE MEETING WAS DULY ADJOURNED AT 8:16 P.M. BY MOTION OF COUNCILMAN CLOUGH, SECONDED BY COUNCILMAN BRADLEY AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

*Amanda C. Lewis*  
Deputy Clerk