

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
CITY OF WATERTOWN
September 12, 2005
7:00 P.M.**

MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING

PRESENT: **COUNCILMAN STEPHEN J. BRADLEY
COUNCILWOMAN ROXANNE M. BURNS
COUNCILMAN PETER L. CLOUGH
COUNCILMAN TIMOTHY R. LABOUF
MAYOR GRAHAM**

ALSO PRESENT: **CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**

The work session opened with a presentation by **Points North Coalition**. The coalition include more than 80 members from throughout Northern New York working to address the problem of homelessness in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties. Canice Fitzgerald, Aileen Martin and Clif Schneider presented a power point program outlining the prevalence of, needs of and services available to the local sheltered and unsheltered homeless population.

The presenters explained that they would like to renovate the Social Security Administration building on Stone Street into 10 efficiency apartments and asked for Council's blessing to begin the process, which would require a special use permit. They explained that the project would not be an emergency homeless shelter but rather a place for people who are leaving more intensive assist-living facilities, but haven't yet found permanent homes. They also explained that Neighbors of Watertown are willing to develop the property and would own and operate it. They stressed the importance of the location in that it is close to the Department of Social Services as well as the bus route. In addition, the coalition members advised Council that while the building would not be tax exempt, Neighbors of Watertown may request a PILOT agreement to help keep costs down.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that there have been discussions at the administrative level and this would be the best facility for this project.

Water and Wastewater System Capacity Study

Mrs. Corriveau reviewed the memo concerning this and explained that with the amount of future growth projections, there is a need to analyze the regional utility capacity and measure it against the projections.

Councilman LaBouf asked what type of emergency system and protection system is in place for the City water system. He asked if there was a backup water supply system in the event of a failure.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that the City has a storage capacity for a few days.

Mr. Pilon also remarked that they would look at interconnecting with the Cape Vincent and Hounsfield line if the backup systems ever failed.

Mayor Graham asked if this study was a prelude to an effort to create a countywide water authority.

Mrs. Corriveau responded that this is being driven by the ongoing expansion of Fort Drum and the 1,000 houses in the Town of LeRay and the 500 houses in the Town of Pamela.

Mr. Pilon also commented that the study could indicate that there would be a need for another plant to be built.

Mayor Graham responded that development has to occur in locations where there is already infrastructure.

Councilman LaBouf asked how the water supply was monitored.

Mr. Pilon explained the process stating that some of the monitoring is continuous, while other tests are done at certain time intervals.

Council agreed to allow staff to ask engineering firms for proposals to undertake a joint study of water and sewer systems owned by the City and DANC to determine each system's capacity limits.

Non-Lethal Crow Roost Management Program

Mr. Bryan White, Confidential Assistant to the City Manager, explained how the program works in Auburn. He explained that Auburn had 62,000 crows whereas Watertown only has about 6,200 that roost in the winter months.

Council agreed to hire the U.S. Department of Agriculture for about \$8,000 to handle the crow problem in the City.

Sex Offender Registration Act

Mrs. Corriveau presented the information to the Council that had been received from other communities.

Mayor Graham commented that Council members are welcome to express their own opinions concerning this to their State Legislators.

Empire Zone Administration

Councilman Clough explained that there is a lot that is going to be happening with the Empire Zone before January 1st.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that the City really needs to enter into the agreement for the Economic Development Services. She explained that Mr. Mix would be attending a training session on the new revisions. She advised Council that she would like to schedule the October work session for October 24th at which time the zone map can be presented to Council.

Board Appointments

Council reviewed the vacancies.

Eagle Scout Award Ceremony

Mayor Graham advised Council that there would be an Eagle Scout Award Ceremony on Wednesday evening at the North Side Improvement League.

Dog Bite

Councilman Clough referred to an incident of a dog attack that recently occurred in the City.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that she was aware of it and is checking into it.

Fire Chief Position

Councilman LaBouf mentioned that he was surprised that Chief Gaumont was considering moving to another community where he is a finalist for a position.

Mrs. Corriveau remarked that she was aware of it and suggested that this is a personnel matter and should not be discussed during a work session.

Disconnect Notices

Mrs. Corriveau advised that 787 notices would be mailed out this week. The amount owed is about \$156,000, being up \$30,000 from last year. The hallway notices will be posted tomorrow. The last day for payment is September 30th and shut offs will start on October 3rd.

LWRP

Mrs. Corriveau stated that there would be a white water public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday at the State Office Building.

Adjournment

Council adjourned the work session at 8:35 p.m.

Donna M. Dutton
City Clerk