



Watertown City Council  
Tuesday, November 12, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION AGENDA

Discussion Items:

1. Court Room Update Presentation
  - Rick Tague, Bernier and Carr Architects & Engineers
2. Health Insurance Annual Review by UMR
  - Jeannette Flowers
3. Health Insurance Annual Review by ProAct
  - Corey Prashaw
4. Vacant & Abandoned Home Initiative Update Presentation (Property Location Map)
  - Christine Shipley, Code Enforcement
5. Sidewalk Program District #14
  - Michael Delaney, City Engineer
  - Jeffrey Hammond, Civil Engineer
6. Parking on Winthrop Street Presentation
  - Michael Delaney, City Engineer
7. Paratransit Update Presentation
  - Patrick W. Keenan, Superintendent of Public Works
8. Strategic Plan Final Recommendations
  - Richard M. Finn, City Manager

November 8, 2019

To: Richard M. Finn, City Manager  
From: Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director  
Subject: Strategic Goals and Objectives Edits Following the Public Hearing

On the evening of October 28, 2019, the City Council held a public hearing at Watertown High School to solicit citizen input on the City Council's Strategic Goals and Objectives. Approximately 50 people attended the event and ten people spoke at the hearing. This report summarizes the comments received and the response to each.

- Speaker #1 asked about downtown parking concerns. He said that several businesses opted not to locate downtown after assessing the parking situation.

Mayor Butler responded by citing recent City efforts to improve downtown parking availability by increasing enforcement of posted time limits and establishing several 30-minute parking spaces on Public Square.

- Speaker #2 mentioned three concerns. She first expressed a concern over the danger of trees planted underneath power lines. She then suggested that the City deploy street sweepers to clear leaves from the streets during autumn, as she has observed that several residents blow leaves into the street that impede stormwater drainage and cause ponding and flooding in the street. Finally, she asked about snow removal on Arsenal Street, noting that she consistently sees people walking in the street, and that she has called the City and the Town of Watertown about this and neither claims jurisdiction.

Regarding the tree-planting concern, **Objective 6.4.1** recommends using both the 2018 Citywide Tree Inventory and Urban Forest Management Plan to help create and implement an annual tree-planting plan. This will include guidelines about locating proper species in appropriate places, with proper consideration given to utility lines.

Regarding the concern about leaves in the street causing drainage problems, **Objective 3.3.4** recommends sending a "welcome packet" to new City residents with information on garbage pickup, sidewalk responsibilities, winter parking rules, etc. This "welcome packet" should include information about the City's policy for proper leaf disposal. **Objective 6.1.8** recommends developing a communication method to inform City residents about where, when and how to remove their trash/debris. This communication should also include information on discarding leaves.

Regarding the concern about Arsenal Street snow removal, Arsenal Street is a State-maintained road west of Massey Street. The City plows Arsenal Street from Massey Street to Public Square. Regarding snow removal on sidewalks, it is the property owners' responsibility within the City to clear snow from all sidewalks on their property. The City Code Enforcement Bureau actively enforces this law during the winter to ensure safe passage for pedestrians. Upon reaching Interstate 81, the Town of Watertown's rules and regulations govern sidewalk snow removal.

- Speaker #3 mentioned two concerns. He first expressed what he felt was a lack of follow-through on complaints to the City Code Enforcement Bureau. He then stated that he resented paying \$3.25 for a trash collection sticker when he already paid City taxes and asked how the City used that revenue.

Regarding the refuse collection question, City Manager Richard M. Finn replied that the City is not making any money on refuse collection; it is revenue neutral.

Regarding the code enforcement follow-through, in response to this comment, Staff proposes adding **Objective 6.1.11**, which would state, "Continue to explore means of increasing Code Enforcement capacity and efficiency to allow the City to take a more proactive approach to code enforcement, bolstering the City's efforts to cite violations, reduce blight and increase property values."

- Speaker #4 asked about **Sub-Goal 6.6**, which is to define who we are as a City. She wanted to know how that definition would come about and would the public have the opportunity to have a say in that process. Councilman Horbacz replied that the City Council and Staff would not be the ones to define the culture of the City, it would be the people that define that culture.
- Speaker #5 suggested commissioning an artistic tribute to Watertown's industrial past. **Objective 6.4.3** recommends developing a Citywide Public Arts Program through private/public partnerships to commission the design and installation of murals, sculptures and other works of art to be enjoyed in the public realm.
- Speaker #6 said that while she appreciated the emphasis on communication, she noted that if everyone working collectively on a problem did the same thing, were all natives and all of higher socioeconomic status, they would be susceptible to groupthink. She said that to solve problems for various constituencies, the City would have to ask those constituencies for their ideas, and asked how the City would accomplish that outreach.

In response to this comment, Staff proposes adding **Objective 3.5.4** to the Communication goal, which would state, "Proactively reach out to various constituencies and stakeholder groups seeking ideas and input on City matters that affect them the most."

- Speaker #7 said she had no complaints, but two comments. She first said that she had no problem parking in the J.B. Wise lot to access Public Square. She then asked about the potential for municipal power, noting that she lived in Massena during the 1998 ice storm and was only out of power for two days.
- Speaker #8 asked about **Sub Goal 4.3**, which is to develop financial options for the expiration of the National Grid power purchase agreement.

Mayor Butler replied that the City was receiving significantly above market rates for the electricity it sold to National Grid. Mayor Butler explained that it was unrealistic to expect to continue to command above market rates at the end of the contract when there was plenty of supply available on the market.

To this end, **Objective 4.3.2** states, “Propose methods for dealing with the significant loss of revenue such as increase in property taxes, use of a tax stabilization fund, expense reductions, creation of new revenue sources and potential sale of hydro-electric plant.”

- Speaker #9 said that the City needed to be more transparent about publicizing the names of people that serve on various committees, noting that she has attempted searches but was unable to find who served on various committees.

In response to this comment, Staff proposes adding **Objective 3.5.5** to the Communication goal, which would state, “The City will continue to publish online, update and make easily accessible the names of citizens that serve on various City-sanctioned boards and committees that inform City policy.”

- Speaker #10 said that more downtown businesses needed to be open during downtown events, such as the block parties and Christmas parade. He also said that volunteer groups could make a difference and echoed the comments of others that City communication has been disappointing in recent years. He closed his comments by expressing support for a dog park.

In summary, based on the comments received, Staff proposes to add the following objectives to the Strategic Goals and Objectives:

- **Objective 6.1.11:** Continue to explore means of increasing Code Enforcement capacity and efficiency to allow the City to take a more proactive approach to code enforcement, bolstering the City’s efforts to cite violations, reduce blight and increase property values.
- **Objective 3.5.4:** Proactively reach out to various constituencies and stakeholder groups seeking ideas and input on City matters that affect them the most.
- **Objective 3.5.5:** The City will continue to publish online, update and make easily accessible the names of citizens that serve on various City-sanctioned boards and committees that inform City policy.

**PROPOSED DISTRICT 14**

	Block Counts				ff = full frontage NW = No Work	Square Foot Areas				Total Area	Over 50%	75% Owner Pays	City Pays		
	4x4	4x5	5x5	5x6		4x4	4x5	5x5	5x6						
110 Winslow St.			7				175			175	\$ 3,850.00	*	\$ 2,887.50	\$ 962.50	\$ 3,850.00
116 Winslow St.			18		ff		450			450	\$ 9,900.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,900.00	\$ 9,900.00
122 Winslow St.			3				75			75	\$ 1,650.00		\$ 1,237.50	\$ 412.50	\$ 1,650.00
126 Winslow St.			6				150			150	\$ 3,300.00	*	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 3,300.00
127 Winslow St.		5						100		100	\$ 2,200.00		\$ 1,650.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 2,200.00
132 Winslow St.			13		ff		325			325	\$ 7,150.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 7,150.00
133 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
138 Winslow St.			16		ff		400			400	\$ 8,800.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 8,800.00
139 Winslow St.	7					112				112	\$ 2,464.00		\$ 1,848.00	\$ 616.00	\$ 2,464.00
144 Winslow St.			14		ff		350			350	\$ 7,700.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 7,700.00
145 Winslow St.	7					112				112	\$ 2,464.00		\$ 1,848.00	\$ 616.00	\$ 2,464.00
146 Winslow St.			7				175			175	\$ 3,850.00	*	\$ 2,887.50	\$ 962.50	\$ 3,850.00
151 Winslow St.	7					112				112	\$ 2,464.00		\$ 1,848.00	\$ 616.00	\$ 2,464.00
154 Winslow St.					NW								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
155 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
158 Winslow St.			16		ff		400			400	\$ 8,800.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,800.00	\$ 8,800.00
159 Winslow St.	11				ff	176				176	\$ 3,872.00	* Y	\$ 2,904.00	\$ 968.00	\$ 3,872.00
163 Winslow St.	6					96				96	\$ 2,112.00		\$ 1,584.00	\$ 528.00	\$ 2,112.00
164 Winslow St.			1				25			25	\$ 550.00		\$ 412.50	\$ 137.50	\$ 550.00
170 Winslow St.	1		6			16	150			166	\$ 3,652.00	*	\$ 2,739.00	\$ 913.00	\$ 3,652.00
201 Winslow St.	13					208				208	\$ 4,576.00	*	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,576.00	\$ 4,576.00
204 Winslow St.	5					80				80	\$ 1,760.00		\$ 1,320.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 1,760.00
205 Winslow St.	11				ff	176				176	\$ 3,872.00	* Y	\$ 2,904.00	\$ 968.00	\$ 3,872.00
209 Winslow St.	16				ff	256				256	\$ 5,632.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,632.00	\$ 5,632.00
210 Winslow St.	15				ff	240				240	\$ 5,280.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 5,280.00
214 Winslow St.	13				ff	208				208	\$ 4,576.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,576.00	\$ 4,576.00
215 Winslow St.	2					32				32	\$ 704.00		\$ 528.00	\$ 176.00	\$ 704.00
218 Winslow St.	1					16				16	\$ 352.00		\$ 264.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 352.00
220 Winslow St.	8				ff	128				128	\$ 2,816.00	Y	\$ 2,112.00	\$ 704.00	\$ 2,816.00
223 Winslow St.	7					112				112	\$ 2,464.00		\$ 1,848.00	\$ 616.00	\$ 2,464.00
224 Winslow St.	15				ff	240				240	\$ 5,280.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,280.00	\$ 5,280.00
227 Winslow St.	13				ff	208				208	\$ 4,576.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,576.00	\$ 4,576.00
228 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
231 Winslow St.	1					16				16	\$ 352.00		\$ 264.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 352.00
232 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
235 Winslow St.	7					112				112	\$ 2,464.00		\$ 1,848.00	\$ 616.00	\$ 2,464.00
238 Winslow St.	14				ff	224				224	\$ 4,928.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,928.00	\$ 4,928.00
240 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
241 Winslow St.					NW								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
244 Winslow St.	1					16				16	\$ 352.00		\$ 264.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 352.00
245 Winslow St.	10				ff	160				160	\$ 3,520.00	* Y	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 3,520.00
248 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
249 Winslow St.	4					64				64	\$ 1,408.00		\$ 1,056.00	\$ 352.00	\$ 1,408.00
252 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
253 Winslow St.	2					32				32	\$ 704.00		\$ 528.00	\$ 176.00	\$ 704.00
257 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
300 Winslow St.					NW								\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
306 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
308 Winslow St.	4					64				64	\$ 1,408.00		\$ 1,056.00	\$ 352.00	\$ 1,408.00
309 Winslow St.	14				ff	224				224	\$ 4,928.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,928.00	\$ 4,928.00
312 Winslow St.	6					96				96	\$ 2,112.00		\$ 1,584.00	\$ 528.00	\$ 2,112.00
313 Winslow St.	14				ff	224				224	\$ 4,928.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,928.00	\$ 4,928.00
317 Winslow St.	13				ff	208				208	\$ 4,576.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,576.00	\$ 4,576.00
318 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
320 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
321 Winslow St.	1					16				16	\$ 352.00		\$ 264.00	\$ 88.00	\$ 352.00
324 Winslow St.	6					96				96	\$ 2,112.00		\$ 1,584.00	\$ 528.00	\$ 2,112.00
325 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
328 Winslow St.	3	2				48	40			88	\$ 1,936.00		\$ 1,452.00	\$ 484.00	\$ 1,936.00
329 Winslow St.	5					80				80	\$ 1,760.00		\$ 1,320.00	\$ 440.00	\$ 1,760.00
332 Winslow St.	4					64				64	\$ 1,408.00		\$ 1,056.00	\$ 352.00	\$ 1,408.00
335 Winslow St.	8					128				128	\$ 2,816.00		\$ 2,112.00	\$ 704.00	\$ 2,816.00
336 Winslow St.	4					64				64	\$ 1,408.00		\$ 1,056.00	\$ 352.00	\$ 1,408.00
340 Winslow St.	13				ff	208				208	\$ 4,576.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,576.00	\$ 4,576.00
343 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
344 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
345 Winslow St.	12				ff	192				192	\$ 4,224.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,224.00	\$ 4,224.00
346 Winslow St.	10				ff	160				160	\$ 3,520.00	* Y	\$ 2,640.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 3,520.00
349 Winslow St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
350 Winslow St.	19				ff	304				304	\$ 6,688.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,688.00	\$ 6,688.00
													\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
													\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
531 Washington St.			10	9			250	270		520	\$ 11,440.00	*	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 8,440.00	\$ 11,440.00
603 Washington St.			2				50			50	\$ 1,100.00		\$ 825.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,100.00
													\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
531 Hamlin St.	21		11		ff	336	275			611	\$ 13,442.00	* Y	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10,442.00	\$ 13,442.00
													\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
538 Franklin St.	29				ff/W	464				464	\$ 10,208.00	* Y/W	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 7,208.00	\$ 10,208.00
602 Franklin St.	22				ff/W	352				352	\$ 7,744.00	* y/W	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,744.00	\$ 7,744.00
													\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
1105 Bronson St.	3					48				48	\$ 1,056.00		\$ 792.00	\$ 264.00	\$ 1,056.00
112 Gill St.	11	1				176	20			196	\$ 4,312.00	*	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,312.00	\$ 4,312.00
	527	8	130	9		8432	160	3250	270	12112	\$ 266,464.00		\$ 151,974.00	\$ 114,490.00	\$ 266,464.00
						12112					\$ 266,464.00		\$ 266,464.00		
											\$ 22.00				