

Code Enforcement

The Vacant Building Registration Law

The Vacant Building Registration Law passed on September 03, 2019. This law will require all vacant property owners to be responsible for maintaining and/or rehabilitating their properties. The goal of this law is to speed up the rehabilitation process and to ensure that the vacant structures do not continue to deteriorate.

Code Enforcement Officers

Code of enforcement officers have been out in the field inspection properties which now belong to the city through tax sales.

Submitted Plans

Submitted Plans include 89-99 Public Square, The Lincoln Building Phase II Renovations and 1425 Washington Street, The Sisters of St. Joseph renovations.

Completed Projects

At 830 Washington Street, a three story addition on Samaritan's Women's & Children's Center has been completed.

Building Permits/Demolitions

At 1348 & 1352 Washington Street permits have been issued to demolish structures in order to prepare for parking lot extension. The cost of projects totaled \$20,000.00.

Maintenance and Repair Permits

Twenty-one Maintenance & Repair Permits have been issued Since August 23, 2019. The majority of the permits are to re-roof residential structures.

Buildings and Grounds:

Maintenance staff installed three new handicap toilet seats in the restrooms at City Hall, along with the replacement of bathroom faucets and a baby changing station in the family restroom on the first floor. They have begun to install the 2x12 pressure-treated framework around the gazebo for the installation of the decorative river rock.



Comptroller

NYS Retirement System Rates

On August 29th New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli announced the New York State and Local Retirement System employer contribution rates for State Fiscal Year 2020-21. As presented below the City's retirement contribution expense will increase 1.03% - 3.23% for those employees in the Employees Retirement System and will increase 5.35% - 7.53% for the contribution to the Police and Fire Retirement System.

Employees Retirement System

% Of City Wages in Tier	Final contribution rates for:	2/1/20	2/1/21	Actual
		<u>Rate</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
0.85%	Tier 2	19.50%	19.70%	1.03%
1.90%	Tier 3	15.80%	16.10%	1.90%
62.40%	Tier 4	15.80%	16.10%	1.90%
5.23%	Tier 5	13.20%	13.40%	1.52%
<u>29.62%</u>	Tier 6	9.30%	9.60%	3.23%
100.00%				

Police and Fire Retirement System

% Of City Wages in Tier	Final contribution rates for:	2/1/20	2/1/21	Actual
		<u>Rate</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
80.34%	Tier 2	24.30%	25.60%	5.35%
8.12%	Tier 5 (non-contributory)	23.20%	24.50%	5.60%
2.65%	Tier 5 (contributory)	19.80%	21.00%	6.06%
0.00%	Tier 6 (non-contributory)	21.00%	22.20%	5.71%
<u>8.89%</u>	Tier 6 (contributory)	14.60%	15.70%	7.53%
100.00%				

Engineering Department

Newell Street Boiler Replacement Project

City Council awarded Ontario HVAC Solutions the contract in the amount of \$117,900 to replace the Newell Street Boiler.

Thompson Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse Project

City Council agreed to fund changes to make the Bath House restrooms available year-round as a part of the Thompson Park Swimming Pool and Bathhouse Project.

Fire Department

Deputy Chief Randall Retirement



On September 12, 2019, Deputy Chief Randall starts a new chapter in his life, with his first day of retirement after faithfully serving the citizens of Watertown for nearly 30 years.

He and two other current members started working for the City on March 25, 1990, all of them receiving their initial fire training at the New York State Fire Academy in Montour Falls.

Russ's accomplishments during his career are many. They include, working the Department's first attempt of attaining accreditation through the Commission on Fire Accreditation, he was assigned as a Department Fire Investigator, he assisted with acquisition of the Department's current rescue truck, he participated in Monsignor Mac kid's day at the Jefferson County Fair and he was named the American Legion Firefighter of the Year in 2004, for his efforts at the North Country Battery Fire.

Russ was promoted to Fire Captain on July 31, 2002, serving on the Department's rescue truck and was named the Department's Deputy Fire Chief by Manager Corriveau on September 21, 2010. His duties included scheduling maintenance of buildings, keeping the Department's vehicle fleet running, organizing Department files to provide ease of retrieving information, and ensuring the Department's mission of safety and customer service was never compromised.

On a personal note, Russ has been a true friend and confidant in helping to guide me during these past turbulent years. His predecessors will have some big shoes to fill as we continue our mission of excellent service.

Cake will be served at 10 am on Tuesday, September 10th at the Massey Street Fire Station.

Planning Department

Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI)

Progress continues to be made on each of the 12 DRI projects that were funded last year. The project status of each of the projects is as follows:

City Manager's
Status and Information Update
September 6, 2019



City of Watertown Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grants	
Project Status - September 6, 2019	
<u>PROJECT NAME</u>	<u>PROJECT STATUS</u>
Masonic Temple Performing Arts Center	The owners are working with Empire State Development to finalize the details for the project.
Lincoln Building Co-Working Innovation Center	Construction work on the project has started. The environmental remediation work has been completed and interior demolition is almost complete. Framing for interior office space has begun.
Paddock Arcade Housing Renovation	Construction has started with demolition work being completed and new build out work underway. The target date for completion of the project, which will create 5 market rate apartments on the upper floors, is targeted for later this year or early 2020.
Paddock Arcade Public Space Enhancement	Preliminary design work on this project has begun. Construction is slated to start sometime next year.
Jefferson County Historical Society Museum Modernization	This project is under contract and the JCHS is working to complete the environmental review requirements prior to beginning work. Preliminary design work for the elevator installation portion of the project has begun. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2020.
Jefferson Community College Downtown TechSpace	Jefferson Community College is working with Empire State Development to finalize the details for the project.
Public Square Fountain Enhancement	The City has been working with the NYS Department of State to finalize the contract for this project. It is anticipated that the contract will be finalized soon and presented to the City Council for approval.
Streetscaping and Beautification for Downtown Walkability (Court St., Coffeen St. and Franklin St., Strauss Walkway)	The City has been working with the NYS Department of State to finalize the contract for this project. It is anticipated that the contract will be finalized soon and presented to the City Council for approval.
Governor Flower Monument Enhancement	The City has been working with the NYS Department of State to finalize the contract for this project. It is anticipated that the contract will be finalized soon and presented to the City Council for approval.
Wayfinding Signage and Branding Initiative	The City has been working with the NYS Department of State to finalize the contract for this project. It is anticipated that the contract will be finalized soon and presented to the City Council for approval.
Watertown Local Development Corporation Downtown Fund: Rent Assistance & Façade Program	This project is under contract and the Façade Program has begun with the hiring of a consultant to administer the project. Several potential applicants have been identified for the facade program and preliminary design work and cost estimating is underway. Construction could begin as early as this fall.

Downtown Watertown Art Project	The City has been working with the NYS Homes and Community Renewal to finalize the contract for this project.
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NDC Housing Program

Work is nearly complete on the housing rehabilitation project at 825 Academy Street. All of the main interior and exterior work has been completed and all that remains is some of the interior finish work. It is estimated that the renovation should be complete in the next month or so, and the two-unit home will be put up for sale at market value.



The project was developed and is being implemented through the NDC Program. The NDC Program is a partnership between Neighbors of Watertown, Inc., the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) and the City of Watertown. The main goal of the program is to rehabilitate residential properties that the City acquires through tax foreclosure or by other means. Neighbors of Watertown oversee the construction work and DANC provides the project financing. The City provides the property to rehabilitate and receives up to the amount owed in back taxes upon the sale to the new homeowner, if the project can financially support it. Representatives from all three agencies have been meeting to discuss the feasibility of rehabilitating two other City owned properties through the program. Planning Staff hope to provide an update to the City Council on those properties soon.

Black River Fall Fest

The Watertown Downtown Business Association (DBA) will host the annual Black River Fall Fest from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 7, 2019 on Public Square in downtown Watertown. This is one of the DBA's marquee events of the year and is a showcase for Public Square. This year's Fall Fest will feature over thirty vendors, and the DBA expects it to draw thousands of people into downtown. Planning and Public Works Staff assisted the DBA during recent weeks, with various event logistics.



To facilitate this event, the City of Watertown will close all travel lanes on the north side of Public Square to vehicular traffic, including all the angled parking spaces. There will be no overnight parking in the angled spaces on Friday night. These spaces will remain available to patrons of downtown businesses throughout Friday evening. However, all spaces must be vacated no later than 3:00 a.m. The City will close the travel lanes to vehicular traffic beginning at 7:00 a.m.

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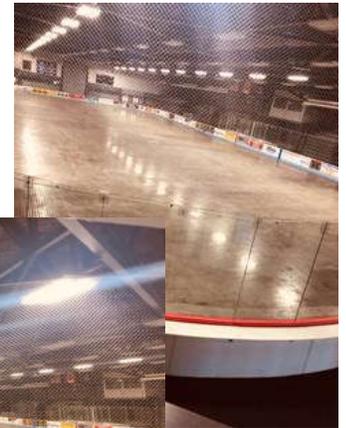


Parks and Recreation

The City of Watertown Annual Free Tennis Tournament will take place this Saturday at the tennis courts at Watertown High. The tournament is for both children and adults. The tournament is organized by the North Country Tennis Association and the Parks and Recreation Department. Participants are required to register through the North Country Tennis Association.



The Parks and Recreation employees have been working diligently to install the boards, glass, netting and matting. The ice compressors have been turned on and the ice building process will begin next week. The first day of ice is anticipated to be Monday, September 16th.



The Run for Recovery is scheduled to take place on Saturday, September 7th at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds.



The Red and Black Football team will take on Glens Falls at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds this Saturday, September 7th. The game kicks off at 7:00pm.



Sunday Rough Touch Football will officially begin this Sunday, September 8th at the Fairgrounds. This is the first year that this program will be run through the Parks and Recreation Department.

Water Department

Hydroelectric

Two turbines have been running since 0600 on Tuesday.

The hydro excitation equipment is on-site and will be installed in October. During the shutdown a new relay will be installed on Unit 2.

The city hosted two energy performance consultants in the last two weeks. Both conducted audits on city facilities and will propose energy and operations efficiencies.

Water Distribution

Water Distribution would like to remind City homeowners that they are still taking lead service line replacement applications (attached). They can be emailed to: vmurphy@watertown-ny.gov or they can be mailed to:

Water Department
245 Washington St.
Watertown, NY 13601