

**CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK**  
**AGENDA**  
**Monday, July 1, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**

This shall serve as notice that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council will be held on Monday, July 1, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Court Room, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**RESOLUTIONS**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Resolution No. 1 - | Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York Through the NY SWIMS Grant Program for the William J. Flynn Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project |
| Resolution No. 2 - | Rejecting Bid for Burlington Street Reconstruction Project – Powis Contracting, Inc.   |
| Resolution No. 3 - | Approving Change to Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule – Pool Fees  |
| Resolution No. 4 - | Approving Change to Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule – Refuse Sticker Vendor Discount   |

**ORDINANCES**

**LOCAL LAW**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**STAFF REPORTS**

1. Crow Management Program – Annual Report

**NEW BUSINESS**

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. To discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property
2. To discuss proposed, pending or current litigation
3. To discuss collective bargaining

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING IS MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024, AT 7:00 PM.**

June 25, 2024

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director

Subject: Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York Through the NY SWIMS Grant Program for the William J. Flynn Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project

Governor Hochul recently announced the first round of the NY SWIMS Initiative that will provide \$90 million in grant funds for municipal swimming facilities in underserved communities. The purpose of the funds is for the construction or renovation of municipal swimming facilities to expand access to safe swimming opportunities for New Yorkers, address equity gaps and provide resources for communities facing extreme heat. Grant funding is available through the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) and the deadline to submit an application is July 12, 2024.

The City's grant writer, LaBella Associates, has determined that the City is eligible to apply for funding for the rehabilitation of the William J. Flynn Municipal Pool. The project includes the complete reconstruction of the pool and renovations to the bathhouse to include mechanical, electrical, and plumbing upgrades.

While the project is nearly complete, the grant funds, if awarded, can be used to reimburse costs that have been incurred after April 1, 2024. Costs incurred after January 1, 2023, are eligible to be included as part of the 20% match.

Staff estimates that approximately \$1,000,000 in costs for the project were incurred after April 1, 2024, and is therefore recommending that the City apply for up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds for the project. There were over \$200,000 in costs incurred between January 1 and March 31, which will cover the required 20% match.

Attached for City Council consideration is a resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to submit the application to the DASNY through the NY SWIMS Grant Program for the William J. Flynn Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project.

**RESOLUTION**

Page 1 of 1

Authorizing and Supporting the Submission of a Grant Application to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York Through the NY SWIMS Grant Program for the William J. Flynn Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project

Council Member KIMBALL, Robert O.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Council Member SHOEN, Benjamin P.

Mayor PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Total .....

YEA	NAY

***Introduced by*** \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) has announced that it is accepting applications for funding under the NY SWIMS Grant Program for the purposes of renovating and constructing municipal swimming facilities to expand access to safe swimming across the state, especially in underserved communities and areas of high heat; and

WHEREAS the grant funds can be used to reimburse costs that have been incurred after April 1, 2024, and costs incurred after January 1, 2023, are eligible to be included as part of the required 20% match, and

WHEREAS the City has undertaken the rehabilitation of the William J. Flynn Pool and is eligible to apply for funding under this program,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager to submit an application to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds through the NY SWIMS Grant Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council pledges its financial support for the William J. Flynn Municipal Pool Rehabilitation Project and authorizes providing the requisite 20% match for the project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized and directed to act in connection with the submission of the application including execution of all required certifications, contracts and forms and to provide such additional information as may be required, request payment advances and reimbursements, and all other matters related to the project and to State assistance.

***Seconded by*** \_\_\_\_\_

Res No. 2

June 25, 2024

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Purchasing Manager

SUBJECT: Rejecting Bid for Burlington Street Reconstruction Project – Powis Contracting, Inc.

The City's Purchasing Department advertised in the Watertown Daily Times for sealed bids from qualified bidders for the Burlington Street Reconstruction Project, per City specifications and publicly opened and read the sealed bids on May 29, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. EST. Bids were provided to seven (7) plan houses and fifty-five (55) potential vendors.

The Purchasing Department received one (1) sealed bid submittal and the bid tabulation is shown below:

Vendor Name, Address, Point of Contact and email address	<b>Powis Contracting Inc.</b>
	9421 Number Three Road
	Copenhagen, NY 13626
	Hollie Powis <a href="mailto:powiscontracting1@gmail.com">powiscontracting1@gmail.com</a>
<b>Total Base Bid</b>	<b>\$2,348,090.00</b>

The Purchasing Manager and Planning and Community Development and Engineering Departments reviewed the response, and it is their recommendation that the City Council reject the bid. Planning and Engineering Staff recommend rebidding the project later this year for the 2025 construction season.

In addition, Planning and Engineering Staff will value engineer the project and evaluate the unit prices for opportunities to reduce the overall project cost.

If there are any questions concerning this recommendation, please contact me at your convenience.

**RESOLUTION**

Page 1 of 1

Rejecting Bid for Burlington Street  
Reconstruction Project –  
Powis Contracting, Inc.

Council Member KIMBALL, Robert O.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Council Member SHOEN, Benjamin P.

Mayor PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Total .....

YEA	NAY

***Introduced by*** \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS the City desires a complete street reconstruction of Burlington Street, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received one (1) sealed bid for the Burlington Street Reconstruction Project, and

WHEREAS on May 29, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bid received with the Planning & Community Development and Engineering Departments and it is their recommendation that the City Council reject the bids, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby reject the bid received by Powis Contracting, Inc.

***Seconded by*** \_\_\_\_\_

June 25, 2024

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Eric Wagenaar, City Manager

Subject: Approving Change to Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule – Pool Fees

The current Parks & Recreation Department fee schedule includes charges for non-city residents for pool admission, as shown in the fee schedule below. Daily admission is \$3.00, with season passes also available, though rarely used. There is currently no charge for residents or military members.

<b>Pool Fees</b>		<b>City Resident</b>	<b>Non City Resident</b>	
Daily Rate		\$0	\$3	per person
Group Rate (Schools, Camps, Rec Groups, etc.)		\$0	\$2	per person
Season Pass - Individual		\$0	\$30	
Season Pass - Family (4)		\$0	\$90	
Additional Family Members		\$0	\$15	per person
<b>Pool Rental Fee</b>				
Groups of 25 or less		\$150	\$150	per hour for 1 or 2 hrs
Larger Groups - additional fee		\$25	\$25	per hour per lifeguard

Fees were added for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, with collection beginning mid-July 2023. While our lifeguards do a good job collecting fees, the process of residency verification is difficult, especially with younger patrons. To date the following fees have been collected:

2023 Season	\$3,111
2024 Season	\$1,179

Attached for Council consideration is a resolution that eliminates pool fees for all individuals regardless of residency.

# RESOLUTION

Page 1 of 1

Approving Change to Annual City Fees and  
Charges Schedule – Pool Fees

Council Member KIMBALL, Robert O.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Council Member SHOEN, Benjamin P.

Mayor PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Total .....

YEA	NAY

**Introduced by** \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS City Council established a City Fees and Charges Schedule for the City of Watertown, as authorized by Local Law No. 2 of 2016, and

WHEREAS the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 City Fees and Charges Schedule was adopted by City Council on June 3, 2024 when the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget was adopted, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Parks & Recreation Department is a municipal corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York and, as such, owns the facilities known as the Thompson Park Pool & Flynn Pool within the City of Watertown, the pools are used for community recreational activities, and

WHEREAS the City Council implemented a non-city resident fee in the adopted Fee Schedule, to charge non-city residents a daily pool use fee of \$3.00; and

WHEREAS daily swimming pool fees, and proof of identification are a barrier to the public's use of the pool, and

WHEREAS the City Manager proposes to eliminate the daily swimming pool use fees at Flynn and Thompson Park Pools, and

WHEREAS the elimination of pool fees will go into effect on July 2, 2024,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby eliminates all daily rate, group rate and season pass rates pertaining to pool fees in the City Fees and Charges Schedule effective July 2, 2024

**Seconded by** \_\_\_\_\_



Res No. 4

June 26, 2024

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Eric Wagenaar, City Manager

Subject: Approving Change to Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule –  
Refuse Sticker Vendor Discount

The City of Watertown currently has agreements with various retail stores to sell the City's refuse stickers. Since the refuse sticker program began the stores have been receiving a \$0.05 discount on the sticker price. Per the chart below the discount the stores receive has never been adjusted.

Past Refuse Sticker Prices	Retail Discount per Sticker	Retail % Return
<b>\$ 4.25</b>	<b>\$ 0.10</b>	<b>2.41%</b>
\$ 4.25	\$ 0.05	1.19%
\$ 3.50	\$ 0.05	1.45%
\$ 3.25	\$ 0.05	1.56%
\$ 3.00	\$ 0.05	1.69%
\$ 2.50	\$ 0.05	2.04%

The resolution attached for City Council consideration amends the FY 2024-25 City Fees and Charges Schedule to codify and adjust the vendor discount to sell City refuse stickers.

# RESOLUTION

Page 1 of 1

Approving Change to Annual City Fees  
And Charges Schedule – Refuse Sticker  
Vendor Discount

Council Member KIMBALL, Robert O.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Council Member SHOEN, Benjamin P.

Mayor PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Total .....

YEA	NAY

**Introduced by** \_\_\_\_\_

WHEREAS City Council established a City Fees and Charges Schedule for the City of Watertown, as authorized by Local Law No. 2 of 2016, and

WHEREAS the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 City Fees and Charges Schedule was adopted by City Council on June 3, 2024 when the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget was adopted, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown currently has agreements with various retail stores to sell the City's refuse stickers and receive a \$0.05 discount on the sticker price, and

WHEREAS the City has not adjusted the vendor discount since it began the refuse sticker program,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the below change to the City Fees and Charges Schedule:

## **Refuse and Garbage**

Vendor Discount per Trash Sticker                      \$0.10

**Seconded by** \_\_\_\_\_

Staff Report

June 25, 2024

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director

Subject: Crow Management Program – Annual Report

The 2023-24 crow harassment season was the second in a three-year contract between the City and Loomacres Wildlife Management, which has been the City's chosen crow harassment contractor since 2011. Since the 2020-21 harassment season, the City has requested that Loomacres frontload their harassment efforts, with most harassment nights taking place early in the winter season.

Each year, Loomacres submits a season-ending report, which summarizes the crow hazing activities that were conducted within the City during that harassment season. Attached for City Council review is the report from the 2023-24 season.

As the 2024-25 harassment season will be the final year of the contract, the City will need to enter into a new agreement with Loomacres Wildlife Management prior to the 2025-26 winter season. If the City Council wishes to continue the crow management program and directs Staff to continue the relationship with Loomacres, Staff will work with Loomacres to prepare a new contract during the summer months of 2025.



JUN 18 2024

RECEIVED  
CITY OF WATERTOWN, NY

April 24, 2024

Geoff Urda  
245 Washington Street  
Watertown, NY 13601

Mr. Urda,

Below you will find a summary of our effort during the 2023-2024 crow management program in Watertown, New York. Report completed by Bradley Lewis, Loomacres Wildlife Biologist.

Loomacres Wildlife Management Inc. conducted crow harassments from October 2023 through February 2024 in the city of Watertown, New York. Harassment was conducted in response to the large flocks of American crows (*Corvus branchyrrhynchos*) that would roost throughout the city's residential and commercial areas. These birds have produced undesirable conditions throughout the city including noise disturbances from their loud calls when congregated in large numbers, as well as the fecal matter produced by flocks in roosting locations.

Initial harassment commenced on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023. During the beginning of the crow hazing season, crows were observed in high numbers near Mechanic and Polk, and the river near Knowlton Technologies. Larger groups formed near Watertown city hall, Sterling, Goodale, and Washington streets. As the season progressed on, larger numbers of crows congregated near the Black River. Each evening, as sunset progressed, small groupings of crows had moved towards the city and took refuge in trees adjacent to the city hall, Black River, West Main Street, between Moulton Street and Factory Street, Washington Street, Academy Street, and Mill Street near NAPA Auto Parts. Initial harassment began with flock sizes estimated around 100-2000 birds, and as the season progressed, flock sizes increased to 500-10,000. Loomacres staff utilized several harassment techniques and were able to break the flock up into smaller groups ranging in size of 10-500 individuals, dispersed throughout the city. On succeeding visits, initially observed flock sizes prior to the day's harassment, were estimated to range from 500-2,000 individuals. On repeat visits, Loomacres staff noticed initial congregations of crows near West Main and Mill St. Locations within the city that had increased crow hazing activity included the edges of Black River off Newell St., Keyes Ave., Lillian Street, Washington Street, East Main Street, Waterman Drive, the church by Parker Street, Marshall Plaza, the collection of trees off Main Avenue, forested area near Casey St., and the collection of trees near the City Snow Dump site off Mill St.

Loomacres staff continued to be vigilant with hazing flocking of crows, with efforts focused at reducing flock sizes concentrated in one location and directing flocks out of the city. Loomacres

*"Bringing Wildlife Management To A Higher Level"*

Loomacres Wildlife Management • 242 Hallenbeck Road • Cobleskill, NY 12187

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E-mail: [info@loomacres.com](mailto:info@loomacres.com)

personnel used a variety of non-lethal harassment techniques including pyrotechnics, lasers, and spotlights, to disperse from city roosting areas. Loomacres did use lethal harassment techniques this year because the flocks were becoming less scared of non-lethal techniques.

Similar to previous years, staff fielded phone calls and emails from city residents to help located and confirm crow related problems throughout the city. A total of thirty-nine (39) sighting reports were filed, a significant increase from the previous year (38 reports in 2022-2023, and 31 reports in 2021-2022). First reports were submitted in October. The greatest number of reports from city residents were collected during November with thirty-two (32) entries. During the subsequent months, three (3) reports in October, and two (2) reports in February. No sighting reports were submitted by city residents in the months of December, January, or March. Flock size estimates reported by Watertown residents were similar for each month during the hazing season, with estimates between 10-2,000 crows reported.

Harassment efforts wrapped up in February 2024 as flock sizes of crows attempting to roost in the city were observed to be less than 1,000 crows and flocks gradually were less persistent to stay within the city. The remaining crows were continually harassed until they were spread out in flocks consisting of a couple hundred individuals, reducing the negative effects they had on residents and their property.

Overall, the crow harassment operations during the Watertown 2023-2024 winter season were viewed as a success. Loomacres personnel conducted harassments on eight occasions, with a total of 54 harassment instances performed. Overall, total number of crows observed decreased compared to previous years of hazing efforts (2016-2017, 87,950 crows harassed, 2017-2018, 77,200 crows harassed, 2018-2019, 44,975 crows harassed, 2019-2020, 126,005 crows harassed, 2020-2021 64,006 crows harassed, 2021-2022 180,785 crows harassed, 2022-2023 92,870 crows harassed, 2023-2024 62,710 crows harassed). During the 2023-2024 hazing season, Loomacres resorted to lethal reinforcement, when flocks became resistant of non-lethal techniques. Continued availability of the reinforcement method will assist with future harassments in the city. The goals of reducing overall flock sizes by means of harassment into small groupings greater dispersed around the city were attained with great success. Public participation in reporting efforts helped to establish an overall positive perception of the effects the harassment has on the city's crows.

**Total Number of Crows Harassed:** 62,710

**Total Number of Harassment Instances:** 54

**Total Number of Pyrotechnics Used:** 70

**Total Number of Laser/Distress Deterrents Used:** 30

**Total Number of Paintball harassments:** 0

**Total Number of Lethal Crow Takes:** 42

American crows are likely to be a continued issue for the city of Watertown during the winter months. Loomacres recommends that the city continue to take a proactive approach to manage crow populations. Thank you for the opportunity to work with the City of Watertown. I hope that you will

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E-mail: [info@loomacres.com](mailto:info@loomacres.com)

find this information useful. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,  
Cody Baciuska  
Loomacres Wildlife Management

*" B r i n g i n g   W i l d l i f e   M a n a g e m e n t   T o   A   H i g h e r   L e v e l "*

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