

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
March 21, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

Present: **Council Member Patrick J. Hickey
Council Member Clifford G. Olney III
Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith**

Also Present: **Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager
Christina E. Stone, City Attorney**

City staff present: Scott Weller, Michael Delaney, Matthew Timerman, Vicky Murphy, Michael Lumbis, James Mills, Jennifer Voss, Geoffrey Urda

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Intermunicipal Agreement for Use of Recreational Facilities, Watertown City School District
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields, Watertown American Little League
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving the Professional Service Agreement for the Ohio Street Water Main Project, Aubertine and Currier
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Professional Service Agreement for the Winslow Street Water Main Project, Aubertine and Currier
- Resolution No. 5 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget to Restate the Number of Authorized Fire Department Positions
- Resolution No. 6 - Committing to Proceed with City Court Building Improvements
- Resolution No. 7 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical
- Resolution No. 8 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical Co., Inc.
- Resolution No. 9 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Kemira Water Solutions
- Resolution No. 10 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical
- Resolution No. 11 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Chemical Distributors
- Resolution No. 12 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Chemtrade Chemicals
- Resolution No. 13 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, George S. Coyne Chemical Co. Inc.
- Resolution No. 14 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Kemira Water Solutions
- Resolution No. 15 - Accepting Bid for Fire Department Hydraulic Rescue Tools, Code 4 Fire & Rescue

- Resolution No. 16 - Finding that Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 108 Flower Avenue East from Residence B to Neighborhood Business and that Developing a Gas Station and Convenience Store on 703, 707 and 715 Washington Street and 108 Flower Avenue East Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Resolution No. 17 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget Thompson Park Brush Clearing and Trail Enhancement
- Resolution No. 18 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget –Zoo Design Phase 1
- Resolution No. 19 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget – Solar Eclipse Marketing
- Public Hearing - Ordinance Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 108 Flower Avenue East, Parcel Number 11-12-127.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan - Update
- Sales Tax Revenue by Category
- Sales Tax Revenue – February 2022
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – February 2022
- Board and Commission Appointments
- Property Purchase Offers for Private Sales
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2022 Annual Action Plan Request from North Country Transitional Living Services

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 March 7, 2022 and work session of March 14, 2022, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from Steven Massaro, founder of Empire Hydro Consulting, offering his services to the City of Watertown, regarding the ongoing effort to redevelop City-owned river properties and energy producing hydroelectric sites. Additional information regarding his education and professional experience was distributed to Council today.

A letter was received from Benjamin Dawes, 252 Green Street, in support of the zone change that will enable the development for 108 Flower Avenue East and parcels on Washington Street by Stewart's.

A petition was received, containing approximately 31 signatures against the building of a gas station on the corner of Flower Avenue East and Washington Street.

A copy of an online petition through Moveon.org was received, containing approximately 37 signatures against the relocation of Stewart's Shop gas station to the corner of Flower Avenue East and Washington Street.

Above communications were placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

A notice of intent was received from Progressive Insurance on behalf of Jose Escobar Gonzalez, seeking subrogation rights for damages to an insurer's vehicle of \$3,938.02 from an accident with a City Police vehicle on August 18, 2021.

Above claim has been referred to the Board of Audit.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, thanked staff for installing the bus stop signs and expressed her concerns that the length of time for crosswalk signals is too short and that the unloading parking spots in front of the Woolworth Building are being misused. She asked that these unloading spots be changed from 15 minutes to 30 minutes. Lastly, she requested a covered bus shelter be installed at the Walker Cancer Center and reminded Council that she is fundraising for a homeless shelter.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, expressed concerns with spending \$10 million dollars to renovate City Hall, stressing that the money should be spent toward road repairs, and he asked if Council has a five-to-ten-year plan to fix roads and infrastructure.

Shane Leween, owner of the Pla-Mor Lanes, offered to buy 121 High Street, which is the City-owned property behind the Pla-Mor Lanes and provides them with access to the rear of their building. He noted that they already have a right-of-way across the property and it would be in the City's best interest to keep the back of the property accessible for emergency vehicles.

Tony Augliano, 332 West Broadway Avenue, expressed interest in purchasing a portion 330 Brett Street, which is abutting his property and still on the list for the public auction. He reviewed the average price of other vacant lots, as well as residential lots, and stated the minimum bid of \$5,500 seemed high in his opinion. He explained that he has maintained this property and has put some of his own money in to it.

Larry Sorel, Executive Director of Zoo New York, thanked Council for their support of Phase One and noted that ongoing investment in the zoo is necessary to benefit the community's quality of life.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, stated he supported funding the Zoo and also noted there is not enough parking in Thompson Park. Lastly, he accused the Police Department of corruption, noting he has seen people in Public Square not use the crosswalk in front of Police Officers.

Patricia Whalen, readdressed Council stating she has seen the same truck and car race through Public Square often and fears it will result in a major accident. She said there needs to be more Police Officers and Firemen and asked for more funding for these departments.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 108 Flower Avenue East, Parcel Number 11-12-127.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business

Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:15 p.m.

The following people spoke in opposition to the zone change request:

Steve Bolton, 183 Flower Avenue East
Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street
Mark Bonner, owner of Franklin Street Dairy
Lance Evans, 163 Flower Avenue East
MaryEllen Blevins, 719 Washington Street
Allen Thompson, 323 Flower Avenue East
Fred Buduson, 120 Flower Avenue East
Samuel Thomas, 324 Winslow Street and 262 Paddock Street

The following people spoke in support of the zone change request:

Hartley Bonisteel Schweitzer, 137 Paddock Street
Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street

Chuck Marshall, Stewart's Shops Corporation, presented a slideshow (not on file in the City Clerk's Office), which reviewed the history of the application process starting on September 20, 2021, the results of the appraisal report, a mailer surveying the neighboring property owners and a traffic pattern study.

Joseph M. Butler, Jr., 335 Ten Eyck Street, stated he personally likes Stewart's and enjoys getting his morning coffee there, but understands the concerns of the immediate neighbors of the property and this is why, when he was Mayor, he voted against the original zone change for the adjacent parcels along Washington Street. He said Neighborhood Business can coexist with Residential B, but it is difficult to balance the disruption of a few within the neighborhood for the benefit of the community. He said he understands the difficult decision in front of Council.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:58 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Intermunicipal Agreement for Use of Recreational Facilities, Watertown City School District

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the Watertown City School District ("District") owns and maintains its school buildings and related sports and recreational facilities (hereinafter "School Facilities"), and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown ("City") owns and maintains certain municipal buildings, baseball and soccer fields, and other outdoor facilities (hereinafter "City Facilities") which are utilized by residents and organizations of the City of Watertown for recreational purposes, and

WHEREAS the City is desirous of utilizing the School Facilities for certain Parks and Recreation programs and events, and

WHEREAS the School District is desirous of utilizing the City Facilities for games and/or practices for its school teams, as well as certain other school programs and events, and

WHEREAS the City is willing to allow the School District to utilize the City Facilities, and the School District is willing to allow the City to utilize the School Facilities for the benefit of the residents of the City and School District respectively, upon the terms and conditions contained in the Intermunicipal Agreement, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 5-G, §119-0 of the General Municipal Law the Parties are authorized to enter into inter-municipal cooperative agreements,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Intermunicipal Agreement, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields, Watertown American Little League

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and operates numerous athletic fields throughout the City, and

WHEREAS the Watertown American Little League has expressed their desire to enter into an Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields, and

WHEREAS City Council of the City of Watertown desires to promote recreational activities at these community recreational facilities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields between the City of Watertown and the Watertown American Little League, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 - Approving the Professional Service Agreement for the Ohio Street Water Main Project, Aubertine and Currier

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on February 28, 2022, the City of Watertown requested a proposal from Aubertine and Currier regarding Civil Engineering and Design Services associated with the Ohio Street Water Main Project occurring from Indiana Avenue to Eastern Boulevard,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Professional Service Agreement from Aubertine and Currier in the amount of \$69,555.00, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute Professional Service Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Professional Service Agreement for the Winslow Street Water Main Project, Aubertine and Currier

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on February 28, 2022, the City of Watertown requested a proposal from Aubertine and Currier regarding Civil Engineering and Design Services associated with the Winslow Street Water Main Replacement Project occurring from Washington Street to Franklin Street,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Professional Service Agreement from Aubertine and Currier in the amount of \$70,970.00, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute Professional Service Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Hickey asked if the sanitary sewer work in the 500 block of Washington Street would be done at the same time.

Mr. Mix confirmed that would be a separate project.

Mayor Smith noted that both the Ohio Street project and Winslow Street project would be paid for by APRA funds.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget to Restate the Number of Authorized Fire Department Positions

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, of which \$46,539,384 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the City Council on December 6, 2021 added the position of Deputy Fire Chief, eliminated one Fire Captain and added one Firefighter position in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS on February 22, 2022 City Council desired to add back one Captain to have seventeen Fire Captains on the line and one Administrative Fire Captain resulting in eighteen Fire Captain positions and eliminate one Firefighter position resulting in forty-six firefighters, and

WHEREAS on February 22, 2022 City Council designated the Fire Department's existing Ford F-550 (8-22) as a Rescue Truck and directed that it be placed into service as a Rescue Truck by March 31, 2022, and

WHEREAS the designation of the Ford F-550 (8-22) as a Rescue Truck creates the need to promote four Firefighters to Captain to avoid violating Civil Service law that prohibits routinely paying an employee for out-of-title work rather than promoting the individual to the appropriate title,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to add increase by four the number of Fire Captain positions to twenty-two and eliminate four Firefighter positions to forty- two in the Fire Department effective upon the Ford F-550 being placed into service as the Rescue Truck.

Seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith explained that this will increase the number of Captains so there will be 22 Captains and 44 Firefighters, resulting in one Captain for every two Firefighters. He compared this to the Police Department with seven Sergeants and 40 Officers, noting that the Police Department's call volume is significantly higher than the Fire Department.

Speaking of a recent conversation with the City Attorney, Council Member Ruggiero said that Attorney Slye thought this was in the best interests of the City to resolve the issues with the Fire Department.

Mr. Mix advised that putting the Rescue Truck back on the line forced the City to promote the Captains in order to resolve recent grievances.

Mentioning that she did not support the vote to take the Rescue Truck offline, Council Member Ruggiero noted it was done in an effort to save money, but it has not and the City had to buy rescue tools for the other trucks. She reviewed the amount spent on legal fees and backpay as a result of union grievances caused by eliminating the Rescue Truck and said she does not see that any money was saved.

In response to Council Member Pierce's inquiry, Mr. Mix reviewed the costs to promote the four Captains.

Mayor Smith pointed out that the Fire Chief recommended moving towards the use of battery-operated tools in January of 2021 and that Council authorized these purchases through the last budget. He discussed the grievance further, noting that the Fire Union wanted two Captains on the ladder truck for EMT calls and he said he does not understand why each vehicle needs a Captain, again comparing the supervision levels of the Fire Department and the Police Department and the corresponding number of response calls. He said this is why he will not support this.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.

Resolution No. 6 - Committing to Proceed with City Court Building Improvements

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Council realizes the need for building improvements in the Court area of City Hall, and

WHEREAS security enhancements are also desired for City Hall, and

WHEREAS Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith and Judge James P. Murphy have agreed upon a phased approach to City Hall/City Court improvements, and

WHEREAS a phased improvement will need to be approved by the New York State Office of the Courts Administration and City Council, City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the funding for each phase will be approved by City Council, City of Watertown, and funding of each phase will be based solely on the City Council's determination if there is an ability to fund each phase, and

WHEREAS City Staff has prepared a conceptual layout plan for the first floor of City Hall dated 12/07/2021 including the phases of the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown is committed to constructing the improvements to the City Court area and the enhanced security area as shown on the phased conceptual plan dated 12/07/2021, as may be revised during the design review process, upon its approval by the New York State Office of Court Administration.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 7 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of process and disinfection chemicals for use at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to five (5) prospective bidders with a total of eight (8) bids submitted by two bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:15 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bids from Slack Chemical as detailed below:

Dry Polymer – 50,000 lbs. - WWTP	Company	2022-2023
		Unit Price
Dry Polymer – Stac Flocc 6532	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$2.34
Dry Polymer – Stac Flocc 6345	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$2.29
Dry Polymer – Stac Flocc 6552	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$2.36

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by Slack Chemical Co., Inc. as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Dry Polymer for use at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 8 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical Co., Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of process and disinfection chemicals for use at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to five (5) prospective bidders with a total of four (4) bids submitted by three (3) bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:45 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bids received with the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bids from Slack Chemical Company, Inc., as detailed below:

Disinfection Chemicals - WWTP	Company	2022-2023
		Unit Price
Sodium Hypochlorite - Gallons	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$1.284
Sodium Bisulfite Solution - Gallons	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$2.098

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bids submitted by Slack Chemical Company, Inc., as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Sodium Hypochlorite (40,000 Gallons) and Sodium Bisulfite Solution (20,000 Gallons) for use at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 9 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Kemira Water Solutions

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of process and disinfection chemicals for use at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to two (2) prospective bidders with a total of two (2) bids submitted by two bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:30 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bids received with the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bids from Kemira Water Solutions as detailed below:

Ferric Chloride - WWTP	Company	2022-2023
		Unit Price
Ferric Chloride 305 Dry Ton	Kemira Water Solutions	\$898.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bids submitted by Kemira Water Solutions as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Ferric Chloride 305 Dry Ton for use at the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 10 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of chemicals for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to twenty-six (26) prospective bidders with a total of ten (10) bids received by eight (8) bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with Chief Plant Operator Aaron Harvill of the Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid from Slack Chemical as detailed below:

Process Chemical-WTP	2022-2023
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	Vendor Name	Unit Price
Liquid Chlorine	Slack Chemical	\$2,489.48/ton
Hydrofluosilic Acid	Slack Chemical	\$ 654.32/ton
Soda Ash	Slack Chemical	\$429.30/ton

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by Slack Chemical as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Liquid Chlorine, Hydrofluosilic Acid, and Soda Ash for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 11 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Chemical Distributors

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of chemicals for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to twenty-six (26) prospective bidders with a total of ten (10) bids received by eight (8) bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with Chief Plant Operator Aaron Harvill of the Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bids from Chemical Distributors as detailed below:

Process Chemical-WTP	UOM	Vendor Name	2022-2023
			Unit Price
Sodium Silicate	Ton	Chemical Distributors	\$393.50

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bids submitted by Chemical Distributors as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Sodium Silicate for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 12 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Chemtrade Chemicals

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of chemicals for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to twenty-six (26) prospective bidders with a total of ten (10) bids received by eight (8) bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with Chief Plant Operator Aaron Harvill of the Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid from Chemtrade Chemicals as detailed below:

Process Chemical -WTP	Vendor Name	2022-2023
		Unit Price
Aluminum Sulfate	Chemtrade Chemicals	\$490.00/ton

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by Chemtrade Chemicals as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Aluminum Sulfate for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 13 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, George S. Coyne Chemical Co. Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of chemicals for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to twenty-six (26) prospective bidders with a total of ten (10) bids received by eight (8) bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with Chief Plant Operator Aaron Harvill of the Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid from George S. Coyne Chemical Co. Inc. as detailed below:

Process Chemical -WTP	Vendor Name	2022-2023
		Unit Price
Powdered Activated Carbon	George S. Coyne Chemical	\$3,176.4706/ton

	Co. Inc.	
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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by George S. Coyne Chemical Co. Inc. as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Powdered Activated Carbon for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 14 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Kemira Water Solutions

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of chemicals for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant, for the City's 2022-2023 fiscal year's requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to twenty-six (26) prospective bidders with a total of ten (10) bids received by eight (8) bidders, and

WHEREAS on March 3, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with Chief Plant Operator Aaron Harvill of the Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid from Kemira Water Solutions as detailed below:

Process Chemical-WTP	UOM	Vendor Name	2022-2023
			Unit Price
Polyaluminum Chloride	Ton	Kemira Water Solutions	\$452.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by Kemira Water Solutions as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Polyaluminum Chloride for use at the City's Water Treatment Plant.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 15 - Accepting Bid for Fire Department Hydraulic Rescue Tools, Code 4 Fire & Rescue

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for FD Hydraulic Rescue Tools in Watertown, New York, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to qualified bidders with two (2) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bids received with the Fire Department, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Code 4 Fire & Rescue,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Code 4 Fire & Rescue in the amount of \$36,545, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Code 4 Fire & Rescue.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 16 - Finding that Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 108 Flower Avenue East from Residence B to Neighborhood Business and that Developing a Gas Station and Convenience Store on 703, 707 and 715 Washington Street and 108 Flower Avenue East Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it an Ordinance for the zone change application of Stewart's Shops Corporation to change the approved zoning classification of 108 Flower Avenue East, Parcel Number 11-12-127.000, from Residence B to Neighborhood Business, and

WHEREAS the Stewart's Shops Corporation has communicated an intent to develop a gas station and convenience store on the subject parcel and the three adjacent parcels at 703, 707 and 715 Washington Street, respectively Parcel Numbers 11-12-126.000, 11-12-125.00 and 11-12-124.000, a development proposal that would require both Site Plan Approval and a Special Use Permit, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the approval of the Zone Change and the anticipated future Site Plan and Special Use Permit would collectively constitute such an "Action," and to avoid any SEQR segmentation, the Council must consider these together as a single action, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that changing the zoning classification of this property and that the proposed development on the site constitute an Unlisted Action as that term is defined by 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (al), and

WHEREAS the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has jurisdiction over bulk underground petroleum storage, as established by 6 NYCRR part 613, and therefore is an Involved Agency, as that term is defined by 6 NYCRR 617.2 (t), necessitating a Coordinated Review, and

WHEREAS City Staff initiated a coordinated review with the DEC on March 9, 2022 to determine the most appropriate Lead Agency for the project and to request any comments or concerns on the project, and

WHEREAS the DEC has submitted correspondence to the City of Watertown agreeing that the City Council is the appropriate entity to act as Lead Agency for the environmental review and communicating all the DEC's comments regarding the proposed action, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed zone change and site plan will have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared by the applicant, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

WHEREAS to also aid the Council in its determination, the applicant has also submitted the following materials, copies of which are attached and made part of this resolution: Conceptual site plan and elevation drawings, a PowerPoint presentation, trip-generation analysis, real estate analysis and a truck routing plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that:

1. Based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, as well as the communication received from the DEC, no significant impact is known and the adoption of the zone change and the construction of the site plan, as proposed, will not have a significant impact on the environment.
2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

No Introduction.

Resolution No. 17 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget Thompson Park Brush Clearing and Trail Enhancement

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, of which \$46,539,384 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the City was awarded \$22,265,728 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and

WHEREAS park improvements such as brush clearing and trail enhancements in Thompson Park are an allowable use of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds, and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted General Fund Budget:

GENERAL FUND

Revenues:

A.0000.4960	Federal Aid – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
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Expenditures:

A.7110.0430	Thompson Park – Contracted Services	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
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Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 18 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget –Zoo Design Phase 1

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, of which \$46,539,384 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the City was awarded \$22,265,728 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and

WHEREAS design plans for City-owned facilities such as Zoo New York is an allowable use of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds, and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted General Fund Budget:

GENERAL FUND

Revenues:

A.0000.4960	Federal Aid – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
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Expenditures:

A.7110.0430	Thompson Park – Contracted Services	<u>\$ 75,000</u>
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Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 19 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget – Solar Eclipse Marketing

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, of which \$46,539,384 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to begin promoting the solar eclipse to occur in 2024, and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted General Fund Budget:

GENERAL FUND

Expenditures:

A.1990.0430	Contingency – Contracted Services	(\$1,000)
A.6410.0430	Publicity - Contracted Services	\$ 1,000

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Pierce advised that the committee had their first meeting and she explained how these funds would be used for marketing the event.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea.

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 108 Flower Avenue East, Parcel Number 11-12-127.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business. *(Introduced on 3/7/2022; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2022 Minutes Book on page 17-18 of the 3/7/2022 minutes).*

Mayor Smith explained that the SEQRA resolution needed to be considered prior to Council being able to vote on the zone change, so since Resolution No. 16 was not introduced, this ordinance cannot not be considered.

No action taken by Council.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan – Update and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2022 Annual Action Plan Request from North Country Transitional Living Services

Mayor Smith stated there is a need for a homeless shelter, but he is not sure if downtown is the best location.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis reviewed his update report on CDBG Program Year 2022. He provided more information on the listed projects and spoke about the late submission from North County Transitional Living Services (NCTLS) requesting homelessness assistance. He referred Council to the additional staff report that was added to the agenda and suggested how the proposed budget could be revised if Council desired to add \$15,000 for the NCTLS request.

Mayor Smith noted that the proposed former Angel's Inn site on Pine Street is located in a residential area and wondered if a sex offender could be placed there.

Maureen Cean, Executive Director of NCTLS, advised that sex offenders would be excluded from this project, and she confirmed that there are 18 units that would be used for transitional living. In response to Mayor Smith's question of whether there had been outreach done among the neighborhood residents, Ms. Cean stated that has not been done but would be done closer to the opening. She noted that the zoning for this parcel is appropriate for this use.

Mayor Smith expressed concern with committing funds to a project without the neighbors being aware of the project because there may be concerns.

Ms. Cean replied to other questions from Council Members, confirming that staff would be available in the facility 24 hours a day and that it was expected to open in the late spring or early summer. Regarding inquiries of whether anything else is being done to help the homeless, she said there are a number of things being explored and a task force is being put together.

Council Member Ruggiero said she would support adding the \$15,000 request into the CDBG Annual Action Plan because this type of housing is needed, especially with the loss of units due to recent hotel fires.

Council Member Olney and Council Member Hickey both agreed.

Council Member Pierce said she supports the need to help the homeless but would like to get a sense of how the people in the neighborhood feel, noting that she is first hearing about this tonight.

Mayor Smith agreed with Council Member Pierce that this is the first time seeing this request and would like more public input.

Mr. Lumbis reminded Council that the request for a special use permit for multi-family dwelling was approved in the past for this property, but that project never moved forward. He discussed how the proposed project aligns with the current zoning and reviewed the timeline for the CDBG Annual Action Plan process, as well as upcoming opportunities for the public to provide input.

In response to Mayor Smith's question, Ms. Cean explained that a person with a history of arson, personal history of violence and/or history of the production of meth would also be excluded from this program.

Discussion turned to the North Star Playground and Ballfield Improvements Project and Mr. Lumbis responded to questions about the proposed improvements and usage of that location. It was noted that the ballfield was not the standard size. Mr. Lumbis listed other playgrounds that fall under the eligibility guidelines for CDBG and suggested how the North Star Playground and Ballfield improvements could be scaled down to minor improvements, such as benches and picnic tables.

Council concurred to remove the ballfield upgrades and only do the site improvements.

Sales Tax Revenue by Category

A report was available for Council's review.

Sales Tax Revenue – February 2022

A report was available for Council's review.

Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – February 2022

A report was available for Council's review.

Board and Commission Appointments

A report was available for Council's review. Mayor Smith suggested the openings for the Boards and Commissions be advertised more on the City's website. He asked the City Clerk to provide details as to how the Boards and Commissions appear on the website currently.

City Clerk Saunders gave an overview of the main Boards and Commissions page and individual pages, noting that the responsibilities and vacancies for each are listed. She added that there are instructions on how an interested person could submit their name and information for consideration.

Property Purchase Offers for Private Sales

Mr. Mix reviewed the report in detail, listing each property and the circumstances of available purchase offers.

After a lengthy discussion of each property, Council decided to remove the following properties from the public auction and do a private sale:

632 Factory Street
121 High Street
549 Leray Street
759 Mill Street
330 Brett Street

During the discussion, Mayor Smith disclosed that he advertises his business at Pla-Mor Lanes, who submitted an offer on 121 High Street. Also, a discussion took place regarding storm drainage involving properties near 330 Brett Street, which led to a further discussion of using public funds for private drainage issues, as well as the installation of sewer lines in areas within the City that have septic systems.

NEW BUSINESS

Winslow Street Fire / Murder Victim

Council Member Hickey offered his condolences to the family and friends of Joshua Jones, who recently succumbed to his injuries sustained in the Winslow Street Arson Fire.

Recent Meetings and Upcoming Events

Council Member Hickey reviewed recent meetings and events that he had attended. They are the following: Solar Eclipse Meeting on March 9, Stop DWI Impact Panel on March 9, Meeting with Lawrence Sorell and Friends of Thompson Park on March 10, Alliance For a Better Community on March 15, ZBA Meeting on March 16, Irish Flag Raising on March 17, Planning Board Meeting on March 17 and the Addiction Impact Panel March 18.

Regarding upcoming events, Council Member Hickey announced that a Foster Care Information Night will be held on March 23 at the Children's Home at 6:00 p.m., the City's Public Property Auction will

be held on March 28 at 6:00 p.m., Hospice Groundbreaking will be April 1st, and the Garrett Loomis Training Seminar for Active Shooter will be held at Jefferson Community College on April 2.

Tree Removal Operations

Council Member Hickey notified the public that tree removal operations are expected to begin as early as Thursday, March 17 and will continue into early April.

Burn Ban

Council Member Hickey commented that a Burn Ban is currently in place through mid-May.

NYS Pistol Permit Recertification

Council Member Hickey noted that this is the point in time that NYS Pistol Permits recertifications are being done and mentioned that people may have received an email from NYS.

Thompson Park Volunteer Day

Council Member Hickey advised that the first volunteer work day for the year will be held in Thompson Park on Saturday, April 23.

Later in the meeting, Mayor Smith mentioned there is a possibility that Fort Drum soldiers may assist on this day.

Responsibility of Street Repairs

Council Member Olney asked the City Manager to clarify what streets the City is responsible for versus ones NYS is responsible for.

Mr. Mix explained that the City is responsible for every City street except for Arsenal Street (Massey Street to the City Boundary), Eastern Boulevard, State Street (Eastern Boulevard to the City Boundary), and Bradley Street. He added that NYS is responsible for the streets he just listed.

Council Member Olney mentioned there was a grant in the past for a piece of equipment that could be used to help with some of these repairs but the City was not awarded it. He said he would be interested in receiving more information on the equipment.

Jefferson Street Issues

Council Member Olney commented that Seth Labarge thanked the City for plowing Jefferson Street better. He said there is also an issue with the condition of a house on that street.

Homeless Shelter

Council Member Olney said there is a need for a homeless shelter and people want it but not in their neighborhood. He stated it is going to be difficult to find the right location.

108 Flower Avenue East Zone Change Request

Council Member Olney commented that he walked the first block of Flower Avenue East to obtain the neighbor's thoughts, but only found five people that were opposed to it. He noted the main concern was with traffic exiting onto Flower Avenue East, but the developer addressed that concern by changing the footprint, as well as addressing the other concerns.

Response to Privilege of the Floor Comments

Council Member Olney addressed Mr. Traynor's comments by saying not everything moves as quickly as one would like and Mr. Phillips' comments by agreeing that there is a need for more parking in Thompson Park due to more events occurring but it should be done in a way that works for everyone.

Portion of County Taxes

Council Member Olney discussed County taxes paid by City residents and wondered, for every dollar paid to the County in property taxes, how much in services is the City taxpayers getting back from the County. He said there are opportunities for the County to work with the City on regional assets, such as the pool, arena and homeless shelter.

Solar Eclipse Committee

Council Member Pierce provided an update from the last meeting and announced the next meeting would be on May 3 at 3:00 p.m. She encouraged anyone interested in participating to attend the next meeting and advised that the Thousand Island Tourism Council may be a collaborating partner for the event.

Adopt of Spot Program

Council Member Pierce advised that 10 to 12 individuals/families/groups have shown an interest in participating in this program.

Donation for Downtown Beautification Efforts

Council Member Pierce said that she and Council Member Olney met with Jake Johnson and Justin Chesbrough, and they would like to donate their services towards beautification efforts within the downtown area. She advised that they will be submitting a more formal proposal.

Marijuana Dispensaries

Council Member Pierce said she was asked if there would be another opportunity for residents to vote on allowing marijuana dispensaries within the City.

Mr. Mix indicated that there would not and explained the prior process of the permissive referendum.

Hockey Classic

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that both she and Council Member Olney attended this event, which is an annual fundraiser for the Fire Benevolent Association and \$5,000 was raised.

Potholes on Flower Street

Council Member Ruggiero noted that she received complaints of potholes on Flower Street, and she would forward them onto the City Manager.

Mr. Mix pointed out that Flower Street is a private street.

Work Sessions

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that she would like to hold work sessions at different locations quarterly. She suggested the April work session be held at Fire Station 1 and explained that the Italian American Club would be willing to host the June work session.

Mayor Smith advised that he would be unable to attend the work session on April 11 and asked that it be moved.

Council agreed to hold the April work session on April 25.

Proposal for Hydro Consulting Services

Mayor Smith stated that members of Council received a proposal and resume from Steven Massaro and advised everyone to look over the information.

City Hall Open-Door Policy/Directive Not to Speak to Council Members

Mayor Smith mentioned that Council Member Olney has indicated previously that a directive was given to Department Heads not to speak to Council Member Olney. Mentioning that the directive was suspected to have been given by the City Manager, Mayor or City Attorney, Mayor Smith asked that the Department Heads provide a copy of that directive. He stated that he is unaware of such a directive, noting that, per the Charter, the Department Heads report to the City Manager and do not report to the Mayor. He said he did not send such a directive. He asked that the copy of the directive, whether it be by email or text or any other form, be given to the Council.

Allegations of Police Corruption

Mayor Smith mentioned that concerning allegations were made by Council Member Olney during a recent interview on the radio that, in the past, the Police Department targeted him, falsely arrested him, and falsified evidence of a breathalyzer test. He asked for Police Chief Donoghue to do an internal investigation into these allegations. He mentioned there was a lawsuit brought against the City, which was dismissed due to video evidence not supporting the lawsuit, but since this claim has been made publicly, especially from a sitting Council Member, it should be investigated fully.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:49 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk