

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
December 4, 2023  
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 (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)  
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

**Also Present:** Logan Eddy, Assistant to the City Manager  
Kristen E. Smith, Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC, City Attorney

**City staff present:** James Mills, Meredith Griffin, Michael Lumbis, Scott Weller, Geoffrey Urda, Jordan Northrop

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Establishing 2024 County Tax Rate
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the City of Watertown to Accept Fee Title Obtained by the State of New York Relative To the Court Street Bridge, City of Watertown, Jefferson County, Specifically PIN 7750.75
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Change Order #2 with Northern Tier Contracting, Inc. for the 2022 Fire Stations Upgrades to Stations 1, 2, and 3 Project
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Change Order #3 for the DRI Streetscape Design Improvements Project, CCI Companies, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Change Order No. 1 with Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors, Inc. for the William J. Flynn Municipal Swimming Pool Rehabilitation Contract #3 – Plumbing
- Resolution No. 6 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget – Flynn Pool Funding
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving Purchase and Sale Agreement with Jefferson County SPCA for a 5.07-Acre Portion of Tax Parcel No. 83.11-2-25.1 in the Town of Pamela
- Resolution No. 8 - Nominating Justin F. Brotherton for Membership on the Board of Directors of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
- Resolution No. 9 - Nominating Stanley Zaremba for Membership on the Board of Directors of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
- Resolution No. 10 - Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Watertown and CNY Fair Housing to Administer a Fair Housing Education and Enforcement Program
- Staff Report - Boards and Commissions Appointments
- Staff Report - Pool Attendance Summary
- Staff Report - Thompson Park Golf Course 2023 Season Financial Report
- Staff Report - Thompson Park Golf Course Usage Update

**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 November 20, 2023 and the adjourned meetings of November 27 and December 2, 2023, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce, seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Jason Traynor**, 424 Arsenal Street, expressed his concerns with the planters and parking spots in front of the Key Bank building, the Zoo survey and funding, the loss of revenue of the golf course, and the handling of the ethics complaint against Council Member Olney.

**Robert (no last name given)**, provided Council with an image of the parking in front of the Key Bank building with his suggestion of reverse-angled parking in order to increase pedestrian safety. He advised that reverse-angle parking would prevent vehicles from backing into the pedestrian crosswalk. He also indicated that he would prefer the existing parallel parking design to remain for safety reasons.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, said he wished for the planters in front of the Key Bank building to be removed and parking put back to the way it was. He also expressed concerns with a house on West Main Street and a house on Mill Street, as well as lights on the Black River Parkway and Public Square.

**Michael White**, no address given, indicated that the new Christmas parade route down Washington Street was dark, making it harder to see the floats, and he preferred the parade route through Public Square.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution No. 1 -Establishing 2024 County Tax Rate**

##### **Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, by resolution dated November 14, 2023, and in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law Article 9 Section 904 has certified to the City that the contribution of the City of Watertown to the taxes of the County of Jefferson for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2024 is \$8,344,020.99,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council shall and hereby does levy the said aggregate amount of taxes of \$8,344,020.99, so ascertained and directed and to be certified to the City and to be extended on the Assessment Rolls by the City Assessor, as provided by Section 115 of the City Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City does hereby levy a total fee of \$8,344,020.99 to be collected at a rate of \$7.377523 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, of which County tax levy is \$8,319,939.15 and includes \$24,082.56 in omitted taxes.

##### **Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, City Comptroller James Mills explained, upon request of Mayor Smith, that when taxes are not paid on City parcels, the City pays the County taxes in order to

make the County whole. He noted this is per the City Charter Section 129 and then explained the tax certificate process.

Mayor Smith advised that he has always had trouble with this process, even though it gives the City the benefit of controlling the destiny of the property.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the City of Watertown to Accept Fee Title Obtained by the State of New York Relative To the Court Street Bridge, City of Watertown, Jefferson County, Specifically PIN 7750.75**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the State of New York had a project commonly referred to as, Court Street Bridge, City of Watertown, Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS this project required acquisition of Fee Title, and construction with a portion extending onto private property, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has maintenance jurisdiction of the existing highway and by order of this Resolution, the State of New York is requesting the City of Watertown to agree to accept the Fee title acquired as shown on attached maps: Map 1, Parcel 1; Map 2, Parcel 2; Map 2, Parcel 3; Map 3, Parcel 4; Map 4, Parcel 5 and Map 10, Parcel 12 and; agree to accept ownership and maintenance jurisdiction of the area and any associated improvements which were completed under this project with these maps,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Watertown is hereby authorized to accept the Fee title acquired by the State of New York for the project, as described herein, and agrees to accept all responsibility and maintenance jurisdiction of said Highway and improvements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to enter into agreements or any other documents to carry out the intent of this Resolution.

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney asked if this property had been researched for any liability issues.

Mayor Smith explained that the State took the property when it did the original bridge project, and typically, the parcel would have been turned over to the City when the project was completed but it was not due to an oversight. He said this oversight was discovered recently when there was an issue with homeless people setting up tents on the parcel.

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

**Resolution No. 3 - Approving Change Order #2 with Northern Tier Contracting, Inc. for the 2022 Fire Stations Upgrades to Stations 1, 2, and 3 Project**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the City Council accepted the bid of \$234,400.00 from Northern Tier Contracting, Inc. for the 2022 Fire Stations Upgrades to Stations 1, 2, and 3 Project on July 17, 2023, and

WHEREAS Change Order #1 was approved on November 6, 2023 for \$10,161.20, and

WHEREAS the City Engineering Department has received Change Order #2 for \$15,215.51 due to the need for additional asbestos abatement, and

WHEREAS City Engineering has reviewed the proposed Change Order and is recommending that the City Council accept the Change Order,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Change Order #2, bringing the total contract amount to \$259,776.71, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Change Order on behalf of the City Council.

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Civil Engineer II Meredith Griffin explained the need for the additional asbestos abatement.

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

**Resolution No. 4 - Approving Change Order #3 for the DRI Streetscape Design Improvements Project, CCI Companies, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the City Engineering Department has received Change Order #3 for the Downtown Revitalization (DRI) Streetscape Design Improvements Project from CCI Companies, Inc., and

WHEREAS CCI Companies, Inc.'s original contract price at the time of award was \$3,647,704.75, and

WHEREAS the City Council has previously approved two change orders to the original contract in the amounts of \$20,612.42 and \$111,959.49, and

WHEREAS the City Council recently directed Planning and Engineering Staff to implement a new design for the southwest corner of Washington and Stone Streets, and

WHEREAS Barton & Loguidice, at the Council's direction, has prepared stamped plans for the desired redesign, and

WHEREAS CCI Companies, Inc. has prepared a change order for City Council consideration in the amount of **\$80,389.96** to construct the redesigned southwest corner of Washington and Stone Streets, per Barton & Loguidice's stamped plans,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts Change Order #3 in the amount of **\$80,389.96**, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council accepts the revised Contract Agreement total sum in the amount of **\$3,860,666.62**, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the revised Contract Agreement with CCI Companies, Inc.  
**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney said he was not happy with the cost of this change and expressed concerns about the possible safety issues it might cause. He stated that he thought there would be a new bid for the work so that there would be more competitive pricing.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis reminded Council that he supported the original design with parallel parking but then Council asked for it to be redesigned to remove the planters and put back the angled parking. He explained why this would not have been rebid and why the original contractor would be responsible for the redesign and change order.

Council Member Hickey expressed his concerns with the safety issue of vehicles backing into the crosswalk.

Council Member Ruggiero indicated that she liked the reverse-angle parking suggestion made during Privilege of the Floor.

A lengthy discussion of the various designs and the safety concerns of each ensued. The history of the project, intent of the designs, and concerns of the property owners were reviewed, as well as the costs and need to redesign the project again. The possibility of tabling the resolution versus voting it down and letting the new Council, as of January 1, decide this matter was debated.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and defeated with all voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 5 - Approving Change Order No. 1 with Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors, Inc. for the William J. Flynn Municipal Swimming Pool Rehabilitation Contract #3 – Plumbing**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS at its June 05, 2023, meeting, the City Council approved a bid from Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$199,077.00 for the William J. Flynn Municipal Swimming Pool Rehabilitation Contract #3 – Plumbing, and

WHEREAS the 6-inch Water Service for the Bathhouse and Pool is damaged and in need of replacement, and

WHEREAS Hyde-Stone has offered to replace this service with a new one and plug and cap the original service, and

WHEREAS Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors, Inc. has now submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$36,873.00 for the water service work,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Change Order No. 1 from Hyde-Stone Mechanical Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$36,873.00, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, bringing the total contract amount to \$235,950.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 1 on behalf of the City of Watertown.

**Seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Ms. Griffin responded to Council Member Olney's questions and explained the need for the new piping. She indicated that she currently does not expect any further change orders.

**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 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget – Flynn Pool Funding**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS on June 5, 2023 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24, of which \$54,436,090 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS on June 5, 2023 the City Council passed a resolution re-adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23 appropriating \$3,150,000 to fund the Flynn Pool and Bathhouse project funding shortfall, and

WHEREAS on August 21, 2023 City Council approved change order #1 with Con Tech Building Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$57,746.10 for rock removal, and

WHEREAS on October 2, 2023 City Council approved change order #1 with Howell Enterprises, Inc in the amount of \$12,204.00 to expedite the delivery of the electrical panels, and

WHEREAS on November 6, 2023 City Council approved change order #2 with Con Tech Building Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$29,629.75 for asbestos abatement, and

WHEREAS on December 4, 2023 City Council was to consider change order #1 with Hyde Stone Mechanical in the amount of \$36,873.00 for asbestos abatement, and

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted General Fund Budget:

GENERAL FUND

Appropriated Fund Balance:

A.0000.0909	Fund Balance	<u>\$100,000</u>
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Expenditures:

A.9950.0900	Transfer to Capital Project Fund	<u>\$100,000</u>
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**Seconded by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 7 - Approving Purchase and Sale Agreement with Jefferson County SPCA for a 5.07-Acre Portion of Tax Parcel No. 83.11-2-25.1 in the Town of Pamela**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the City Watertown has an Order on Consent with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency to resolve a drinking water quality issue involving disinfection by-products, and

WHEREAS part of the solution to the disinfection by-product problem is to construct an enclosed flocculation/sedimentation basin, and

WHEREAS it has been determined by the engineering firm, GHD, hired by the City to design the project that the best location for the flocculation/sedimentation basin is located on property owned by Jefferson County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals adjacent to NYS Route 3 in the Town of Pamela, which is a 5.07-acre part of Tax Parcel No. 83.11-2-25.1, and

WHEREAS the City Council determined on June 19, 2023 the disinfection by-product project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, and

WHEREAS the City Council also approved on June 19, 2023 a Bond Ordinance authorizing borrowing \$50,000,000 to fund the disinfection by-product project, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County SPCA is willing to sell the described property for \$41,200, and

WHEREAS a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the property has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Jefferson County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the agreement or any other documents necessary to transfer the property.

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

**Resolution No. 8 - Nominating Justin F. Brotherton for Membership on the Board of Directors of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby nominated for membership on the Board of Directors of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. as the designee of Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce for a term expiring on December 31, 2025:

Justin F. Brotherton  
120 Washington Street, Suite 401  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith reiterated what he said at the last meeting and expressed his concerns with CAPC wanting Council to “rubberstamp” their choice for appointment to their Board of Directors. He reminded Council of the way Dr. William Kimball was treated last year when CAPC rejected him as Council’s choice.

It was suggested that CAPC be invited to a future work session to explain their process for appointing members to their Board of Directors.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 9 - Nominating Stanley Zaremba for Membership on the Board of Directors of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby nominated for membership on the Board of Directors of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc. as the designee of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero for a term expiring on December 31, 2025:

Stanley Zaremba  
247 Wealtha Ave., Apt. 647A  
Watertown, NY 13601

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea except Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 10 - Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Watertown and CNY Fair Housing to Administer a Fair Housing Education and Enforcement Program**

**Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the City of Watertown, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funding under the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, has certified that it will affirmatively further Fair Housing, and



WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to work with CNY Fair Housing to provide professional services to educate tenants and housing providers within the City of Watertown regarding their respective Fair Housing rights and responsibilities, and

WHEREAS CNY Fair Housing is a qualified Fair Housing Enforcement Agency, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to refer any Fair Housing complaints received by the City to CNY Fair Housing for further investigation, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has allocated CDBG funding in its Program Year 2023 Annual Action Plan for a Fair Housing Education Project, and

WHEREAS CNY Fair Housing has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the MOU with CNY Fair Housing to establish and administer a Fair Housing education and enforcement program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City agrees to pay CNY Fair Housing a not-to-exceed sum of \$5,000 for actual expenses incurred, based on hours worked during the contract period, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, to execute the MOU on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Boards and Commissions Appointments**

Mayor Smith reviewed the vacancies in the Board and Commission appointments and asked for possible recommendations.

### **Pool Attendance Summary**

Mayor Smith noted that there was a significant decrease in attendance this summer.

Council Member Olney listed factors that could have affected attendance, including weather, lack of signage and marketing, and the temperature of the pool water. He suggested ways the pool water could be heated.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Scott Weller agreed that weather played a factor in the decrease in the use of the pools, as well as the golf course. He also agreed that charging non-City residents could have played a role and confirmed that pool fees totaled \$3,000 - \$4,000 this year. He responded to questions posed about groups using the pools and indicated the groups usually call ahead and schedule a time to come. He also replied that the fees were put in place for group rental of the pool, but no one did that.

Mayor Smith expressed his opinion about a City of this size in this unpredictable climate not needing

three pools and provided his reasons for feeling this way. He reviewed the average temperatures and rain amounts for the months of June, July and August. He also talked about the legacy costs of operating a pool and the effect it has on the tax rate.

Council Member Ruggiero countered that the weather can be unpredictable but pointed out that last year the pool saw the highest usage numbers in years. She added that the City could do a better job in marketing the pools.

### **Thompson Park Golf Course 2023 Season Financial Report and Thompson Park Golf Course Usage Update**

Mayor Smith discussed the number of rounds of golf this season, noting that it was 4,000 over the budgeted number of 10,540 rounds of golf given by Mr. Lundy from the previous year, but yet the City still saw a loss of \$289,675. Acknowledging that there were some one-time costs, such as the electrical repairs, Mayor Smith expressed concerns about future losses, especially in the years ahead when the City's overall revenue decreases with the end of the hydro contract. He also warned that there will continue to be one-time costs in future years for capital equipment expenses.

Council Member Ruggiero reviewed what she saw as positive about the golf course's first season, noting the increase over the expected rounds of golf and memberships sold, success of golf tournaments and the increase in the number of tournaments scheduled for next season.

Golf Course Manager Jordan Northrop reviewed the highlights of the season and discussed his perspective on the first season of golf. He also discussed plans for future growth and potential clinics, and he reviewed upcoming equipment needs. He talked about how tournaments are scheduled and their impact on the ability to sell rounds of golf to the public on certain days.

A discussion of the restaurant and alcohol sales, as well as their effect on tournaments, occurred.

Council Member Olney suggested the City consider taking over the restaurant, especially since the City-operated concession stand at the Arena has been successful.

Mr. Weller explained that a request for proposal for the restaurant operations is being put together and will be sent out soon.

One-time costs, such as the electrical work, were discussed again and it was noted that there will continue to be one-time costs in the future for equipment replacements.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Response to Privilege of the Floor**

Mayor Smith responded to comments made by Mr. Traynor and Mr. Phillips. He asked Assistant to the City Manager Logan Eddy to check on the status of the broken streetlights.

### **Meetings and Events**

Council Member Hickey announced a New York State webinar for newly elected officials on December 6, the new YMCA ribbon cutting as well as the City Council Work Session on December 11 and another

New York State webinar regarding campaigns on December 13 sponsored by the state's Board of Elections.

### **Idling Bill**

Council Member Hickey informed Council and the public that a bill is set to be introduced in the State Senate which will prohibit the idling of any passenger vehicle for more than three consecutive minutes.

### **Fentanyl-Laced Marijuana**

Council Member Hickey warned that there have been incidents of fentanyl-laced synthetic marijuana being sold openly at convenience and gas stores under names such as K2, Spike and Spice.

### **Medical Examiner Report**

Council Member Hickey distributed the Jefferson County Medical Examiner Report (on file in the City Clerk's Office) and informed Council that 2023 has the potential to exceed 2020 as the year with the highest number of overdose fatalities in the City's history. He reviewed the Medical Examiner's report through November 30, 2023, which shows 22 overdose fatalities with six still pending. He stressed the need for the City to help people in need in a way other than arresting them and he advised the next Council will need to address this issue.

### **Downtown Business Issues/ Marketing the City and its Growth**

Council Member Olney indicated that he recently visited a local downtown restaurant and reported that they are struggling with a lack of customer traffic. He suggested the City install some signage encouraging people to patronize downtown restaurants. He reminded Council of his previous suggestion of creating a City Marketing department. He advocated for a "cheerleader" for the City of Watertown who would promote increases in recreational needs for the City. He noted that he respects fiscal responsibility, but he also recognizes the City is growing and needs to continue to focus on recreational opportunities along with keeping up with infrastructure needs.

### **Sewer Permits**

In response to Council Member Olney's question about whether the City was any closer to issuing sewer permits, Mr. Logan advised that, until the plan was approved by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the City would not be able to make any more progress.

### **Police Cameras**

Council Member Olney advocated for the installation of security cameras in various areas of the City to make people feel safer.

### **Christmas Parade**

Council Member Pierce thanked staff for organizing the parade and noted a good turnout despite the bad weather. She also complimented the laser light show, which was new this year.

### **Eclipse Meeting**

Council Member Pierce informed Council that the Eclipse Committee would be meeting with the school district this week to discuss a potential collaboration with them, and advised the next committee meeting would be at noon on December 18.

### **Christmas Parade (continued)**

Council Member Ruggiero added her thanks, specifically to the Planning Department, Stan Zaremba and the DPW staff for their work organizing the Christmas Parade.

**Festival of Trees**

Council Member Ruggiero advised that the Festival of Trees fundraising event had wrapped up over the weekend. She noted that the highest bid on a tree was \$5,000 for the tree decorated by Kevin Kitto in memory of his late son. She added that the tree will be on display at the YMCA for their grand opening.

**Upcoming Events**

Council Member Ruggiero advised the dates for the following meetings: Senior Center meeting at the Library on December 12 and Victims Panel on December 14.

**YMCA Ribbon-Cutting**

Mayor Smith noted the ribbon-cutting at the YMCA on December 11 at 11 a.m. He thanked the Caprara family for their donation, which will name the facility after his late mother, Mary Ellen Clemo Smith. He expressed, on behalf of himself and his sisters, the great honor of this dedication.

**A D J O U R N M E N T**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:49 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