

City Manager's
Status and Information Update
January 12, 2024



City Manager's Office:

The City hosted the Jefferson Leadership Institute Government Day on Friday, January 12, 2024.



We wish success to all participants and thank City Staff, Council and Mayor Pierce for attending. Many thanks to Staff that showed up behind the scenes to help this day be a success. **Shout Out to Chrissy Beanz, at her newest location in the Washington Street Plaza, for the amazing selection of pastries provided for refreshments.

Department of Public Works:

Pothole Patching:

Road crews are continuously patching potholes throughout our various streets. We make it a priority to keep the streets maintained for the safety of the traveling public and to protect our City infrastructure.



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Snow and Ice:

DPW has been hard at work cleaning streets and sidewalks of snow and Ice. This weather has been up and down. Challenges that come along with plowing are drivers not moving out of the way of plows, tailgating, parking on dead end streets, and or parking on streets from 2am-6am. Keeping up with the weather is our main concern for the traveling public as long as we can complete the work safely.



Police Department:

Windstorm:

The overnight windstorm (January 9-January 10, 2024) kept Watertown Police busy due to downed trees, which blocked roadways and downed power lines across the city. Large areas of the city were without power, and traffic lights were out through much of the city, late into the next day.



Officer David Horr at 2:00 pm on January 10, 2024 in the 200 block of Central Street, where a downed tree and power line caused the roadway to close (since 9:45 pm the prior night)!

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Promotion:

Sgt. George Cummings was promoted to the rank of "Police Lieutenant," effective January 12, 2024. Lt. Cummings has been with the Watertown Police Department since October 1, 2007, and has been a Patrol Sergeant since February 25, 2019. Lt. Cummings is one of the department's Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) and has served as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and is in charge of the DWI Patrol. Lt. Cummings will take command of the "C" Platoon, which is one of the department's night shifts, working from 6:00 pm to 6:00 am. Congratulations Lt. Cummings!

Police Lateral Transfers:

The Watertown Police Department is still looking for **police officer transfers**. NY State certified police officers may apply by visiting the City of Watertown Civil Service website at: <https://watertown-portal.mycivilservice.com/jobopps>

Police Academy:

The 2023-2024 session of the Black River/St. Lawrence Valley Police Academy is now in week eighteen. During the past three weeks, recruits have been training in: NY Penal Law, Physical Fitness/Wellness, Recognizing the Cannabis Impaired Driver, Drugs that Impair, Defensive Tactics, OC (Pepper Spray) Subject Restraint, and Elder Abuse. The OC Training included the recruits getting a "taste" of the pepper spray and then performing defensive tactics while being affected by the OC.



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Engineering Department:

City Hall Elevator Replacement:

Elevattit has submitted all their agreements and paperwork and is in the process of getting the materials required for this project. Once they arrive, construction for this project will begin.

COVID-19 Memorial:

This project has been put on hold for the Winter Season. Construction will continue in Spring 2024.

Fairgrounds Grandstand Split Face CMU Repair:

City Council approved the bid from Powis Contracting for this project at their January 2, 2024 meeting.

Fairgrounds Grandstand Tile Replacement:

Powis Contracting has given the Engineering Department their signed agreement and submittals, and a Notice to Proceed is being created. Once sent and received, this project can begin construction.

Fire Station Renovations:

The new porticos at Stations 2 and 3 have been installed, and the only work remaining work for this project is to install the new roofs over the porticos and install the new flooring inside State Street Station.

Flower Memorial Library Rear Window & Lighting Replacement:

The new interior lights for this project have been installed, and the contractor is cleaning up the worksite. Once the windows arrive, they will be installed.



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Franklin Street ADA Ramps:

On Point Excavation returned briefly to this project to pour the concrete curbing on the Franklin Street Island. This concrete has been poured, and the project is once again shut down for the Winter.

Massey St / Coffeen St / Court St Project:

The remaining Construction for this project has been completed, and the Engineering Department is in the process of closing out this project.

Newell St – Black River Crossing Sewer:

The agreement for design services with C&S Companies for this project was approved by the City Council at their January 2, 2024 meeting.

Ohio St Water Main Replacement Project:

The chosen bid from EDGE Civil Corporation has been sent to the City Council for approval at their January 16, 2024 meeting. A proposal from Aubertine and Currier for Construction Administration Services for this project has also been sent to the City Council for approval at their January 16, 2024 meeting.

Police Shooting Range Upgrades:

The contractor has installed the new generator and electrical poles for this project, and the lights are currently being installed. Once complete, the remaining work for this project includes the installation of the heater and propane tank, removal of the concrete forms, and topsoil. Once these are done, this project will be complete.

Vanduzee St Bridge:

The contractor has completed the punch list items for this project, and the Engineering Department is in the process of closing this project out.

Washington / Keyes 500 Block Sewer:

A Change Order for the requested time extension for this project has been sent to the City Council for approval at their January 16, 2024 meeting, along with a Change Order from Aubertine and Currier for additional Construction Administration and Inspection Services for the remaining construction for this project.

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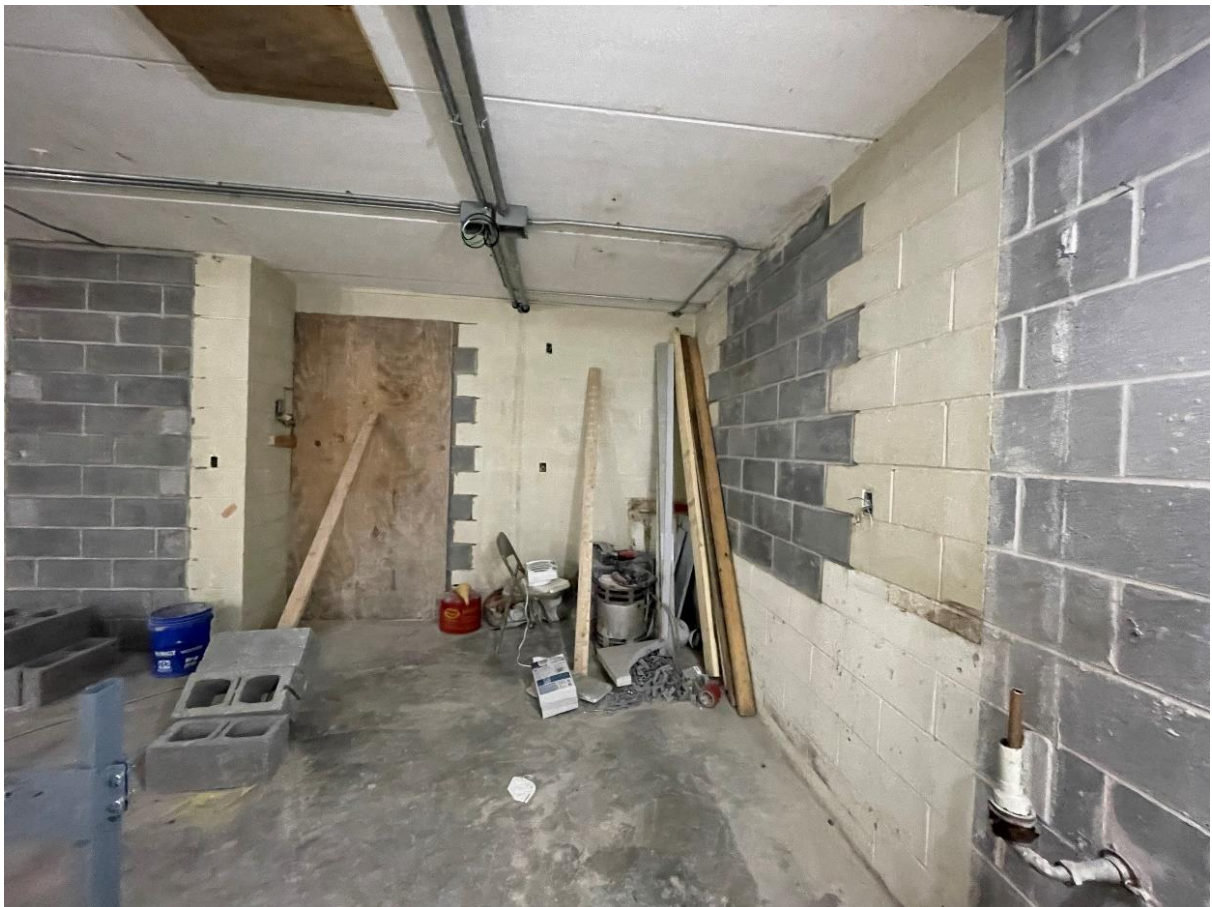


Winslow St Water Main Replacement Project:

The chosen bid from EDGE Civil Corporation has been sent to the City Council for approval at their January 16, 2024 meeting. A proposal from Aubertine and Currier for Construction Administration Services for this project has also been sent to the City Council for approval at their January 16, 2024 meeting.

William J. Flynn Pool and Bathhouse Rehabilitation:

Con Tech Building Systems has completed the masonry infiltration and doorways and is continuing with the remaining mason work. The hard ceiling tracking is being installed, and once complete the drop ceiling inside the bathhouse will be installed. Hyde-Stone has begun installing new plumbing in the locker rooms, and the wires for the rooftop units have been installed. The new water service meter has been installed.



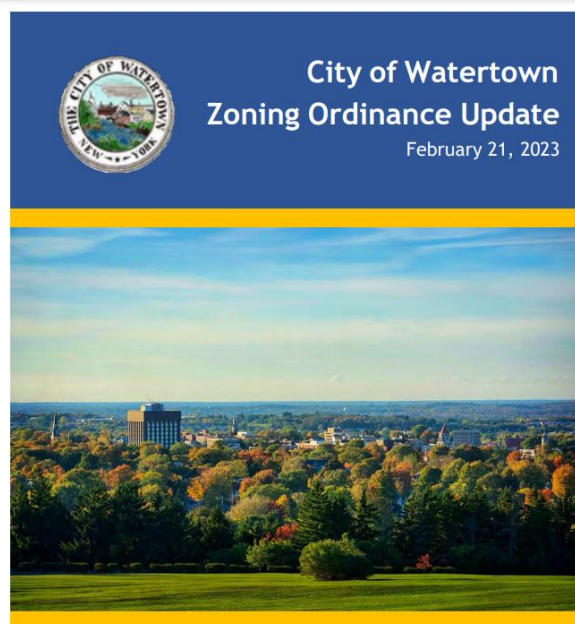
Planning Department:

Zoning Application Review:

Throughout the 2023 calendar year, the Planning Department has processed and reviewed applications for 8 Site Plans, 5 Sketch Plans, 4 Subdivisions, 4 Use Variances, 16 Area Variances, and 102 Zoning Compliance Certificates.

An applicant will typically start with a Zoning Compliance Certificate (ZCC) application when proposing any new building construction, structure rehabilitation, or starting a new use at a location. Staff completes its review of a ZCC application to determine compliance with Zoning. The ZCC can either be approved with direction for an applicant to obtain a building permit from Code Enforcement or approved with direction for an applicant to apply for Site Plan Review or a Special Use Permit to meet additional requirements as stated in the Zoning Ordinance. Another option is the denial of an application if the request is not allowed by zoning, which triggers the need for an Area or Use Variance.

All Site Plans, Sketch Plans, Subdivisions, and Special Use Permits are reviewed by staff. Staff prepares a report on the application that is sent to the Planning Commission which reviews and votes on the application. Zone Change requests also are reviewed by the Planning Commission where they provide a recommendation to the City Council to approve or deny the Zone Change. Use and Area Variance applications are also reviewed by staff and a report is provided to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA then considers the application and votes to approve or deny the request.



Prepared By:



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Black River Trail Western Extension:

In September 2021, the City of Watertown submitted an application to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for Transportation Alternatives Program funding to extend the Black River Trail further into the City of Watertown, providing a connection between Marble Street Park and Sewall's Island and Factory Square Park. In June 2022, NYSDOT informed the City that its application was successful and awarded the City \$1,663,764 in funding for design and construction. This money will be matched with Community Development Block Grant funding and Black River Trust monies. The design phase of the project began last spring and Barton and Loguidice was hired to complete the design work for the project. A draft design for the proposed trail extension is currently being reviewed by NYSDOT to ensure that it meets the standards for the grant requirements. In addition, a Public Open House will be held on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 6:00-7:30pm in City Council Chambers. The public is invited to drop in during that time to review the designs and share their input on the project.

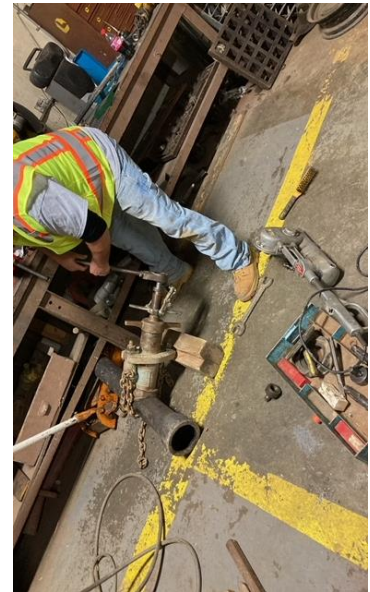


Water Department:

Distribution:

Distribution has added two new employees to the department. The new hires have completed training on various programs to prepare them for field duty. As part of their orientation new members of department staff performed various tasks that ranged from dry tapping, mock service line installation/inspection, and valve maintenance.

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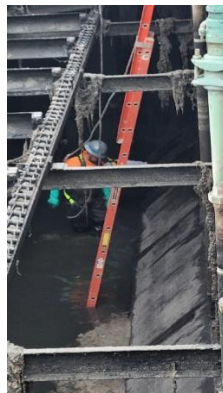
Leak studies are being performed by staff to investigate for main breaks or leaks on in the distribution system. The discontinued service to Nice and Easy on outer Bradley St. has been isolated and the meter removed after department staff identified the service to be leaking.

Staff inspected hydrants damaged by MVA's or from use. A hydrant was repaired on Leray Street and replaced on Orchard St. South and Arsenal St. Three additional hydrants are slated for investigation to determine if repairs or replacements need to occur.

Staff assisted Fire Department staff after a structure fire on Morrison St. by dewatering the hydrants used. The service to the property has been isolated and the meter removed.

Wastewater Treatment:

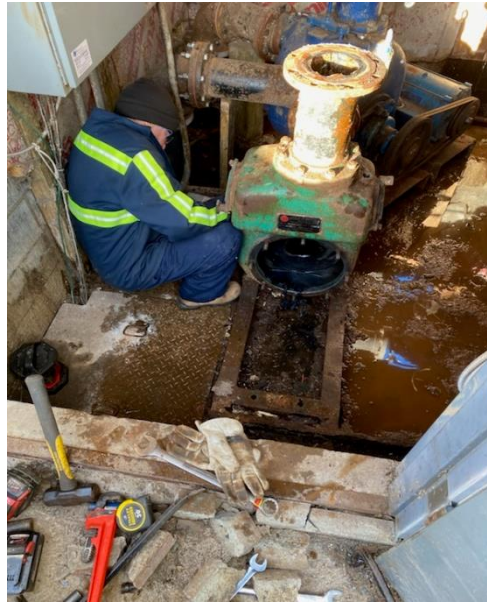
Staff at the Pollution Control Facility repaired side 2 of the primary grit channel. Primary grit removal protects downstream equipment by removing dirt and inorganic material that may have made it passed the headworks or entered the primary from Influent B.



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Staff at the Pollution Control Facility worked on the Gaffney Drive lift station and have removed one pump and reconfigured the station to prevent further deterioration of installed equipment. There are many lift stations throughout the city where the sewage is pumped to a higher elevation for gravity flow to the treatment facility.



Parks-n-Recreation Department:

Municipal Arena:

The Watertown Wolves have four upcoming home games scheduled for January 20th, 21st, 26th & 28th. To view their full schedule, visit: www.watertownwolves.net




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The Parks & Recreation Department will host its next Rock & Skate event on Saturday, January 13th from 7:00-9:00pm. Join us for a fun night of skating and music, with DJ Johnny Spezzano!

ROCK & SKATE
With DJ Johnny Spezzano

Admission
City Residents & Military: \$5
Non Residents: \$6

Date and Time
January 13 | 7 to 9pm

Skate Rentals:
City Residents: \$3
Military: \$3
Non-city Residents: \$4



The Parks & Recreation Department is currently accepting registrations for the next session of Slip, Slide & Skate! This is a great introductory program for kids, ages 6+, to learn how to skate or to simply enhance their skating abilities!

CITY OF WATERTOWN 

Slip, Slide, & Skate
...Learn to Skate!

Registration: December 29th - February 5th
Program Dates:
Tuesdays: February 6, 13, 27
March 5, 12, 19
Class time: 7:40-8:40pm for Ages 6+
No class on February 20th due to school break
Helmets Recommended for all ages

Basic Instruction Provided
All Classes will be held as scheduled, unless notified

Class & Skate Rentals \$35 - City Resident \$70 - Non City Resident	Class & Skate Rental
Class Only (no skate rentals) \$25 - City Resident \$50 - Non City Resident	

Register online:
<https://secure.rec1.com/NY/watertown-ny/catalog>
If you need assistance please call:
315-785-7775

Class Only



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Snowtown USA Festival:

The City of Watertown is working with Snowtown USA to prepare for this year's festivities, running from January 26th – February 4th. Weather permitting, the Park Circle will once again be transformed into an ice-skating rink and will be open daily throughout the event. For a full schedule of events, visit: www.snowtownusa.org.



Fire Department:

Structure Fire:

On January 6, 2024, at 19:53 hours, the City of Watertown Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 558 Morrison St. Companies arrived on scene to find a working structure fire at the indicated location on the second floor. Companies conducted an aggressive interior attack and confined the fire to the second floor. The fire was extinguished, and overhaul was conducted to contain any hot spots.

One occupant of the residence was on scene at the time of the fire. The residence received moderate fire damage to the second-floor apartment. Smoke and water damage throughout the rest of the structure. The occupants are not able to remain in the structure.

There were no injuries to any emergency responders however one occupant received minor injuries and was treated and released by Guilfoyle ambulance on scene.

Assistance at the scene was provided by Watertown PD, Guilfoyle ambulance, Nation Grid gas and electric, Fort Drum fire department, City codes, and City water department. Northpole and Town of Watertown fire departments stood by at City station one with one engine each.



Recruit Academy:

The City of Watertown Fire Department will be conducting a fire recruit academy beginning January 22, 2024. The academy will include 4 new firefighters for the City of Watertown and 6 from Ogdensburg. The academy will begin with a four-week NYS EMT class to be followed by fire training. The academy will run through the end of May 2024.

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Hazard Materials Technician Training:

Hazard Materials Technician training:

The fire department has started Hazard Materials Technician refresher training this week. Instructors were hired through an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) to provide refresher training along with national standard testing to the members of the fire department. The training will take place throughout the month of January.

