

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
June 15, 2026
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce Presiding

Present: Council Member Shane A. Garrabrant
Council Member Robert O. Kimball
Council Member Douglas E. Osborne, Jr.
Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen
Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce

Also Present: Eric F. Wagenaar, City Manager
Joseph V. Frateschi, Harrison Beach Murtha, City Attorney

City staff present: Erica Anderson, James Mills, Matthew Timerman, Aaron Harvill, Thomas Compo, Scott Weller, Brandi Smith, Brian MacCue, Micheal Lumbis

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 – Appointing Marriage Officer for the City of Watertown, Jessica L. Brown
- Resolution No. 2 – Accepting Bid for Unarmed Security Services for the Flower Memorial Library, ICU Security & Private Investigations
- Resolution No. 3 – Accepting Bid for Ready Mix Concrete Products, Watertown Concrete
- Resolution No. 4 – Accepting Bid for Precast Concrete Products, Jefferson Concrete Corp.
- Resolution No. 5 – Accepting Proposal for Mowing Services - Code & Ordinance Enforcement, SWBG Wholesale Inc.
- Resolution No. 6 – Accepting Proposal for Mowing Services - Code & Ordinance Enforcement, Lawn Solutions
- Resolution No. 7 – Authorizing Application for FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant
- Resolution No. 8 – Authorizing Application for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
- Resolution No. 9 – Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the NYS Department of State Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program for the Western Outfall Trunk Sewer Priority Basin Inflow and Infiltration Implementation Project
- Resolution No. 10 – Authorizing a Grant Application to the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program for the Water Treatment Plants' Pretreated Water Main Project (Previously Known as the Settled Water Line)
- Resolution No. 11 – Readopting Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget to Add Transportation Planner Position and Remove Mobility Management Services
- Resolution No. 12 – Selecting Northern Credit Union as the Naming Rights Partner for the Watertown Municipal Arena
- Resolution No. 13 – Authorizing Proposal for Additional Design Services for Traffic Signal Replacement at Various Locations, AKRF, Inc.
- Resolution No. 14 – Approving Change Order No. 1 for Demolition Project – 518 Coffeen Street, Bronze Contracting, LLC.
- Proposed Local Law of 2026 – A Local Law Amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, Adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, Adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and

Amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to Regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

- Staff Report – Staff Recommendation for Replacement of Service Lines of Concern

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and Mayor Pierce asked that it be in remembrance of Edward Prevost and Thomas Delosh, who recently passed away.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 1, 2026 and work session of June 8, 2026 was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Robert O. Kimball, seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

An email was received from Cody Horbacz, Founder of WatertownFirst, expressing opposition to the demolition of 223 JB Wise Place.

An email was received from Cliff Olney, 847 Washington Street, expressing opposition to the demolition of 223 JB Wise Place.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, discussed his concerns regarding grass clipping in the street causing issues with storm drains and the sewer system, the enforcement of the helmet requirement in the proposed e-Bike law, the lack of bike lanes on Arsenal Street and the implementation of pool fees.

Kim Pound, 115 State Place, addressed the chair concerning 119 State Place, owned by Meira Shapiro. She stated that this property has been condemned and has a bug infestation, which has spread through the neighborhood, and she has been unable to receive help from Neighbors of Watertown, whom she rents from, or the City's Code Enforcement Office. She asked for Council's assistance.

Chris Nethers and Paul Trimper, owners of Power Play Sports, jointly spoke to Council about their organization's desire to have more ice time at the arena for their youth hockey program. They noted that Parks and Recreation Superintendent Scott Weller has been good to work with, but that other organizations receive more ice time at a lower hourly rate than what Power Play Sports has been required, and is willing, to pay. They expressed frustration with their inability to get more ice time, noting that the ice has not been used during some of the time periods when it is rented to the other organizations.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Appointing Marriage Officer for the City of Watertown, Jessica L. Brown

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS Section 11-C(1) of the New York State Domestic Relations Law permits the City Council of the City of Watertown to appoint one or more Marriage Officers who shall have the authority

to solemnize marriages within the City, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown adopted Local Law No. 2 of 2002, establishing the position of City Marriage Officer under Section 45-11.3 of the City Code of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS Jessica L. Brown is over the age of 18 and is a resident of the City of Watertown, as required by Section 11-C(2) of the New York State Domestic Relations Law,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that Jessica L. Brown shall be appointed as a Marriage Officer for the City of Watertown with the duties established by Section 45-11.3 of the City Code of the City of Watertown and by Article 3 of the New York State Domestic Relations Law, for a term of four (4) years commencing immediately and expiring June 14, 2030.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for Unarmed Security Services for the Flower Memorial Library, ICU Security & Private Investigations

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for Unarmed Security Services for the Flower Memorial Library, as per City specifications, for an initial term of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, with the option to renew for three (3) additional one-year periods, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received two (2) sealed bids for the Unarmed Security Services for the Flower Memorial Library, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, reviewed the bids received with the Executive Director of the Flower Memorial Library, Suzie Renzi-Faige, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted ICU Security & Private Investigations,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the bid received from ICU Security & Private Investigations in the amount of \$36.58 total hourly wage paid by the City for Unarmed Security Services at the Flower Memorial Library, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, City Manager confirmed for Council Member Garrabrant that this company is the same as currently being used by the Library.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Ready Mix Concrete Products, Watertown Concrete

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City desires to purchase the Ready Mix Concrete Products, on an as needed basis for the fiscal year period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received one (1) sealed bid for the Ready Mix Concrete Products, and

WHEREAS on May 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the bid received was publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Department of Public Works Superintendent and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted Watertown Concrete,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the bid received from Watertown Concrete per the pricing schedule proposed, for the purchase of Ready Mix Concrete Products.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Precast Concrete Products, Jefferson Concrete Corp.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City desires to purchase the Precast Concrete Products, on an as needed basis for the fiscal year period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received one (1) sealed bid for the Precast Concrete Products, and

WHEREAS on May 20, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the bid received was publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Department of Public Works Superintendent and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted Jefferson Concrete Corp.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the bid received from Jefferson Concrete Corp. per the pricing schedule proposed, for the purchase of Precast Concrete Products.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 – Accepting Proposal for Mowing Services - Code & Ordinance Enforcement, SWBG Wholesale Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City's Code Enforcement Department desires to contract with qualified, experienced skilled lawn care professionals for mowing services to be performed at privately owned, non-compliant lawns located within the City limits upon receiving a request for said services (as needed basis), and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received three (3) sealed proposals for Mowing Services – Code & Ordinance Enforcement, and

WHEREAS on May 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the proposals received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the proposals received with the Code Enforcement Supervisor and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the proposal submitted by SWBG Wholesale Inc. (first call vendor),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the proposal received from SWBG Wholesale Inc. (first call vendor) per the rate schedule proposed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Osborne indicated that he will be abstaining due to the contractor being associated with his father-in-law.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Douglas E. Osborne, Jr. abstaining.

Resolution No. 6 – Accepting Proposal for Mowing Services - Code & Ordinance Enforcement, Lawn Solutions

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City's Code Enforcement Department desires to contract with qualified, experienced skilled lawn care professionals for mowing services to be performed at privately owned, non-compliant lawns located within the City limits upon receiving a request for said services (as needed basis), and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received three (3) sealed proposals for Mowing Services – Code & Ordinance Enforcement, and

WHEREAS on May 15, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the proposals received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the proposals received with the Code Enforcement Supervisor and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the proposal submitted by Lawn Solutions (second call vendor),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the proposal received from Lawn Solutions (second call vendor) per the rate schedule proposed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 7 – Authorizing Application for FEMA Fire Prevention and Safety Grant

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department is seeking City Council approval to apply for grant funding under FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Program, and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is for firefighters to obtain critically needed resources necessary for protecting public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department seeks to submit a regional grant proposal to upgrade and standardize lock box systems among mutual aid partners to improve emergency access, coordination, and public safety, and

WHEREAS the proposed project will implement the Knox E-Key system, a secure, electronic key retention and access solution that allows authorized fire personnel to access building lock boxes using encrypted, trackable electronic keys, and

WHEREAS the Knox E-Key system enhances interagency interoperability, offers an audit trail for improved accountability, and replaces outdated or incompatible hardware, thereby increasing operational efficiency during emergency responses, and

WHEREAS the project will include the acquisition of Knox E-Key hardware, software, connectivity systems, and replacement lock cylinders for existing vaults, at a total project amount not to exceed \$115,000, with the City's share not to exceed \$5,476.00,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Fire Department to submit a grant application under FEMA's Fire Prevention and Safety Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fire Chief is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application on behalf of the City of Watertown and for the City Manager or their designee to approve the grant if awarded.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 8 – Authorizing Application for FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department is seeking City Council approval to apply for grant funding under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is to provide funding for critically needed training, equipment, and resources necessary to protect the public and emergency response personnel from fire and related hazards, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department has maintained a water rescue capability for more than twenty years and routinely responds to water rescue emergencies within the City of Watertown and throughout the surrounding region, and

WHEREAS recent retirements have resulted in the loss of many experienced water rescue technicians, creating a need to provide specialized training to newly hired personnel in order to maintain and enhance the department's water rescue capabilities, and

WHEREAS the application, in an amount not to exceed \$218,181.81 in federal funding, with the City's share not to exceed \$21,818.18, for a total project cost not to exceed \$240,000.00, would provide funding for water rescue training, instructor expenses, overtime, and backfill costs associated with employee participation, and replacement of rescue rope that has reached the end of its service life,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Fire Department to submit a grant application under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fire Chief is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application on behalf of the City of Watertown and for the City Manager or their designee to approve the grant if awarded.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 9 – Authorizing the Submission of a Grant Application to the NYS Department of State Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant Program for the Western Outfall Trunk Sewer Priority Basin Inflow and Infiltration Implementation Project

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Western Outfall Trunk Sewer (WOTS) Priority Basin Inflow and Infiltration Implementation Project proposes inflow and infiltration improvements to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) within Sub Basins 1, 4, 7, 8, 9N, and 9S including targeted spot repairs, followed by system-wide cured-in-place lining of mainline piping and manholes, as well as grouting of all lateral to main connection points, and associated improvements, and

WHEREAS, the WOTS Project is located within the City of Watertown and benefits all sewer users within the City, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State, Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure, through the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act of 2022 (Bond Act) is soliciting applications from eligible applicants for Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grants, and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted an Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$29,740,000 Bonds to pay the cost of the rehabilitation of the WOTS, including inflow and infiltration improvements on September 2, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the City has been awarded NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) Grant in an amount not to exceed \$7,435,000, and

WHEREAS, the City proposes to meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project through Environmental Facilities Corporation Short Term and Long-Term Financing,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the submission of a Community Resilience and Flood Risk Reduction Grant Application to the New York State Department of State, Office of Planning, Development & Community Infrastructure for the Western Outfall Trunk Sewer (WOTS) Priority Basin Inflow and Infiltration Implementation Project, and directs the City Manager to submit the application on behalf of the City and execute all contracts and documents associated with the grant application and financial assistance, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 10 – Authorizing a Grant Application to the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program for the Water Treatment Plants' Pretreated Water Main Project (Previously Known as the Settled Water Line)

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the United States Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, has recently announced a funding opportunity to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of military installations under the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program (DCIP), and

WHEREAS eligible infrastructure projects include community support facilities that enhance military value, resiliency, and family quality of life, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Water Treatment Plant provides water to Fort Drum, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to pursue funding for the construction of the Pretreated Water Main Project previously known as the Replacement Settled Water Line,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves and endorses the City's application for up to \$20 million in grant funding to the United States Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, under the Defense Community Infrastructure Pilot Program for the project known as the Pretreated Water Main Replacement Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file a grant proposal and application for funding for the project on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 11 – Readopting Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget to Add Transportation Planner Position and Remove Mobility Management Services

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS on May 21, 2026, City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS on April 6, 2026, City Council authorized the addition of the Transportation Planner position, and

WHEREAS the Proposed Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget was released in March 2026 prior to the City Council authorizing the establishment of the position, and

WHEREAS due to an oversight, the Transportation Planner position was not included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets as well as the corresponding removal of mobility management contracted services,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget to add a Transportation Planner position and remove the mobility management contracted services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget to re-appropriate the funds for contracted mobility management to the appropriate personal service and fringe benefit line items with the following adjustments:

GENERAL FUND

A.5630.0130	Bus – Salaries	\$ 61,097
A.5630.0430	Bus – Contracted Services	\$ (100,000)
A.5630.0810	Bus – Retirement	\$ 11,979
A.5630.0830	Bus – Social Security	\$ 4,674
A.5630.0850	Bus – Health Insurance	\$ 22,250
Total		\$ -

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 12 – Selecting Northern Credit Union as the Naming Rights Partner for the Watertown Municipal Arena

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown issued Request for Proposals (RFP) 2026-04 seeking proposals for the naming rights of the Watertown Municipal Arena; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee evaluated the proposals in accordance with the criteria established in the RFP and determined that the proposal submitted by Northern Credit Union represents the best overall value to the City; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee has recommended the selection of Northern Credit Union as the naming rights partner for the Watertown Municipal Arena,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby selects Northern Credit Union as the naming rights partner for the Watertown Municipal Arena; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate final terms and execute a Naming Rights Agreement with Northern Credit Union, together with any related documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this Resolution on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mr. Wagenaar responded to Council Member Garrabrant's questions and confirmed that the Northern Credit Union will be responsible for paying the cost of the signage. He said they are also able to do signage along the street or interstate.

Council Member Shoen noted that he has advocated for naming rights to the arena for some time, stating it is a win for everyone, and he thanked Northern Credit Union for their proposal.

Mayor Pierce thanked staff for developing this request for proposal, as well as the entities that responded. She said she looks forward to working with Northern Credit Union.

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

Resolution No. 13 – Authorizing Proposal for Additional Design Services for Traffic Signal Replacement at Various Locations, AKRF, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS on August 18, 2025, City Council approved a Professional Services Agreement with AKRF, Inc in the amount of \$127,640 for the design of both the traffic signal improvements and associated ADA corner ramps for the intersections of Mill Street & Main Street East/West, Mill Street & Main Avenue/Moulton Street, Stone Street & Massey Street South, and Washington Street & Paddock Street/Winslow Street, known as the Traffic Signal Replacement at Various Locations project, and

WHEREAS the previous approved Pedestrian Signal Improvement Project (PSIP), formerly known as PSAP, also included the intersection of Mill Street & Main Street East/West, and

WHEREAS the Engineering and Public Works Departments agree that it would be in the best interest of the City to remove the Mill Street & Main Street East/West intersection from the PSIP project and include it in the Traffic Signal Replacement at Various Locations project, and

WHEREAS the Engineering Department received a proposal from AKRF, Inc for the additional

design services for the Mill Street & Main Street East/West intersection in the amount of \$22,340,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the proposal between the City of Watertown and AKRF, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, for the additional design services for the Mill Street & Main Street East/West intersection in the amount of \$22,340, bringing the total cost of the project to \$149,980, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for this additional scope of work is through the New York State Department of Transportation Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the proposal documents on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Garrabrant asked if the design for this intersection was already paid for through the PSIP project.

City Engineer Thomas Compo said the push button and control display were done through the PSIP project. He explained that the PSIP was bid three times, however it came in over budget each time. He reviewed the history of the PSIP project and the reason for pulling this intersection from the PSIP and putting it into this project. He noted that staff will be making similar recommendations with other intersections as they try to decrease the scope of the PSIP project in hopes of bringing it closer to the budgeted amount.

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

Resolution No. 14 –Approving Change Order No. 1 for Demolition Project – 518 Coffeen Street, Bronze Contracting, LLC.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS at its March 16, 2026, meeting, the City Council approved the Bid for Demolition – 518 Coffeen Street, with Bronze Contracting LLC, in the amount of \$28,625.00, and

WHEREAS the Proposal included the demolition, removal, and site restoration with topsoil, and seeding, and

WHEREAS Bronze Contracting LLC has now submitted Change Order No. 1 in the decrease of \$1,500.00 to remove work pertaining to the topsoil and seeding from their Proposal,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Change Order No. 1 from Bronze Contracting LLC in the decrease of \$1,500.00, bringing the total contract amount to \$27,125.00, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council that the City Manager, or his designee, is

hereby authorized and directed to execute Change Order No. 1 on behalf of the City of Watertown.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

LOCAL LAW

Proposed Local Law of 2026 - A Local Law Amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, Adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, Adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and Amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to Regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

A Local Law amending §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks, adding §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electronic Assist and Electric Scooters, adding §91-25.1: Other Requirements For Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters, and amending §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the Code of the City of Watertown to regulate the Operation of Bicycles, Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters.

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown currently regulates the operation of bicycles on sidewalks pursuant to §91-17 of the Code of the City of Watertown and would like to clarify the regulations of bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters; and

WHEREAS, New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242 establishes operational requirements for bicycles with electric assist; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to amend §91-17 to ensure that bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters are clearly included within the existing prohibition on sidewalk riding and are enforceable under local law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds it necessary to require the use of protective headgear while riding a bicycle with electric assist and electric scooters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds it necessary to incorporate certain operating requirements for bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters as set forth in New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242 other relevant provisions of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that establishing a clear and consistent penalty structure will promote public safety and support enforcement efforts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, as follows:

Section 1. That §91-17: Riding on Sidewalks of the Code of the City of Watertown is amended as follows:

§91-17: Riding on Sidewalks

1. No person shall ride a bicycle, a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, or an electric scooter, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §114-E upon any sidewalk within the City of Watertown, except where otherwise permitted by law. Notwithstanding the foregoing, persons under the age of 12 shall be permitted to ride a bicycle upon any sidewalks within the City of Watertown.
2. Penalties.
Any person who operates a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, in violation of §91-17 of this Code shall be subject to the following penalties:
 - First offense: \$150
 - Second or subsequent offense within 18 months: \$300Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2. That §91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters of the Code of the City of Watertown is added as follows:

§91-25: Helmet Requirement for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

1. No person shall ride a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242 or an electric scooter, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §114-E, unless such person is wearing a helmet. For the purpose of this section, wearing a helmet means having a properly fitted helmet fixed securely on the head of such wearer with helmet straps securely fastened.
2. Penalties.
Any person who operates a bicycle with electric assist, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, or an electric scooter, as described in New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law §114-E in violation of §91-25 of this Code shall be subject to the following penalties:
 - First offense: \$150
 - Second or subsequent offense within 18 months: \$300Each violation shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 3. That §91-25.1: Other Requirement for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters of the Code of the City of Watertown is added as follows:

§91-25.1: Other Requirements for Bicycles with Electric Assist and Electric Scooters

Except as otherwise provided herein, bicycles with electric assist and electric scooters operated within the City of Watertown shall comply with the applicable provisions of New York Vehicle and Traffic Law §1242, and, any other relevant provisions of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

Section 4. That §91-26: Penalties for Offenses of the City of Watertown is amended as follows:

§91-26: Penalties for Offenses

Unless otherwise provided herein, every person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be punished as set forth in §1800 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing local law for Monday, July 6, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

STAFF REPORTS

Staff Recommendation for Replacement of Service Lines of Concern

Mayor Pierce summarized the memo which informed Council of pending milestones, planned actions, and available options necessary to meet the requirements of the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). The report said the EPA has mandated the replacement of water service lines identified as services of concern, which are lead service lines (LSL), galvanized requiring replacement (GRR), and unknown materials (UNKN), and that staff is developing a draft replacement plan, which will come before Council for approval. Mayor Pierce indicated that she is fine with the recommendations that were outlined.

Council Member Shoen said that, during prior discussion of the lead service line replacement program, he suggested the City discontinue service to these lines and insist the homeowner replace the lines as a condition for continued service. He added that the homeowner could be offered a ten-year payment plan for the replacement cost. He asked if there has been further action taken in regard to his suggestion.

Mr. Wagenaar advised that he would need to check with legal regarding the discontinuance of the water service first, but it may be difficult to force someone to pay. He pointed out the benefits of the proposed program recommended by staff and added that it includes seeking state and federal funding to assist with the replacement costs.

NEW BUSINESS

Change to Zoning Ordinance Regarding EV Charging Requirement

Council Member Garrabrant summarized the feedback he received from staff regarding his suggestion to change the zoning ordinance regarding the EV charging requirement for new development. He said the Planning Commission will be reviewing this at its July meeting and then a proposed ordinance may be presented to Council in August to set a public hearing.

JB Wise Place Demolition / Anti-Blight

Council Member Garrabrant expressed frustration that the property owner left the taxpayers with the cost of this demolition, acknowledging contact with the property owner was difficult. He noted the City has a rental registration program but there is no requirement to recertify annually. He suggested implementing the requirement of recertification of contact information along with consequences, such as daily fines and pulling certificates of occupancies, if failure to comply. He added that he would like

this to be expanded to commercial properties as well and would like further discussion of it. He also said he would like problem properties to be identified before they get to this condition and suggested implementing an anti-blight ordinance, which has been successful in communities like New Haven, Connecticut. Lastly, he mentioned that he sent an example of an ordinance to Council and the City Manager for review.

Council Member Kimball also spoke of the demolition of the JB Wise Place property, stressing that Council made a reasonable decision and there was no other choice since other options would have cost more and taken longer. He noted he watched parts of the building come down and he believed the pictures underestimated the degree of deterioration of the building.

Community Events

Council Member Kimball mentioned the Juneteenth Celebration will start Friday at noon in front of City Hall and then continue at Thompson Park, and the Pride Celebration will be held Saturday at the City Hall Park. He also mentioned the Thompson Park pool is open and the Flynn pool will open on June 26. Lastly, he said the first Block Party will be held on June 26 and the Concert in the Park with fireworks will be July 1.

JB Wise Place Demolition / Anti-Blight (continued)

Council Member Osborne noted this demolition was very controversial and agreed with Council Member Garrabrant's suggestion to improve the City policy's for addressing deteriorating properties. He pointed out that the City has a rubric which is applied to residential properties, but it needs to be applied to commercial properties as well.

Mr. Wagenaar explained what is actively being done regarding commercial properties.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Power Play Sports

Council Member Osborne said he has heard for years that there needs to be more ice time for other groups and asked how often the ice is being rented but not used.

Mr. Wagenaar explained the process which occurred in the past when rented time was not used and the current process that is now in place. He pointed out that currently, if this happens, the City is still paid for the rented ice time regardless of whether it is used by the group, and the group now has the option of renting their unused time to another group.

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Scott Weller added that now all groups will be paying the same hourly rate regardless of the amount of ice time that is rented.

Mr. Wagenaar stated that it is up to the group to rent out their unused ice time versus turning their unused time back into the City and not paying for it.

Council Member Osborne said he would like clarity as to how often this occurs.

Community Events (continued)

Council Member Osborne said that he attended the Elks Flag Day event and stated he was thankful to be a part of it.

Pool Fee Donations

Council Member Osborne noted there has been a lot of support for donating to cover the cost of pool fees.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Power Play Sports (continued)

Council Member Shoen noted there is not enough ice time for all of the groups who want it and he suggested a different pricing scale depending on the time slot. He noted that some time slots are more popular than others and should cost more.

JB Wise Place Demolition / Anti-Blight (continued)

Council Member Shoen spoke of Council Member Garrabrant's suggestion and stressed that property owners need to provide the City with current contact information, so they can be reached if there is an issue. He said the City should demand this information and property owners who do not comply should have to forfeit their rights to any time delay for code violations and enforcement.

Arsenal Street Drainage Issues

Council Member Shoen indicated there are significant drainage issues along Arsenal Street and onto the tertiary streets which were caused by NYS DOT. He said the State should be forced to address these issues.

Arsenal Street Repair Signage

Council Member Shoen noted there is a steel plate and plastic barrel for street repairs in front of 445 Arsenal Street. He said it blocks a traffic lane, but it is not marked very well. He wondered if it is in violation of traffic control rules.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Possible Bike Lanes on Arsenal Street

Council Member Shoen noted that Arsenal Street is not wide enough for bike lanes and advised that someone travelling on a bike in that direction should use the bike lanes on Coffeen Street.

Homeless Tourism

Referring to what he calls "Homeless Tourism," Council Member Shoen mentioned a homeless individual was recently arrested for shoplifting the same day she arrived in the area from North Carolina. When questioned, she indicated that she came to Watertown for the services offered in this area. Council Member Shoen said he will not support development which encourages the homeless to come to Watertown.

Community Events (continued)

Council Member Shoen mentioned the Dairy Parade took place last weekend and was very well attended. He also mentioned that the pool and splashpad are open.

Liberty Tree Planting / 250th Anniversary of United States

Mayor Pierce announced that a Liberty Tree will be planted on June 22 in honor of the 250th Anniversary of United States and thanked all the participants who submitted entries into her contest. She noted the winner would be announced soon.

Community Events (continued)

Mayor Pierce said the Mount Carmel Feast will be held on June 26-28 at St. Anthony's Church.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Power Play Sports (continued)

Mentioning Power Play Sports' request, Mayor Pierce said she would like more information and possible ways to be more equitable among groups.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – State Place Concerns

Mayor Pierce said this is her first time hearing about these issues and she would like to speak to Ms. Pound more after the meeting.

JB Wise Place Demolition / Anti-Blight (continued)

Mayor Pierce thanked Council Member Garrabrant for his anti-blight ordinance suggestion and said she will look at what he sent to Council to review.

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to move into Executive Session to discuss proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:27 p.m. by motion of Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen, seconded by Council Member Shane A. Garrabrant and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk