CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
October 19, 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: Aaron Harvill, Tom Compo, Michael Lumbis, Jim Mills, Erica Anderson, Scott Weller, Jim Scordo, Dan VanKouwenberg

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Selecting Bond Schoeneck & King as City Tax Foreclosure Attorney
- Resolution No. 2 - Amending City Fees and Charges Schedule for Tax Foreclosure Fees
- Resolution No. 3 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Tourism Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Budgets
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub-Recipient Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2026 Homebuyer Program
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving and Endorsing Applications for Funding Through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Community Reforestation Round 2 (CoRe 2) Program to Remove/ Control Woody Invasive Plants in Bicentennial, Thompson, and Waterworks Parks
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Proposal for Architectural Design Services for the Zoo New York Visitor Center Roof Replacement - GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving the Proposal for Architectural Design Services for the Water Distribution Roof Replacement - GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying
- Resolution No. 8 - Adopting the City of Watertown Social Media Policy
- Resolution No. 9 - Authorizing Negotiations for the Lease and Operations of Thompson Park Golf Course
- Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing Home Rule Request of the New York State Legislature to Allow the City of Watertown to Lease Land at the Thompson Park Golf Course
- Ordinance No. 1 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of a 1.7-acre section of 465 Flower Avenue West, Parcel Number 14-42-101.000 from Residential to Neighborhood Mixed Use
- Old Business - Proposed Local Law of 2026 - A Local Law Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Chapter 301: Water
- Staff Report - 383 Flower Avenue East Demolition Project
- Staff Report - Sales Tax Revenue – September 2026
- Staff Report - Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – September 2026

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 5, 2026 and work session of October 13, 2026, was dispensed and accepted as written by a 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 Michelle Garrison, owner of Poppy & Fern Hair Studio in Watertown, requesting Council consider parking and safety issues on Public Square.

An email was received from Cliff Olney, 847 Washington Street, questioning the City's response to vandalism at Flower Memorial Library.

An email was received from Jessica Griffin, Power Play Sports Program Director, requesting Council address concerns regarding ice allocation and usage at the Watertown Municipal Arena.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Brian Ashley, Thompson Boulevard, speaking on behalf of Friends of Thompson Park, offered his support for Resolution 5 and suggested people come take a look at improvements volunteers have already made to the Park and their efforts to remove invasive species. He commended the City Arborist for seeking this grant opportunity.

Jessica Griffin, Cape Vincent, speaking on behalf of Power Play Sports, requested information on the City's official position on ice allocation at the Watertown Arena. She noted her goal of fair access for all organizations.

Brittany Wiese, Carthage, informed Council that she is a hockey parent and has children playing in both organizations. She advocated for fair allotment of ice time and a clarification of the rules.

Sarah Downs, 149 Paddock Street, spoke on behalf of the Figure Skating Club to raise concerns about ice allocation and clarify statements made about her organization in a previous meeting. She asked City Council to review the Watertown Hockey Association contract.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, discussed information provided at a Council work session regarding public transportation that he felt was inaccurate. He presented Council with some information about other bus lines.

James Brooks, 142 Mechanic Street, addressed Council regarding concerns with delays in the CitiBus system and difficulties he has had in contacting staff regarding his issues.

Paul Trimper, Dexter, Owner of Power Play Sports, offered his appreciation for City staff and Council for their efforts in trying to solve the Watertown Arena ice problems. He noted that while his organization appreciates all of what they have been given, there is still a lack of fairness.

Chris Nethers, Varsity Coach and Manager for IHC boys' hockey, spoke regarding the conflicts with ice time allotments and stressed his biggest concern was organizations not following the specified rules.

P U B L I C H E A R I N G

At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Pierce asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning A Local Law Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Chapter 301: Water

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

No one spoke.

Mayor Pierce declared the hearing closed at 7:15 p.m.

At 7:16 p.m. Mayor Pierce asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning the Proposed Strategic Plan

Mayor Pierce declared the hearing open at 7:16 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Pierce declared the hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.

R E S O L U T I O N S

Resolution No. 1 - Selecting Bond Schoeneck & King as City Tax Foreclosure Attorney

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS Bond Schoeneck and King was serving as the City Attorney when the City was required to make amendments to its City Charter for its property tax enforcement process, and

WHEREAS Bond Schoeneck and King continued its work in developing the City's new In Rem Tax Foreclosure Act after it ceased serving as the City's attorney, and

WHEREAS Bond Schoeneck and King is most knowledgeable of the new tax foreclosure law it is recommended that they be selected as the City's Tax Foreclosure Attorney,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby selects Bond Schoeneck and King as the City Tax Foreclosure Attorney, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Letter of Engagement with Bond Schoeneck and King, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Shoen asked why this job was not being handled by the City's current attorney.

City Manager Eric Wagenaar explained that the City was too deep into the process to "change horses" at this point.

Council Member Shoen commented that making the change to a different attorney any later would result in another layer of complexity and proposed letting the current City attorney handle this.

City Manager Wagenaar stated that it had never been stated that all the City's legal business would be handled exclusively by the City Attorney.

City Attorney Joseph Frateschi informed Council that it is his recommendation that the City stick with Bond, Schoeneck and King since they are the authors of the new law. He advised that they would want to make sure it worked here first.

Council Member Garrabrant mentioned that the contract was open ended and inquired if this was common.

City Attorney Frateschi stated that every attorney contract is open-ended since attorneys cannot ethically lock clients in.

Council Member Osborne commented that, ideally, he would like to have all the City's legal business consolidated.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen who voted nay.

Resolution No. 2 - Amending City Fees and Charges Schedule for Tax Foreclosure Fees

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

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

WHEREAS the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 City Fees and Charges Schedule was adopted by City Council on May 21, 2026 when the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget was adopted, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown on April 20, 2026 adopted the In Rem Tax Foreclosure Act, and

WHEREAS Section 173.2 of the City Charter (In Rem Foreclosure Act) addresses the additional fees owed during the foreclosure process including but not limited to filing fees, title search fees, publication costs, service fees, posting fees, attorneys' fees, postage fees and stationery costs,

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

City Comptroller Fees:

Delete:

Lien Search Fee $95

Tax Advertising Fee $15

Add:

Tax Foreclosure Fee:

- Prior to entry of foreclosure judgment: $575 per parcel
- After issuance of entry of foreclosure judgment: Minimum of $575 per parcel plus additional Court ordered costs

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

Resolution No. 3 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Tourism Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Budgets

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS on June 2, 2025 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, and

WHEREAS certain Fiscal Year 2025-26 expenditure lines for the General Fund, Community Development Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-Funded Health Insurance Fund are overdrawn,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts and makes the following adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budgets for the General Fund, Community Development Fund, Risk Retention Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund, Library Fund and Self-funded Health Insurance Fund Budgets:

GENERAL FUND

A	1010	430	LEGISLATIVE BOARD	Contracted Services	$	300
A	1010	465	LEGISLATIVE BOARD	Equipment < $5,000	$	300
A	1010	810	LEGISLATIVE BOARD	Employee Retirement System	$	900
A	1210	430	MAYOR	Contracted Services	$	75
A	1230	110	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Salaries	$	8,325
A	1230	430	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Contracted Services	$	475
A	1230	440	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Fees, Non-employee	$	3,650
A	1230	450	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Miscellaneous	$	2,075
A	1315	120	COMPTROLLER	Clerical	$	22,100
A	1315	420	COMPTROLLER	Insurance	$	1,450
A	1315	430	COMPTROLLER	Contracted Services	$	23,625
A	1315	440	COMPTROLLER	Fees, Non-employee	$	1,975
A	1315	830	COMPTROLLER	Social Security	$	1,050
A	1315	840	COMPTROLLER	Workers' Compensation	$	25

A	1315	850	COMPTROLLER	Health Insurance	$	300
A	1345	110	PURCHASING	Salaries	$	5,150
A	1345	120	PURCHASING	Clerical	$	1,875
A	1345	430	PURCHASING	Contracted Services	$	50
A	1345	465	PURCHASING	Equipment < $5,000	$	725
A	1345	850	PURCHASING	Health Insurance	$	725
A	1355	110	ASSESSMENT	Salaries	$	300
A	1355	130	ASSESSMENT	Wages	$	2,600
A	1355	430	ASSESSMENT	Contracted Services	$	1,500
A	1355	450	ASSESSMENT	Miscellaneous	$	1,425
A	1355	810	ASSESSMENT	NYS Retirement	$	5,450
A	1355	850	ASSESSMENT	Health Insurance	$	650
A	1410	110	CLERK	Salaries	$	4,800
A	1410	150	CLERK	Overtime	$	150
A	1410	430	CLERK	Contracted Services	$	600
A	1410	850	CLERK	Health Insurance	$	275
A	1420	430	LAW	Contracted Services	$	175
A	1420	440	LAW	Fees, Non-employee	$	123,325
A	1430	110	CIVIL SERVICE	Salaries	$	1,000
A	1430	850	CIVIL SERVICE	Health Insurance	$	400
A	1435	110	HUMAN RESOURCES	Salaries	$	550
A	1435	465	HUMAN RESOURCES	Equipment < $5,000	$	175
A	1435	850	HUMAN RESOURCES	Health Insurance	$	275
A	1440	120	ENGINEERING	Clerical	$	1,550
A	1440	150	ENGINEERING	Overtime	$	75
A	1440	420	ENGINEERING	Insurance	$	50
A	1440	465	ENGINEERING	Equipment < $5,000	$	6,400
A	1490	175	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Health Insurance Buy-out	$	1,450
A	1490	410	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Utilities	$	24,425
A	1490	420	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Insurance	$	600
A	1490	440	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Fees, Non-employee	$	1,800
A	1490	465	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Equipment < $5,000	$	850
A	1620	130	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Wages	$	15,950

A	1620	150	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Overtime	$	12,400
A	1620	175	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Health Insurance Buy-out	$	500
A	1620	410	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Utilities	$	28,350
A	1620	440	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Fees, Non-employee	$	250
A	1620	460	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Materials and Supplies	$	2,625
A	1620	810	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	NYS Retirement	$	6,200
A	1620	830	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Social Security	$	2,025
A	1640	110	CENTRAL GARAGE	Salaries	$	350
A	1640	130	CENTRAL GARAGE	Wages	$	375
A	1640	150	CENTRAL GARAGE	Overtime	$	2,100
A	1640	250	CENTRAL GARAGE	Other Equipment	$	64,850
A	1640	410	CENTRAL GARAGE	Utilities	$	13,675
A	1640	420	CENTRAL GARAGE	Insurance	$	400
A	1640	430	CENTRAL GARAGE	Contracted Services	$	15,950
A	1640	440	CENTRAL GARAGE	Fees, Non-employee	$	100
A	1640	460	CENTRAL GARAGE	Materials and Supplies	$	106,800
A	1670	450	CENTRAL PRINTING & MAILING	Miscellaneous	$	150
A	1680	110	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Salaries	$	675
A	1680	440	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Fees, Non-employee	$	200
A	1680	455	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Vehicle Maintenance	$	75
A	1950	430	REAL PROPERTY TAXES	Contracted Services	$	6,100
A	3120	110	POLICE	Salaries	$	11,900
A	3120	120	POLICE	Clerical	$	6,225
A	3120	150	POLICE	Overtime	$	265,825
A	3120	155	POLICE	Holiday Pay	$	10,025
A	3120	180	POLICE	Roll Call Pay	$	4,575
A	3120	185	POLICE	On-call Pay	$	15,300
A	3120	195	POLICE	Clothing/Cleaning Allowance	$	2,100
A	3120	420	POLICE	Insurance	$	3,075
A	3120	430	POLICE	Contracted Services	$	62,175
A	3120	440	POLICE	Fees, Non-employee	$	5,900
A	3120	455	POLICE	Vehicle Maintenance	$	3,750
A	3120	465	POLICE	Equipment < $5,000	$	18,150

A	3120	810	POLICE	NYS Retirement	$	1,025
A	3120	830	POLICE	Social Security	$	350
A	3410	110	FIRE	Salaries	$	16,450
A	3410	120	FIRE	Clerical	$	2,100
A	3410	130	FIRE	Wages	$	215,925
A	3410	150	FIRE	Overtime	$	439,225
A	3410	155	FIRE	Holiday Pay	$	5,175
A	3410	190	FIRE	EMT Incentive	$	2,000
A	3410	250	FIRE	Other Equipment	$	2,675
A	3410	410	FIRE	Utilities	$	13,425
A	3410	420	FIRE	Insurance	$	2,850
A	3410	455	FIRE	Vehicle Maintenance	$	40,750
A	3410	820	FIRE	Fire Retirement System	$	99,100
A	3410	830	FIRE	Social Security	$	16,875
A	3620	110	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Salaries	$	350
A	3620	120	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Clerical	$	1,525
A	3620	130	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Wages	$	14,950
A	3620	150	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Overtime	$	6,450
A	3620	430	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Contracted Services	$	254,275
A	3620	450	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Miscellaneous	$	2,775
A	3620	830	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Social Security	$	375
A	3620	850	CODE ENFORCEMENT	Health Insurance	$	11,325
A	5010	110	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Salaries	$	6,425
A	5010	410	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Utilities	$	24,600
A	5010	420	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Insurance	$	675
A	5010	440	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Fees, Non-employee	$	1,500
A	5010	465	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Equipment < $5,000	$	1,700
A	5110	140	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Temporary	$	125
A	5110	150	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Overtime	$	850
A	5110	250	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Other Equipment	$	70,800
A	5110	465	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Equipment < $5,000	$	300
A	5110	840	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Workers' Compensation	$	24,900
A	5142	110	SNOW REMOVAL	Salaries	$	2,600

A	5142	150	SNOW REMOVAL	Overtime	$	15,375
A	5142	410	SNOW REMOVAL	Utilities	$	1,550
A	5142	460	SNOW REMOVAL	Materials and Supplies	$	31,700
A	5184	110	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Salaries	$	15,250
A	5184	130	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Wages	$	875
A	5184	250	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Other Equipment	$	10,500
A	5184	420	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Insurance	$	825
A	5184	430	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Contracted Services	$	28,500
A	5184	830	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Social Security	$	1,000
A	5184	840	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Workers' Compensation	$	1,800
A	5184	850	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Health Insurance	$	200
A	5186	130	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Wages	$	325
A	5186	150	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Overtime	$	7,700
A	5186	230	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Motor Vehicles	$	8,300
A	5186	410	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Utilities	$	145,675
A	5186	430	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Contracted Services	$	26,175
A	5186	840	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Workers' Compensation	$	300
A	5630	120	BUS	Clerical	$	900
A	5630	150	BUS	Overtime	$	5,775
A	5630	175	BUS	Health Insurance Buy-out	$	425
A	5630	410	BUS	Utilities	$	6,850
A	5630	420	BUS	Insurance	$	700
A	5630	430	BUS	Contracted Services	$	1,500
A	5630	440	BUS	Fees, Non-employee	$	400
A	5630	840	BUS	Workers' Compensation	$	308,150
A	5650	420	CITY PARKING FACILITIES	Insurance	$	25
A	7020	120	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	$	3,675
A	7020	430	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Contracted Services	$	275
A	7110	250	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Other Equipment	$	13,575
A	7110	410	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Utilities	$	36,775
A	7140	140	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Temporary	$	31,000

A	7140	250	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Other Equipment	$	4,125
A	7140	420	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Insurance	$	175
A	7140	850	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Health Insurance	$	13,250
A	7141	850	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Health Insurance	$	3,350
A	7180	150	SWIMMING POOLS	Overtime	$	10,400
A	7180	410	SWIMMING POOLS	Utilities	$	3,225
A	7180	420	SWIMMING POOLS	Insurance	$	375
A	7180	430	SWIMMING POOLS	Contracted Services	$	7,450
A	7180	450	SWIMMING POOLS	Miscellaneous	$	1,425
A	7180	455	SWIMMING POOLS	Vehicle Maintenance	$	1,000
A	7180	465	SWIMMING POOLS	Equipment < $5,000	$	1,450
A	7180	810	SWIMMING POOLS	NYS Retirement	$	5,100
A	7180	850	SWIMMING POOLS	Health Insurance	$	1,950
A	7190	110	GOLF COURSE	Salaries	$	5,475
A	7190	140	GOLF COURSE	Temporary	$	9,875
A	7190	410	GOLF COURSE	Utilities	$	17,425
A	7190	420	GOLF COURSE	Insurance	$	50
A	7190	440	GOLF COURSE	Fees, Non-employee	$	2,075
A	7190	450	GOLF COURSE	Miscellaneous	$	1,700
A	7190	455	GOLF COURSE	Vehicle Maintenance	$	475
A	7190	830	GOLF COURSE	Social Security	$	225
A	7265	110	ICE ARENA	Salaries	$	16,325
A	7265	130	ICE ARENA	Wages	$	40,025
A	7265	250	ICE ARENA	Other Equipment	$	33,900
A	7265	420	ICE ARENA	Insurance	$	625
A	7265	430	ICE ARENA	Contracted Services	$	21,750
A	7265	810	ICE ARENA	NYS Retirement	$	16,700
A	7265	830	ICE ARENA	Social Security	$	2,700
A	8020	110	PLANNING	Salaries	$	5,275
A	8020	120	PLANNING	Clerical	$	2,600
A	8020	410	PLANNING	Utilities	$	125

A	8020	460	PLANNING	Materials and Supplies	$ 225
A	8020	810	PLANNING	Employee Retirement System	$ 7,250
A	8020	850	PLANNING	Health Insurance	$ 3,000
A	8140	110	STORM SEWER	Salaries	$ 50
A	8140	130	STORM SEWER	Wages	$ 19,800
A	8140	230	STORM SEWER	Motor Vehicles	$ 28,000
A	8140	830	STORM SEWER	Social Security	$ 450
A	8160	110	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Salaries	$ 350
A	8160	120	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Clerical	$ 550
A	8160	140	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Temporary	$ 44,450
A	8160	150	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Overtime	$ 5,025
A	8160	450	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Miscellaneous	$ 5,250
A	8160	460	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Materials and Supplies	$ 2,425
A	9050	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Unemployment Insurance	$ 41,825
A	9060	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Health Insurance - Retirees	$ 238,950
A	9730	700	OTHER EXPENSES	Bond Anticipation Note - Interest	$ 18,275
A	9788	600	OTHER EXPENSES	Lease - Principal	$ 24,200
A	9788	700	OTHER EXPENSES	Lease - Interest	$ 275
A	9950	900	OTHER EXPENSES	Capital Fund Transfer	$ 92,000
A	9960	900	OTHER EXPENSES	Black River Trust Fund	$ 75
	TOTAL				$ 3,698,625

A	1230	850	MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE	Health Insurance	$ (5,725)
A	1362	430	TAX ADVERTISING	Contracted Services	$ (20,000)
A	1435	430	HUMAN RESOURCES	Contracted Services	$ (14,225)
A	1440	110	ENGINEERING	Salaries	$ (108,525)
A	1440	250	ENGINEERING	Other Equipment	$ (25,000)
A	1440	430	ENGINEERING	Contracted Services	$ (20,425)
A	1440	440	ENGINEERING	Fees, Non-employee	$ (19,850)
A	1440	450	ENGINEERING	Miscellaneous	$ (8,525)
A	1440	810	ENGINEERING	NYS Retirement	$ (14,575)
A	1440	830	ENGINEERING	Social Security	$ (9,175)
A	1490	110	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	$ (11,800)
A	1490	120	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	$ (22,475)

A	1490	850	PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION	Health Insurance	$ (16,550)
A	1620	430	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Contracted Services	$ (17,025)
A	1620	850	MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS	Health Insurance	$ (4,950)
A	1640	850	CENTRAL GARAGE	Health Insurance	$ (2,850)
A	1670	460	CENTRAL PRINTING & MAILING	Materials and Supplies	$ (13,750)
A	1680	130	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Wages	$ (10,975)
A	1680	140	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Temporary	$ (10,000)
A	1680	410	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Utilities	$ (13,250)
A	1680	430	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Contracted Services	$ (78,550)
A	1680	450	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Miscellaneous	$ (4,400)
A	1680	465	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Equipment < $5,000	$ (21,000)
A	1680	810	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	NYS Retirement	$ (11,550)
A	1680	850	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	Health Insurance	$ (3,475)
A	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contracted Services	$ (685,000)
A	3120	130	POLICE	Wages	$ (21,475)
A	3120	450	POLICE	Miscellaneous	$ (13,475)
A	3120	460	POLICE	Materials and Supplies	$ (44,875)
A	3120	820	POLICE	Police Retirement System	$ (121,000)
A	3120	840	POLICE	Workers' Compensation	$ (82,925)
A	3120	850	POLICE	Health Insurance	$ (79,825)
A	3410	450	FIRE	Miscellaneous	$ (50,025)
A	3410	465	FIRE	Equipment < $5,000	$ (11,375)
A	3410	840	FIRE	Workers' Compensation	$ (30,675)
A	3410	850	FIRE	Health Insurance	$ (21,175)
A	3510	430	CONTROL OF ANIMALS	Contracted Services	$ (6,450)
A	3620	810	CODE ENFORCEMENT	NYS Retirement	$ (11,200)
A	5010	130	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Wages	$ (53,000)
A	5010	140	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Temporary	$ (104,600)
A	5010	430	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Contracted Services	$ (19,400)
A	5010	455	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (26,275)
A	5010	460	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Materials and Supplies	$ (50,800)
A	5010	810	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	NYS Retirement	$ (29,800)
A	5010	830	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Social Security	$ (13,475)

A	5010	840	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Workers' Compensation	$ (13,625)
A	5010	850	MUNICIPAL MAINTENANCE	Health Insurance	$ (5,625)
A	5110	130	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Wages	$ (72,000)
A	5110	430	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Contracted Services	$ (65,575)
A	5110	455	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (20,625)
A	5110	460	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Materials and Supplies	$ (16,000)
A	5110	810	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	NYS Retirement	$ (19,825)
A	5110	850	MAINTENANCE OF ROADS	Health Insurance	$ (14,650)
A	5142	250	SNOW REMOVAL	Other Equipment	$ (27,000)
A	5142	430	SNOW REMOVAL	Contracted Services	$ (11,025)
A	5142	455	SNOW REMOVAL	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (58,025)
A	5142	810	SNOW REMOVAL	NYS Retirement	$ (34,300)
A	5142	850	SNOW REMOVAL	Health Insurance	$ (23,975)
A	5184	465	HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION	Equipment < $5,000	$ (51,225)
A	5186	460	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	Materials and Supplies	$ (45,200)
A	5186	810	TRAFFIC CONTROL & LIGHTING	NYS Retirement	$ (13,950)
A	5630	110	BUS	Salaries	$ (29,725)
A	5630	130	BUS	Wages	$ (63,050)
A	5630	140	BUS	Temporary	$ (46,275)
A	5630	250	BUS	Other Equipment	$ (96,000)
A	5630	450	BUS	Miscellaneous	$ (18,150)
A	5630	455	BUS	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (54,200)
A	5630	465	BUS	Equipment < $5,000	$ (19,825)
A	5630	810	BUS	NYS Retirement	$ (23,650)
A	5630	830	BUS	Social Security	$ (13,500)
A	5630	850	BUS	Health Insurance	$ (59,875)
A	5650	410	CITY PARKING FACILITIES	Utilities	$ (6,900)
A	5650	430	CITY PARKING FACILITIES	Contracted Services	$ (5,000)
A	5650	460	CITY PARKING FACILITIES	Materials and Supplies	$ (11,100)
A	7020	850	RECREATION ADMINISTRATION	Health Insurance	$ (2,050)
A	7110	430	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Contracted Services	$ (18,075)
A	7110	460	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Materials and Supplies	$ (40,900)

A	7110	850	PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS MAINTENANCE	Health Insurance	$ (975)
A	7140	130	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Wages	$ (28,050)
A	7140	430	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Contracted Services	$ (6,600)
A	7140	460	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Materials and Supplies	$ (10,000)
A	7140	840	ATHLETIC FACILITIES MAINTENANCE	Workers' Compensation	$ (12,425)
A	7141	110	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Salaries	$ (9,425)
A	7141	130	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Wages	$ (12,950)
A	7141	140	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Temporary	$ (10,675)
A	7141	150	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Overtime	$ (15,800)
A	7141	430	RECREATION PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	Contracted Services	$ (24,250)
A	7180	130	SWIMMING POOLS	Wages	$ (9,050)
A	7180	140	SWIMMING POOLS	Temporary	$ (13,000)
A	7180	460	SWIMMING POOLS	Materials and Supplies	$ (22,975)
A	7190	130	GOLF COURSE	Wages	$ (10,000)
A	7190	430	GOLF COURSE	Contracted Services	$ (15,275)
A	7190	460	GOLF COURSE	Materials and Supplies	$ (46,300)
A	7265	410	ICE ARENA	Utilities	$ (5,725)
A	7265	455	ICE ARENA	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (7,350)
A	7265	850	ICE ARENA	Health Insurance	$ (2,975)
A	8020	430	PLANNING	Contracted Services	$ (96,300)
A	8140	250	STORM SEWER	Other Equipment	$ (38,225)
A	8140	430	STORM SEWER	Contracted Services	$ (14,200)
A	8140	450	STORM SEWER	Miscellaneous	$ (16,300)
A	8140	455	STORM SEWER	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (14,875)
A	8140	460	STORM SEWER	Materials and Supplies	$ (42,800)
A	8140	850	STORM SEWER	Health Insurance	$ (3,475)
A	8160	130	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Wages	$ (38,875)
A	8160	430	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Contracted Services	$ (88,725)
A	8160	455	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (36,225)

A	8160	840	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Workers' Compensation	$ (4,950)
A	8160	850	REFUSE AND RECYCLE	Health Insurance	$ (20,475)
A	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Workers' Compensation	$ (12,050)
A	9065	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Medicare Reimbursements	$ (41,000)
	TOTAL				$(3,698,625)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

CD	8668	120	CDBG	Clerical	$ 1,775
CD	8668	130	CDBG	Wages	$ 950
CD	8668	440	CDBG Grant	Fees	$ 1,500
CD	8668	830	CDBG	Social Security	$ 400
CD	8668	850	CDBG	Health Insurance	$ 1,800
	Total				$ 6,425
CD	8668	110	CDBG	Salaries	$ (6,425)
	Total				$ (6,425)

RISK RETENTION FUND

				Appropriated Fund Balance	$ 22,250
	Total				$ 22,250
CS	1740	440	RISK RETENTION	Fees	$ 36,250
CS	1930	430	RISK RETENTION	Judgements & Claims	$ (14,000)
	Total				$ 22,250

TOURISM FUND

CT	1113			Occupancy Tax	$ 18,250
	Total				$ 18,250
CT	9510	900	TOURISM	Transfer to General Fund	$ 18,250
	Total				$ 18,250

WATER FUND

F	1950	430	REAL PROPERTY TAXES	Contracted Services	$ 50
F	8310	110	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	$ 2,200
F	8310	120	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	$ 1,025

F	8310	130	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Wages	$ 1,750
F	8310	420	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Insurance	$ 300
F	8310	430	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Contracted Services	$ 18,325
F	8310	455	WATER ADMINISTRATION	Vehicle Maintenance	$ 1,875
F	8320	410	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Utilities	$ 23,650
F	8320	420	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Insurance	$ 375
F	8320	455	SOURCE OF SUPPLY, POWER & PUMPING	Vehicle Maintenance	$ 1,925
F	8330	110	WATER PURIFICATION	Salaries	$ 1,350
F	8330	150	WATER PURIFICATION	Overtime	$ 8,425
F	8330	250	WATER PURIFICATION	Other Equipment	$ 1,400
F	8330	410	WATER PURIFICATION	Utilities	$ 101,075
F	8330	420	WATER PURIFICATION	Insurance	$ 700
F	8330	460	WATER PURIFICATION	Materials and Supplies	$ 71,950
F	8340	110	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Salaries	$ 1,025
F	8340	150	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Overtime	$ 20,325
F	8340	250	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Other Equipment	$ 52,000
F	8340	410	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Utilities	$ 525
F	8340	420	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Insurance	$ 50
F	8340	430	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Contracted Services	$ 14,800
F	8340	465	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Equipment < $5,000	$ 3,650
F	8340	840	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Workers' Compensation	$ 125
F	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Worker's Compensation	$ 325
F	9710	700	OTHER EXPENSES	Serial Bonds - Interest	$ 50
F	9950	900	OTHER EXPENSES	Transfer to Capital Fund	$ 18,000
	TOTAL				$ 347,250

F	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contingency	$ (80,000)
F	8330	455	WATER PURIFICATION	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (6,200)
F	8330	465	WATER PURIFICATION	Equipment < $5,000	$ (57,925)
F	8340	130	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Wages	$ (89,450)
F	8340	140	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Temporary	$ (16,800)
F	8340	450	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Miscellaneous	$ (16,425)

F	8340	460	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Materials and Supplies	$ (62,450)
F	8340	830	TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION	Social Security	$ (4,800)
F	9065	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Medicare Reimbursements	$ (13,200)
	TOTAL				$ (347,250)

SEWER FUND

G	8110	110	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Salaries	$ 2,200
G	8110	120	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Clerical	$ 1,025
G	8110	130	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Wages	$ 1,750
G	8110	420	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Insurance	$ 200
G	8110	430	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Contracted Services	$ 14,175
G	8110	450	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Miscellaneous	$ 4,000
G	8110	460	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Materials and Supplies	$ 1,000
G	8110	850	SEWER ADMINISTRATION	Health Insurance	$ 1,600
G	8120	110	SANITARY SEWER	Salaries	$ 1,000
G	8120	150	SANITARY SEWER	Overtime	$ 2,625
G	8120	175	SANITARY SEWER	Health Insurance Buy-out	$ 150
G	8120	230	SANITARY SEWER	Motor Vehicles	$ 28,000
G	8120	410	SANITARY SEWER	Utilities	$ 9,900
G	8120	420	SANITARY SEWER	Insurance	$ 1,575
G	8120	430	SANITARY SEWER	Contracted Services	$ 159,925
G	8120	455	SANITARY SEWER	Vehicle Maintenance	$ 8,050
G	8120	850	SANITARY SEWER	Health Insurance	$ 2,975
G	8130	110	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Salaries	$ 4,100
G	8130	410	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Utilities	$ 143,500
G	8130	420	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Insurance	$ 1,875
G	8130	440	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Fees, Non-employee	$ 175
G	8130	850	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Health Insurance	$ 2,950
G	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Worker's Compensation	$ 550
G	9060	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Health Insurance - Retirees	$ 52,575
G	9065	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Medicare Reimbursements	$ 2,025

G	9089	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Other Employee Benefits	$ 75
G	9710	700	OTHER EXPENSES	Serial Bonds - Interest	$ 1,525
G	9950	900	OTHER EXPENSES	Transfer to Capital Fund	$ 191,100
	Total				$ 640,600

G	1990	430	CONTINGENCY	Contracted Services	$ (55,000)
G	8120	130	SANITARY SEWER	Wages	$ (32,950)
G	8120	250	SANITARY SEWER	Other Equipment	$ (29,675)
G	8120	450	SANITARY SEWER	Miscellaneous	$ (5,000)
G	8120	460	SANITARY SEWER	Materials and Supplies	$ (47,900)
G	8120	465	SANITARY SEWER	Equipment < $5,000	$ (3,800)
G	8120	810	SANITARY SEWER	NYS Retirement	$ (13,000)
G	8130	130	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Wages	$ (15,400)
G	8130	140	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Temporary	$ (11,200)
G	8130	150	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Overtime	$ (27,275)
G	8130	250	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Other Equipment	$ (37,725)
G	8130	430	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Contracted Services	$ (71,000)
G	8130	450	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Miscellaneous	$ (20,000)
G	8130	455	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Vehicle Maintenance	$ (4,600)
G	8130	460	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Materials and Supplies	$ (189,525)
G	8130	465	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	Equipment < $5,000	$ (62,450)
G	8130	810	SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL	NYS Retirement	$ (14,100)
	Total				$ (640,600)

LIBRARY FUND

L	7410	120	LIBRARY	Clerical	$ 10,400
L	7410	175	LIBRARY	Health Insurance Buy-out	$ 1,675
L	7410	420	LIBRARY	Insurance	$ 5,050
L	7410	465	LIBRARY	Equipment < $5,000	$ 300
L	7410	840	LIBRARY	Worker's Compensation	$ 400

L	9040	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Worker's Compensation	$ 150
L	9060	800	OTHER EXPENSES	Health Insurance - Retirees	$ 2,000
	Total				$ 19,975
L	7410	430	LIBRARY	Contracted Services	$ (17,975)
L	7410	850	LIBRARY	Health Insurance	$ (2,000)
	Total				$ (19,975)
SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND					
MS	1710	110	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Salaries	$ 800
MS	1710	440	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Fees	$ 6,025
MS	1710	465	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Equipment < $5,000	$ 100
MS	1710	850	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Health Insurance	$ 225
					$ 7,150
MS	9060	430.0030	SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE	Pharmacy Claims	$ (7,150)
					$ (7,150)
DEBT SERVICE FUND					
				Appropriated Fund Balance	$ 14,625
	Total				$ 14,625
V	9510	900	DEBT SERVICE FUND	Transfer to General Fund	$ 14,625
					$ 14,625

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

Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub-Recipient Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2026 Homebuyer Program

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2026 includes a Homebuyer Program that allocates funding for the purchase and rehabilitation of approximately six (6) housing units to income eligible homebuyers within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Annual Action Plan identifies the Homebuyer Program to consist of $240,000 in funding for the purchase, rehabilitation, administration, and program delivery, and

WHEREAS the City is financing this project using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement funding from Program Year 2026, and

WHEREAS Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. will serve as the Sub-Recipient of the funds for program administration, and

WHEREAS a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Watertown and Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the CDBG funds has been prepared, and

WHEREAS to avoid committing a choice-limiting action prior to the completion of an environmental review for a CDBG-funded project, the City cannot enter into a binding agreement with Neighbors of Watertown until after receiving an Authority to Use Grant Funds for the project from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Sub-Recipient Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2026 Homebuyer Program, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of an Authority to Use Grant Funds from HUD and not before receiving said Authority to Use Grant Funds, the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Neighbors of Watertown.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

In response to Council Member Osborne's question of whether the homeowners pay taxes once they have their new homes, City Manager Wagenaar replied that they do return to the tax roll.

Council Member Kimball added that he believed there was a mandatory amount of time the recipients had to live in the homes.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis advised that recipients must live in the home for 10 years and that if they had to leave earlier there were payback percentage penalties.

Council Member Garrabrant proposed having representatives from Neighbors of Watertown come to a future work session to speak to Council.

Mayor Pierce commented that she felt this program was a good opportunity.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Approving and Endorsing Applications for Funding Through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Community Reforestation Round 2 (CoRe 2) Program to Remove/ Control Woody Invasive Plants in Bicentennial, Thompson, and Waterworks Parks

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has announced that grant funding is available through the Community Reforestation Program to expand, restore, and establish healthy forested natural areas in or near urban communities across New York State, and

WHEREAS invasive species can negatively impact public infrastructure, reduce property values, increase wildfire risks, and degrade the recreational value of city parks and waterways, and

WHEREAS Watertown is the primary urban, commercial, and cultural center of Jefferson County, New York and the Northern New Your region, and

WHEREAS Watertown is committed to the continued restoration of natural areas in City parks, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to apply for funding in an amount not to exceed $500,000 to control woody invasive plants and restore areas of Bicentennial, Thompson and Waterworks Park,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves and endorses the City's application to the NYSDEC for a grant under the Community Reforestation Program for a project known as the Control of Woody Invasives in Watertown Parks, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Forester, Dan VanKouwenberg, is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for funding in an amount not to exceed $500,000.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Proposal for Architectural Design Services for the Zoo New York Visitor Center Roof Replacement - GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City Engineer, Code Enforcement Officer, and Building Management made a site visit and prepared a draft cost estimate of the condition of the Little Trees Visitor Center, and provided a copy to the City Council in a Staff Report at their April 20, 2026, meeting, and

WHEREAS at its July 20, 2026 meeting, the City Council received a letter from Kenneth A. Mix, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Thompson Park Conservancy, and Dr. Mark D. Irwin, Interim Executive Director / CEO / DVM of Zoo New York at Thompson Park, regarding the City's longtime partnership and potential financial support for the zoo, and

WHEREAS on September 25, 2026, the Engineering Department requested proposals from several Professional Firms for architectural services associated with the design for replacement of the cedar shingle and living roof, exterior building envelope, entrance timber framing, and

WHEREAS the Engineering Department received the requested proposals and their included fee schedules on October 9, 2026, for review, and

WHEREAS the City's Engineering Department recommends GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying for architectural design services, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the proposal from GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying for architectural services in the amount of $18,680.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Watertown or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to enter and execute said proposal on behalf of the City of Watertown.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Garrabrant reminded Council that it had been previously recommended that the City not take over ownership of this building, and he questioned why the City would now be paying for the roof design.

City Manager Wagenaar advised that City engineers recommended that the roof be fixed to prevent further damage to the rest of the building. He added that there were special considerations due to the "live roof" element.

Council Member Osborne indicated that it was his understanding that the Zoo already had some of the supplies necessary for repairs and asked if they would be used.

City Manager Wagenaar confirmed that the City could work with the Conservancy to make use of the donated supplies but noted that the design work must be done before any construction could occur.

Council Member Kimball said that he considers the Zoo a city asset and reminded Council that the City owns the property and, therefore, cannot let the building fall down. He supported moving ahead with design and sharing expenses with Conservancy.

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. who voted nay.

Resolution No. 7 - Approving the Proposal for Architectural Design Services for the Water Distribution Roof Replacement - GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the roof of the main building of the Water Distribution Plant has reached the end of its useful life and has had several leaks, and

WHEREAS the City Council adopted the 2026-2027 budget, including $525,00.00 for repairs and/or replacement of the roof, and

WHEREAS on September 23, 2026, the Engineering Department requested proposals from several Professional Firms for architectural services associated with the design for replacement of the Water Distribution Roof, and

WHEREAS the Engineering Department received the requested proposals and their included fee schedules on October 9, 2026, for review, and

WHEREAS the City's Engineering Department recommends GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying for architectural services,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the proposal from GYMO Architecture, Engineering, and Land Surveying for architectural services in the amount of $13,620.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Watertown or their designee is hereby authorized and directed to enter and execute said proposal on behalf of the City of Watertown

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea except for Council Member Douglas E. Osborne Jr. who voted nay.

Resolution No. 8 - Adopting the City of Watertown Social Media Policy

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 8, authorizing the establishment of an official Citywide Facebook page and directing the City Manager to develop rules and regulations governing postings, public comments, and administration of the page; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to establish a comprehensive Social Media Policy governing City-created and City-managed social media accounts, including their administration, content, public participation, security, and records retention; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Social Media Policy was provided to the City Council on October 5, 2026, for review and consideration;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the City of Watertown Social Media Policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the policy is attached hereto and made part of this Resolution and shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Seconded by Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Shoen referred to page 5 of the policy regarding users having a comment deleted or being blocked and requested that any appeals be brought to the attention of Council.

Mayor Pierce agreed that Council should be kept in the loop.

City Attorney Frateschi stated that the policy did not need to be amended but advising Council could just be part of the City's process.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Authorizing Negotiations for the Lease and Operations of Thompson Park Golf Course

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown issued a Request for Proposals for the lease and operation of Thompson Park Golf Course, and

WHEREAS one proposal was received at the proposal opening held on October 13, 2026, from Jefferson County Business Services, Inc. a copy of which is attached hereto and made part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to pursue the possibility of leasing the golf course beginning in 2027 and to authorize City staff to discuss and negotiate proposed terms with the vendor,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the City Manager to designate a staff negotiating team, with assistance from the City Attorney, to review the proposal, meet with Jefferson County Business Services, Inc., and negotiate a proposed agreement for the lease and operation of Thompson Park Golf Course, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any proposed lease agreement shall be presented to the City Council for its review and approval and shall remain subject to any required State legislative authorization and other necessary approvals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution authorizes negotiations only and does not constitute acceptance of the proposal, award of a lease, or authorization to execute an agreement.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Garrabrant commented that this was a good starting point and requested that a member of Council be on the negotiating team, particularly since the golf course is under scrutiny.

Council Member Osborne and Shoen agreed.

Council Member Shoen expressed his wish that this did not have to be a year-to-year contract and could be more long-term.

City Manager Wagenaar agreed that this would be preferable for the sake of consistency but one year is what was offered. He noted they could have more conversations about longer terms after the one-year test run.

Council Member Shoen expressed concerns about short-term leases and the issues they may cause, specifically with the condition of the course. He pointed out the proposal called for organic rather than chemical treatment of the grass and noted his reservations. He added that he had no problem with letting negotiations begin.

City Manager Wagenaar indicated that this was excellent feedback and these issues could be brought up during negotiations and with the City's attorney.

City Attorney Frateschi advised that this resolution is just authorizing a starting point and that Council would be able to vote on a finalized agreement later.

Council Member Kimball said that he was pleased that anyone put in a bid at all as the golf course is set up to be a potentially large public failure. He added that he is interested to see how it works out with the course, restaurant and bar all being operated by the same entity. He also added that he thought a one-year trial run made perfect business sense for the bidder.

Mayor Pierce stated that this was a good first step and agreed with Council Member Garrabrant that a member of Council should be on the negotiating team. She requested one of the Council Members volunteer.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing Home Rule Request of the New York State Legislature to Allow the City of Watertown to Lease Land at the Thompson Park Golf Course

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown owns the Thompson Park Golf Course, an 18-hole public golf course located within Thompson Park in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS, the Thompson Park Golf Course is located on property dedicated to public park and recreational purposes and is therefore subject to New York State's public trust doctrine, and

WHEREAS, the City intends to select a qualified private operator to operate, maintain, and improve the property as a public golf course and recreational facility under a lease with the City, and

WHEREAS, the proposed lease is intended to preserve the continued operation of the golf course, maintain public recreational access, provide for the continued care and improvement of the property, and support the financial and operational sustainability of the facility, and

WHEREAS, because the proposed lease would permit a private entity to operate a facility located on dedicated municipal parkland, specific authorization from the New York State Legislature is required before the City may enter the lease, and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that seeking such legislative authorization is in the best interests of the City and will allow the property to continue serving the public as a golf course and recreational facility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to obtain State legislative authorization specifically permitting the City to lease the Thompson Park Golf Course to a qualified private operator for its continued operation, maintenance, and improvement as a public golf course and recreational facility, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to request that the City's representatives in the New York State Legislature introduce and support the legislation necessary to authorize the proposed lease, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager, City Attorney, and other appropriate City officials are authorized to work with the City's State legislative representatives, and any other necessary State agencies to prepare and advance the proposed legislation.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen.

Mayor Pierce thanked the State legislature for their assistance with this.

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

O R D I N A N C E S

Ordinance No. 1 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of a 1.7-acre section of 465 Flower Avenue West, Parcel Number 14-42-101.000 from Residential to Neighborhood Mixed Use

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS where Jake Johnson of Ives Hill Country Club 465, LLC has made an application by petition filed with the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 83 of the New York General City Law to change the approved zoning classification of a 1.7-acre section of 465 Flower Avenue West, Parcel Number 14-42-101.000, from Residential to Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU), and

WHEREAS the Planning Commission of the City of Watertown considered the zone change request at its October 6, 2026, meeting and defeated a motion recommending that City Council approve the zone change, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zone change on November 2, 2026, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of Negative Findings of the impacts of the proposed zoning designation according to the requirements of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the requested zoning designation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the approved zoning classification of a 1.7-acre section of 465 Flower Avenue West, Parcel Number 14-42-101.000, BEGINNING at a point at the intersection of the south margin of Flower Avenue West with the east margin of Ives Street; and runs thence from the point of beginning, South 86 degrees 47 minutes 06 seconds East, 404.70 feet along the south margin of Flower Avenue West to a point; thence South 03 degrees 12 minutes 31 seconds West, 238.15 feet to a point; thence North 84 degrees 53 minutes 03 seconds West, 206.74 feet to a point; thence North 37 degrees 27 minutes 16 seconds West, 117.45 feet to a point; thence North 01 degrees 51 minutes 21 seconds East, 56.26 feet to a point; thence North 88 degrees 08 minutes 39 seconds West, 138.72 feet to a point in the east margin of Ives Street; thence North 14 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds East, 91.15 feet along the east margin of Ives Street to the point of BEGINNING, containing 1.70 acres of land, shall be changed from Residential to Neighborhood Mixed Use (NMU), and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Zoning Map of the City of Watertown shall be amended to reflect the zone change, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or otherwise printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, November 2 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

O L D B U S I N E S S

Proposed Local Law of 2026 – A Local Law Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Chapter 301: Water
(Introduced on October 5, 2026, public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2026 Minutes Book on page 3-6 of the 10/5/2026 minutes).

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

S T A F F R E P O R T S

383 Flower Avenue East Demolition Project
Mayor Pierce offered her support for this demolition and indicated neighbors of the home support the demolition as well.

Council Member Kimball informed Council that he had gone to look at the outside of the property and there was no good reason to save the house since it did not appear it could be rehabilitated.

Sales Tax Revenue – September 2026/Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – September 2026
Reports were available for Council to review.

Council Member Kimball asked how the sales tax numbers were predicted for the budget.

City Comptroller James Mills advised that when the budget is presented to Council, staff has nine months of revenue to look at and then, after considering trends, he adds a standard two to three percent increase.

N E W B U S I N E S S

Neighborhood Watch
Council Member Garrabrant announced there would be a Neighborhood Watch meeting on Tuesday at the Church of the Nazarene and mentioned the police liaison would be there. He also noted that additional signs have been ordered.

Ice Time at the Arena
Council Member Garrabrant said that it is his understanding that the current issue stems from different interpretations of the rules for ice time allotment and advised that City Council should not be in the business of refereeing these disputes between hockey clubs. He suggested that Council keep the current situation in mind the next time ice time allotment is discussed.

Landfill Development
Council Member Garrabrant stated that he was in favor of moving forward with exploring solar energy potential at the landfill but noted that the potential return on the proposed investment is concerning. He proposed a parallel path in investigating the potential of nuclear power at the site. He indicated he had spoken with Assemblyman Scott Gray who thought it might be a possibility. Council Member Garrabrant suggested contacting NYPA to express interest in a nuclear presentation as a first step.

Library Book Sale

Council Member Kimball reminded Council and the public that the annual Flower Memorial Library Book Sale had begun and encouraged supporting this fund-raising event.

Ice Time at the Arena (continued)
Council Member Kimball compared the friction between the hockey clubs at the Watertown Arena as "the Hatfields and McCoys" and suggested there would never be an arrangement that would make everyone happy. He noted there were only so many hours in a day and that every group was bound to be disappointed.

Landfill Development (continued)
Council Member Osborne added his support to Council Member Garrabrant's suggestion to pursue potential nuclear energy resource at the landfill site.

Ice Time at the Arena (continued)
Council Member Osborne commented that he was not in favor of the City continuing to be a mediator between these groups and suggested Council keep this in mind for future contract discussions.

Interim DPW Superintendent
Council Member Osborne thanked the Interim Superintendent Karen Overton and her staff for their quick response recently to issues on Ives and Palmer streets.

CAPC Diamonds & Denim
Council Member Osborne informed Council that it was his honor to attend this tremendous and well-attended event, and he and Legislator Doldo had presented the Community Action Planning Council with proclamations in honor of their 60th anniversary.

Landfill Development (continued)
Council Member Shoen offered his support in exploring the potential of nuclear energy but cautioned that the landfill is not fit to be used for anything other than the solar farm. He added that he only supported building solar farms on land that cannot be used for any other purpose. Council Member Shoen also suggested that he would support anything that could help generate revenue and noted that if a nuclear facility could not be installed at the landfill, perhaps there would be another location.

Downtown Parking – Email from Ms. Garrison
Council Member Shoen asked if staff could investigate what was the cause of the recent concerns about parking and find out some more information.

Parade Fund
Council Member Shoen informed Council that he consulted the Community Foundation right before this meeting and the Parade Fund now is $7,400. He advised that White's Lumber would be donating an additional $2,300 and this would bring the total to the necessary $9,700. He offered his appreciation to all the donors and requested a breakdown of costs in regular time and overtime for the DPW for the future.

Library Book Sale (continued)

Mayor Pierce mentioned that the Book Sale at the library supports library programs and allows the purchase of new materials and encouraged people to check the library's Facebook page for more information about the event.

Council Office Hours
Mayor Pierce reminded Council that, after the book sale is over, she would like to set up some additional Council office hours at the library and asked for potential dates and times.

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof, proposed, pending or current litigation, and the employment history of a particular individual or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.

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

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:38 p.m. by motion of Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen, seconded by Council Member Robert O. Kimball and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Lisa M. Carr
Deputy Clerk