CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
November 2, 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: Fire Chief Matthew Timerman, Police Chief Cristin Lyon, James Mills, Michael Lumbis Geoffrey Urda, Erica Anderson

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Public Hearing - 7:15 p.m. - 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
- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Online Auction Contract – Auctions International Inc.
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Standardization of Police Department Equipment and Related Services with AXON Enterprise
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving the CDBG Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York for the 2026 Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving the CDBG Grant Agreement with the Watertown Urban Mission for the 2026 Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project
- Resolution No. 5 - Adopting the Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant 2024 Annual Action Plan
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with the New York State Department of Transportation for the Transportation Alternatives Program, Contract D040688 and Authorizing the Implementation, and Funding in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal-Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-aid Eligible Costs, of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project, and Appropriating Funds Therefore
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving Supplemental Agreement No. 1 Architectural/Engineering Consultant Agreement with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for Design Services for the Black River Trail Western Connection
- Resolution No. 8 - Authorizing the Watertown Fire Department to Apply for Grant Funding Through the Garrett W. Loomis Firefighters Fund for the Purchase of a New Forcible Entry Door Training Simulator
- Resolution No. 9 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budgets to Eliminate and Add Certain Positions in the Police Department
- Old Business - 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

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

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Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 19, 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 Cliff Olney, 847 Washington Street, expressing his concerns and suggestions regarding the Thompson Park Golf Course, the Thompson Park Master Plan, the City's Social Media Policy, Ives Hill Golf Course rezoning and the City's Strategic Plan.

An email was received from Cliff Olney regarding the Route 3 Wave restoration requesting Council spend the money allocated for the proposed project.

An email was received from Cliff Olney requesting Council action on the Route 3 Wave, Black River Fund and public river access.

An email was received from Cliff Olney asking for formal accountability regarding funds set aside for the Route 3 Wave and the Black River fund.

An email was received from Cliff Olney expressing dissatisfaction with Black River Trail delays and requested Council table resolutions 6 and 7.

An email was received from Cliff Olney requesting Council table resolutions 6 and 7 until more information can be received on estimates, funding implications, design alternatives and a public-access plan.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, addressed Council with concerns about the CitiBus passes, traffic blocking an intersection near Public Square and a growing problem with graffiti in the City.

Frank Battista, Palmer Street, requested Council seek ownership of a property at 518 Coffeen Street so it could be placed back on the tax rolls.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Pierce asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning 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

Mayor Pierce declared the hearing open and explained to the gallery that the request had been withdrawn, and Council would not be voting on the ordinance this evening.

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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 - Approving Online Auction Contract – Auctions International Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has successfully utilized the services of Auctions International, Inc. over the past fourteen (14) years for various City Departments, and

WHEREAS it is the City's desire to get the best price possible for vehicles and/or equipment it deems surplus or excess, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, has contacted Auctions International, Inc., which conducts online auctions of vehicles and equipment, and

WHEREAS there is no cost to the City, as the buyer pays a fee charged by Auctions International, Inc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that it hereby approves the Online Auction Contract with Auctions International, Inc. a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the highest bid does not meet the City's estimated scrap value, no sale will take place, without prior approval of the City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager or designee is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract and accept the highest offer at the time of sale above the City's estimated scrap values, on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Kimball commented that Council sees a lot of resolutions about auctions but does not receive follow-up information on results of those auctions and financial returns.

City Manager Eric Wagenaar informed Council that a staff report could be prepared by Comptroller James Mills.

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

Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Standardization of Police Department Equipment and Related Services with AXON Enterprise

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Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown operates and equips the City of Watertown Police Department, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown and the Police Department have a responsibility to provide effective public safety services while maintaining the highest standards of officer safety, accountability, transparency, and operational efficiency, and

WHEREAS body-worn cameras, in-car fleet camera systems, and conducted energy weapons (TASER devices) are important tools that support evidence collection, incident documentation, officer safety, and the effective delivery of police services, and

WHEREAS standardizing these technologies through a common provider offers the opportunity to improve interoperability, simplify training and administration, and establish consistent operational procedures throughout the department, and

WHEREAS AXON Enterprise provides an integrated technology that can connect compatible body-worn cameras, fleet camera systems, TASER devices, and digital evidence management services, allowing evidence to be more efficiently captured, managed, retrieved, and reviewed; improving camera activation workflows, streamlining investigations, and reducing the administrative burden of managing separate technology platforms; and providing cost efficiencies, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the City hereby authorizes the standardization of the Police Department's body-worn cameras, in-car fleet cameras, and TASER devices through AXON Enterprise, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Police Department and the Purchasing Department are authorized to acquire the necessary agreements, equipment, software, training, and related services.

Body-Worn Cameras, In-Car Fleet Cameras, and TASER devices, equipment, software, training, and related services for Standardization

Equipment	**Make**
Body-worn cameras, Fleet Cameras, TASER devices (related equipment, software, training, and services)	AXON Enterprise

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Osborne asked if the City was up to date with all its devices.

City Police Chief Cristin Lyon replied that the department was current on all Axon products which include tasers, body-worn cameras and car cameras.

In response to Council Member Osborne's question of whether the City owned or leased the equipment, Chief Lyon responded that all the equipment is owned.

Council Member Garrabrant asked for the purpose of the resolution and wondered if it was to make Axon a sole source and avoid bidding for future purchases.

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Chief Lyon explained that it was to allow the Police Department to specifically request Axon products and noted that switching devices to another company would be costly.

In response to Council Member Shoen's question of whether there were a lot of other companies providing this type of equipment, Chief Lyon said there were none that she knew of.

Council Member Shoen questioned the necessity of the resolution.

Chief Lyon stated that Axon is the number one company for all three of the products the Police Department uses and explained that the City's Purchasing Department had requested this standardization.

Council Member Shoen commented that all software changes and added he would not want the City to be stuck with this company for thirty years if something better became available.

Chief Lyon indicated that if there was ever a superior product on the market, the department could switch.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Approving the CDBG Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York for the 2026 Watertown City School District Food 4 Families 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 support for the Food 4 Families Program in the Watertown City School District, and

WHEREAS the Annual Action Plan identifies the Food 4 Families activity to be $8,000 in funding for the purchase of food and associated supplies, and

WHEREAS the recipient of funds for the Food 4 Families Program will be the United Way of Northern New York, Inc., and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and United Way of Northern New York, Inc. for the CDBG funds has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York, Inc., for the Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Grant Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to United Way of Northern New York, Inc. for the 2026 Food 4 Families Program.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Pierce thanked the United Way for their assistance with this program.

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

Resolution No. 4 - Approving the CDBG Grant Agreement with the Watertown Urban Mission for the 2026 Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project

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 support for the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project, and

WHEREAS the Annual Action Plan identifies the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry activity to be $8,000 in funding for the purchase of food and associated supplies, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Urban Mission for the CDBG funds has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Grant Agreement with Watertown Urban Mission for the Watertown Urban Mission Food Pantry Project, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Grant Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to the Watertown Urban Mission for the 2026 Food Pantry Project.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen who voted nay.

Resolution No. 5 - Adopting the Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant 2024 Annual Action Plan

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS on May 20, 2024, the City Council adopted a resolution approving the City's Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2024 for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and

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WHEREAS the approved plan included various projects including a homebuyer program, an ADA ramp replacement project, a demolition project, a water main replacement project, a transitional housing SRO project and others and

WHEREAS two of the projects came in under budget and the City has proposed adding an additional project to the plan, which necessitates amending the plan to reflect the various budget adjustments and addition of the new project, and

WHEREAS Staff conducted outreach efforts with local constituency groups and the City Council held a public hearing on October 5, 2026, to solicit public comments regarding the proposed amendment, and

WHEREAS the draft amendment to the 2024 Annual Action Plan was completed and published on September 23, 2026, and was made available to the public for review and placed in various offices at City Hall, at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, at the Watertown Housing Authority offices and on the City's website, and

WHEREAS a 30-day public comment period for the draft amendment to the 2024 Annual Action Plan was held between September 23, 2026, and October 23, 2026, after a notice of the comment period was published in the *Watertown Daily Times*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby adopts the Amendment to the City of Watertown's CDBG Program Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2024, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution and authorizes the submission of the amendment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 6 - Approving Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with the New York State Department of Transportation for the Transportation Alternatives Program, Contract D040688 and Authorizing the Implementation, and Funding in the First Instance 100 Percent of the Federal-Aid and State "Marchiselli" Program-aid Eligible Costs, of a Transportation Federal-Aid Project, and Appropriating Funds Therefore

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball
WHEREAS a project for the Black River Trail Western Connection, P.I.N. 780788 (the Project) is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80 percent Federal funds and 20 percent local funds, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100 percent of the local share of the costs of the Final Design Phase, and

WHEREAS the project design will require revisions due to a change in scope and scale of the project, and

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WHEREAS the City of Watertown has requested an amendment to its agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to transfer funding from the Construction Phase to the Final Design Phase to cover the additional design costs, and

WHEREAS, at the request of the City, NYSDOT has prepared Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to Contract #D040688 under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, duly convened hereby approves Supplemental Agreement No. 2 to Contract #D040688 with NYSDOT for the above-subject project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the City Comptroller to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the cost of Final Design Phase work for the Project or portions thereof, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the additional $98,000 is hereby appropriated and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase of the Project, bringing the "Total All Sources Cost" of all design phases to $431,500, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the full federal and non-federal share costs of the project exceeds the amount appropriated above, the City of Watertown City Council shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon notification by the City Manager thereof, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and/or Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the City of Watertown with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the project and providing for the administration of the project and the municipality's first instance funding of project costs and permanent funding of the local share of federal aid eligible and state aid eligible Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations therefore that are not so eligible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Garrabrant asked if the resolution was reducing the costs covered by the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.

City Manager Wagenaar informed Council that the original design had to be altered due to some of the easements being withdrawn. He stated that the new design would readjust the trail location and indicated that this accounts for the increased cost.

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Council Member Osborne commented that he does not understand the utility of this trail project and would have preferred these funds to be allocated elsewhere. He expressed frustration that the City was paying more for a scaled-back project.

Mayor Pierce suggested there might have been better use for the funds, but indicated the project is already so far down the road with so many grant dollars spent to stop it now.

Council Member Kimball indicated that the project had been funded by the TAP Grant and had been in development for more than five years.

Council Member Shoen stated that he would vote against any additional spending on this project.

Council Member Garrabrant noted it was his understanding that the grant funding would have to be paid back if the project was not completed.

City Manager Wagenaar indicated this was true.

Council Member Garrabrant commented that if this was a new project he would vote no but added it would be more costly to the City to cancel the project now.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Approving Supplemental Agreement No. 1 Architectural/Engineering Consultant Agreement with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for Design Services for the Black River Trail Western Connection

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown applied for and received a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to design and construct a project identified as the Black River Trail Western Connection, and

WHEREAS the City is a participant in the Local Design Service Agreement (LDSA) program under NYSDOT Region 7, for which Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. is an eligible consultant, and

WHEREAS the City previously entered into an Architectural / Engineering Consultant Agreement with Barton & Loguidice, in the amount of $333,500 for design services for the Black River Trail Western Connection Project, and

WHEREAS a change in the scope and scale of the project has necessitated additional design work beyond the original value of the agreement with Barton & Loguidice, and

WHEREAS the City previously entered into a Federal Aid Local Project Agreement with NYSDOT for the project and executed Supplemental Agreement No. 2 with NYSDOT, which amends

the Federal Aid Local Project Agreement to shift additional grant funding from the Construction Phase of the project to the Final Design Phase, and

WHEREAS Barton & Loguidice D.P.C. has submitted Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to the Architectural / Engineering Consultant Agreement with the City, which adds $98,000 to the value of the original contract to pay for the additional design work,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Supplemental Agreement No.1 to the Architectural / Engineering Consultant Agreement with Barton & Loguidice for the Black River Trail Western Connection Project to increase the value of the contract by $98,000 to a new total contract value of $431,500, a copy of which is made part of this resolution, 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 except Council Member Douglas E. Osborne Jr and Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen who voted nay.

Resolution No. 8 - Authorizing the Watertown Fire Department to Apply for Grant Funding Through the Garrett W. Loomis Firefighters Fund for the Purchase of a New Forcible Entry Door Training Simulator

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the Garrett W. Loomis Firefighters Fund, administered through the Northern New York Community Foundation, provides grant funding to support fire education and training initiatives for fire departments in Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence Counties, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Fire Department seeks to enhance the training and professional development of its personnel through the acquisition of a forcible entry door training simulator, which will provide realistic, repeatable, hands-on training in essential forcible entry techniques used during emergency operations, and

WHEREAS forcible entry is an essential firefighting skill that enables firefighters to gain access to buildings during emergency incidents, and regular hands-on training is necessary to develop and maintain proficiency in these techniques, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Fire Department has regularly borrowed forcible entry training simulators from the Town of Watertown and Jefferson County, and while these arrangements have provided valuable training opportunities, acquiring a dedicated simulator would allow department personnel to train more frequently without relying on the availability of equipment from other agencies, and

WHEREAS the Fire Department is experiencing personnel turnover as veteran firefighters retire and new personnel are hired, making access to dedicated training equipment particularly valuable for instructing newly hired firefighters in essential firefighting skills and maintaining the proficiency of existing personnel, and

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WHEREAS grant funding of up to $10,000 is available through the Garrett W. Loomis Firefighters Fund to support eligible fire education and training initiatives, with an application deadline of November 13, 2026, and

WHEREAS the grant does not require a local funding match, and any portion of the purchase cost not covered by the grant award would be funded through the Fire Department's existing budget,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Watertown Fire Department to submit an application for grant funding of up to $10,000 through the Garrett W. Loomis Firefighters Fund for the purchase of a forcible entry door training simulator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fire Chief is hereby authorized and directed to prepare, execute, and submit the grant application and any related application materials on behalf of the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in the event the grant is awarded, the City Manager or their designee is hereby authorized to accept the grant award and execute any necessary documents associated with the grant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any portion of the purchase cost exceeding the grant award shall be funded through the Watertown Fire Department's existing budget.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Garrabrant, noting the resolution says the City Fire Department regularly borrows this piece of equipment from the Town of Watertown and Jefferson County, asked if the City still has access to the equipment.

Fire Chief Matthew Timerman explained that both lending departments use the equipment frequently and it is in demand often enough to warrant the City Fire Department obtaining their own equipment.

City Manager Wagenaar commented that members of the Police Department could also use the equipment in their training.

Council Member Garrabrant asked if the Fire Department would seek to obtain this equipment regardless of whether the grant was awarded.

City Manager Wagenaar indicated it could be added to next year’s budget.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budgets to Eliminate and Add Certain Positions in the Police Department

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Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS on May 21, 2026 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-27, of which $61,715,140 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget for the Police Department included the position of Secretary, and

WHEREAS the Police Chief recommends the elimination of the Secretary position and the addition of a Principal Account Clerk to better reflect what the current employee in the position duties and responsibilities are,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the elimination and creation of the following positions within the respective Fund and Department.

GENERAL FUND:	Eliminate	Add
Police Department (A.3120.0120)	Secretary	Principal Account Clerk

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby makes the following changes to the Fiscal Year 2026-27 General Fund Budget to fund the change in positions:

A.1990.0430	Contingency	($3,150)
A.3120.0120	Police – Clerical	$ 2,410
A.3120.0810	Police – NYS Retirement	$ 550
A.3120.0830	Police – Social Security	$ 190
Total		$ -

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Osborne asked if the purpose of this resolution was to create an administrative position to oversee record-keeping.

City Manager indicated that was a possibility but added the change was to account for expanded duties of the position within the department.

Chief Lyon explained that, after consulting with Human Resources and Civil Service, it was determined that the Principal Account Clerk more accurately described the position. She added that not only would they like to retain the person currently holding the position, but, in the event that there was a need to hire in the future, the department would like to keep that skill level.

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

O L D B U S I N E S S

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Ordinance 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 on October 19, 2026; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2026 Minutes Book on page 26 of the 10/19/2026 minutes).

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to withdraw the introduction and second for the foregoing ordinance. Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen.

Ordinance Withdrawn.

N E W B U S I N E S S

ZooNY
Council Member Garrabrant congratulated ZooNY on their choice of a new Zoo Director and added that he hoped the Zoo could keep up the positive momentum. He mentioned he and his family had gone to the Boo at the Zoo, and it was very highly attended. He suggested the Zoo release the attendance numbers.

Legal Fees and Overtime Costs
Council Member Garrabrant mentioned there had been a recent Watertown Daily Times article regarding the City's legal fees and he expressed an interest in Council being informed of these costs. He proposed City staff keep Council updated on expected and routine costs such as legal fees and department overtime. He commented that the public expects Council to scrutinize the City's expenditures and indicated that a quarterly report of real-time trending data would help Council do its job.

Boo at the Zoo
Council Member Kimball informed Council that he had heard attendance numbers for Boo at the Zoo were over 4,000 and added that the beautiful weather for the two-weekend event had certainly helped. He also mentioned the Zoo would be displaying its two new mountain lions and noted fall hours were now in effect.

Election Day
Council Member Kimball advised Council and the public that the next day was Election Day and suggested everyone get out and vote.

Police Chief Lyon
Council Member Kimball advised that he had recently been to a food insecurity conference where he had a chance to meet and talk with the new Police Chief. He indicated that he found her to be very personable and complimented her work with the City of Watertown.

Response to Privilege of the Floor - Mr. Battista's Comments
Council Member Osborne requested an update on the situation at 518 Coffeen Street.

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City Manager Wagenaar informed Council that the City does not own the property and will not own it until it goes into foreclosure. He advised that vacant properties would be a topic at the next Council work session.

Legal Fees and Overtime Costs (continued)
Council Member Osborne said he was in support of Council Member Garrabrant's suggestion for quarterly reports regarding City costs. He indicated this could be beneficial for Council.

WHS Cyclone Boys Soccer
Council Member Osborne commended the Watertown Cyclone Boys' Soccer team on their win at Sectionals.

Election Day (continued)
Council Member Shoen encouraged voters to go to the polls tomorrow, noting that many of the costs of running a City come from State mandates and noted that many of the mandates are often unfunded which adds to the City's financial burden.

City-Owned Lots
Council Member Shoen indicated he would like the opportunity to unload any City lots that could be unloaded.

On-Street Parking
Council Member Shoen reminded the public that seasonal parking is in effect and advised that there is no parking on City streets between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

Council Office Hours
Mayor Pierce offered three potential dates for the City Council office hours at Flower Memorial Library and noted that, once a date was finalized, she would put out a press release. She noted that the City Police Chief was going to be included.

Citizen of Quarter
Mayor Pierce stated she would continue to recognize a Citizen of the Quarter and mentioned she had most recently recognized Kathy Plante-Hunt for her 20 years of effort in the Arsenal Street Cemetery. She noted she was accepting nominees for future recognition.

Halloween Decorating Contest
Mayor Pierce noted her decorating contest was ongoing even though many homes were switching out for Christmas decorations. She indicated voting continues until November 6th.

Veterans' Day
Mayor Pierce advised that on Veterans' Day there would be a celebration at the VFW with coffee and donuts at 9 a.m. and a ceremony at 10 a.m.

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual or corporation, or matters leading to the

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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 7:38 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:42 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 City Clerk

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