CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
November 16, 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: Brandi Smith, James Mills, Michael Lumbis, Aaron Harvill, Police Chief Cristin Lyon, Erica Anderson

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Request for Shuttle Bus Service, Northern Choral Society
- Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid #2026-21 Portable Forensic Photography System – Cortexflo Portable 2.0 or Equivalent to Fernico Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Proposal for RFP #2026-09 – Fixed Route Transit System Evaluation & Service Planning Study from Foursquare ITP
- Resolution No. 4 – Adopting the Revised General Municipal Law § 239-m Referral Exemption Framework and Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with Jefferson County
- Resolution No. 5 – Accepting GHD Consulting Services Inc. Amendment No. 1 for Professional Bidding and Construction Phase Services for the City of Watertown Pollution Control Facility Biosolids Hopper and Polymer Make-up System Replacement
- Resolution No. 6 – Authorizing Amendment No. 8 of the Professional Services Agreement with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. for the Water Treatment Plant Disinfection By-Product Project
- Resolution No. 7 – Accepting Cost Proposal from Wright Pierce for Phase 1 Reservoir Lining for the New Water Storage Tank, Lining and Transmission Main
- Resolution No. 8 - Authorizing New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Infrastructure and Implementation Grant Application

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 2, 2026 and work session of November 9, 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.

C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

An email was received from Cliff Olney, requesting an immediate review of the City's decision to close Waterworks Park during a water-main replacement project.

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A letter was received from the Friends of Thompson Park offering support for Council's continued efforts to find a way to keep the Watertown Golf Club operational and preserve the course as a destination for residents and visitors.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Christopher Tehonica, no address given, addressed Council to commend the Parks and Recreation Department for the fantastic job they do with both youth and adult sports. He specifically thanked Jerry Romig, Jim Scordo and Scott Weller.

Jonathan Phillips, North Side, addressed Council about dilapidated houses on West Main Street, stating he had emailed members of Council and received no response. He cited his concerns with delays in the CitiBus routes on Veterans' Day. He also offered his support for Jake Johnson's involvement with the City Golf Course.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Request for Shuttle Bus Service, Northern Choral Society

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the Northern Choral Society has performed a holiday concert at the Asbury United Methodist Church for the benefit of the citizens for years, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown had graciously provided shuttle bus service for this concert at no charge to the riders or the Northern Choral Society since 2004, and

WHEREAS the Northern Choral Society has requested continuation of the limited shuttle service for its 2026 holiday concerts,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, approves providing limited shuttle bus service between the designated parking lots and the concert venue, at no charge for the Northern Choral Society concert planned for Saturday, December 5th and Sunday, December 6th, 2026, at the Asbury United Methodist Church on Franklin Street.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Garrabrant requested information on the total cost of this service and whether the amount had been budgeted for.

City Manager Wagenaar replied that this was an annual expenditure with minimal costs, but he could get that information.

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

Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid #2026-21 Portable Forensic Photography System – Cortexflo Portable 2.0 or Equivalent to Fernico Inc.

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Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City desires the purchase, delivery, and training of a Portable Forensic Photography System – Cortexflo Portable 2.0 or Equivalent**,** per departmental specifications for use by the City's Police Department, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received one (1) sealed bid for the Portable Forensic Photography System – Cortexflo Portable 2.0 or Equivalent, and

WHEREAS on October 22, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, reviewed the bids received with the Police Department and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted by Fernico Inc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the total bid price received from Fernico Inc. in the amount of $20,024.00, and

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

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

Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Proposal for RFP #2026-09 – Fixed Route Transit System Evaluation & Service Planning Study from Foursquare ITP

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City desires to contract with a qualified vendor to provide a Fixed Route Transit System Evaluation and Service Planning Study, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received six (6) sealed proposals for the Fixed Route Transit System Evaluation and Service Planning Study, and

WHEREAS on September 22, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the proposals received were opened, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the proposals received with the Transit Director, Brandi Smith, and in consultation with the Review Committee, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the proposal submitted by Foursquare ITP, and

WHEREAS the Fixed Route Transit System Evaluation and Service Planning Study will be funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307-Urbanized Area Formula Grant NY-2022-060-05-01 (80%), NYSDOT funding (10%) and the General Fund as appropriated by the City Council within the fiscal year 2026-27 Adopted Budget (10%),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the proposal received from Foursquare ITP in the amount of $159,885.40, and

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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

Council Member Osborne stated that he had researched the company and wondered how much influence Foursquare was going to have on the proposed transit site.

Transit Director Brandi Smith informed Council that this had been in the works for several years and the intention was to analyze routes and make them more efficient and reliable. She noted that study would include ideas for a transit site with the best potential.

Council Member Garrabrant asked why three companies with lower bids had been bypassed.

Ms. Smith explained that the committee had chosen the company with the most experience in New York State and the North Country. She mentioned that the other companies' experience was in the Midwest and in California. She also noted that Foursquare had the most experience with transit systems the size of Watertown's.

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

Resolution No. 4 – Adopting the Revised General Municipal Law § 239-m Referral Exemption Framework and Authorizing an Intermunicipal Agreement with Jefferson County

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, New York State General Municipal Law (GML) § 239-m requires local municipal planning boards, zoning boards of appeals, and town/village/city boards to refer certain land use, planning, and zoning actions located within 500 feet of specified features—including state or county roads, municipal boundaries, and certified agricultural districts—to the county planning agency for review and recommendation, and

WHEREAS, GML § 239-m(3)(c) explicitly provides that a county legislative body and a municipal governing body may enter into an agreement identifying classes of actions that are primarily of local concern and therefore exempt from regional referral requirements, and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators, on July 7, 2026, duly adopted Resolution No. 204, approving a revised General Municipal Law § 239-M Referral Exemption Framework aimed at reducing bureaucratic red tape, eliminating unnecessary administrative delays, and streamlining local economic development for land use matters that are of purely local concern, and

WHEREAS, the Jefferson County Board of Legislators has authorized the Chairman of the Board of Legislators to execute reciprocal intermunicipal agreements with participating local municipalities within Jefferson County to implement this 2026 framework at no cost to the County, subject to each participating municipality's adoption of a corresponding resolution, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Watertown finds that adopting this reciprocal exemption list will significantly increase local administrative efficiency and expedite routine zoning

reviews while ensuring that critical regional assets, such as state/county highway access, municipal boundaries, and airport safety zones, remain fully protected under county-level review,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts and approves the 2026 Updated Section 239-M Referral Exemption Framework, whereby the following specific categories of local planning, zoning, and land use actions shall be exempt from mandatory referral to the Jefferson County Planning Board, subject to the conditions and exceptions set forth herein:

(1) Small-Scale Nonresidential Development: Site plans or special permits for nonresidential structures under 2,000 square feet (threshold increased to 5,000 square feet within municipalities employing staff planners), provided that the project: does not include a drive-through or fuel pumps; does not create a new curb cut on a state or county road; does not involve outdoor storage or processing; does not involve towers or energy facilities; and the parcel is not located within 500 feet of a municipal boundary.

(2) Area Variances for Permitted Uses: Area variances for permitted uses, provided that the variance: does not involve building/structure height; does not affect access to a state or county road; does not occur adjacent to a municipal boundary; and does not affect airport compatibility (FAA or DOD Part 77) imaginary surfaces.

(3) Signage: Site plans, special permits, or variances for signs, provided that: the sign is not located within 100 feet of an intersection with a state or county roadway; or the sign does not exceed 25 feet in height and is not located within airport approach or imaginary surface zones associated with Watertown International Airport or Wheeler Sack Army Airfield.

(4) Agricultural District Trigger: Actions requiring referral solely due to proximity to a certified agricultural district, except for: projects that disturb more than 1 acre or result in 50% or more impervious lot coverage; wind turbines; and battery storage facilities.

(5) Accessory Structures and Uses: Site plans or variances for accessory structures, including garages, sheds, decks, pools, electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, and similar structures, unless: the structure exceeds 25 feet in height; the structure is directly adjacent to state or county property; or the structure is within airport takeoff approach zones (FAA Part 77 Imaginary Surfaces).

(6) EV Charging Stations (Accessory Installations): EV charging stations installed as accessory infrastructure within existing parking lots, with the exception that large charging facilities, charging plazas as the primary use, or projects involving significant site reconstruction shall always require referral.

(7) Telecommunications Co-Location: Modification, replacement, or co-location of telecommunications equipment (e.g., antennae) on existing towers or structures, with the exception that the construction of new towers requires full county review.

(8) On-site Consumption Solar and Small Accessory Energy Systems: On-site consumption solar installations, battery storage facilities, and accessory solar systems serving a principal use, with the

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explicit exception that utility-scale solar, battery storage facilities (as a primary use), and wind turbines always require county review.

(9) Temporary Uses: Uses that do not require building permits, have a duration of less than one year, and are considered temporary, including temporary construction trailers, seasonal structures, short-term RV permits, and farmers' markets or flea markets.

(10) Zoning Board Interpretations: Zoning interpretations rendered by the Zoning Board of Appeals, as purely local administrative determinations.

(11) Administrative Zoning Amendments: Amendments to municipal zoning laws addressing fees, procedures, enforcement, and administrative corrections, which do not change land use patterns or development intensity.

(12) Renewals or Extensions of Existing Approvals: Renewals or extensions of previously approved site plans or special permits that contain no material changes from previous approvals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager of the City of Watertown is hereby authorized and directed to execute the reciprocal Intermunicipal Exemption Agreement with Jefferson County to formalize the implementation of this framework, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution, upon its adoption, to the Jefferson County Department of Planning and Community Development, 175 Arsenal Street, Watertown, NY 13601.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Council Member Garrabrant commented that he had no issue with the proposed agreement but requested that City staff look further ahead to expand the list moving forward.

City Attorney Joseph Frateschi explained that there was not much latitude, but the City could explore further.

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

Resolution No. 5 – Accepting GHD Consulting Services Inc. Amendment No. 1 for Professional Bidding and Construction Phase Services for the City of Watertown Pollution Control Facility Biosolids Hopper and Polymer Make-up System Replacement

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, the City's Pollution Control Facility identified the need for replacement of the existing plate and frame press biosolids hopper conveyor and polymer make-up system; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved Resolution No.1 on May 6, 2024, authorizing a Professional Services Agreement between the City and GHD Consulting Inc. (GHD) in the amount of $82,000.00 for engineering design services associated with the Biosolids Hopper and Polymer Make-up System Projects. With the Agreement executed on August 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized capital funding for the Biosolids Hopper Upgrade and Polymer Make-up System in FY 2026-2027, including $3,000,000 for biosolids hopper replacement to be funded through the issuance of a 10-year serial bond with the polymer make up system funded through a transfer from Sewer Fund G9950.0900 in the amount of $220,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the City Water Department requested a proposal from GHD for professional bidding and construction-phase services associated with the replacement of the biosolids hopper conveyors, and the polymer make-up system; and

WHEREAS, GHD submitted Amendment No. 1 for the bid services, construction administration and construction oversight in the amount of $131,850.00. The cost of professional services brought to $213,850,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Professional Services Agreement between the City and GHD in the amount of $131,850, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a 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.

Resolution No. 6 – Authorizing Amendment No. 8 of the Professional Services Agreement with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. for the Water Treatment Plant Disinfection By-Product Project

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, GHD Consulting Services Inc., and the City of Watertown entered into a Professional Services Agreement dated April 5, 2022 to perform engineering services to reduce levels of disinfection by products entering the distribution system, in the amount of $43,900, and

WHEREAS the agreement with GHD was first amended to accommodate the pilot study which increased the contract by $663,000, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 2 added $20,405 to the cost for a funding schedule, an interim report, SEQR assistance, WIIA/IMG funding assistance, DCIP funding assistance, and additional services, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 3 added $49,300 to the cost for lease extension on Pilot Enclosure No. 2 by 2 weeks, an archaeological assessment, and additional sampling, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 4 added $2,925,000 to the cost for the design of a new flocculation/sedimentation basin, addition of an ozonation system to the WTP, and converting existing filters to GAC, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 5 incorporated NYSEFC mandatory terms and conditions to the GHD agreement with the City, at no additional cost, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 6 added $67,400 to the cost for relocation of the ozone system from the WTP to the new flocculation/sedimentation building, submitting a supplemental 30% design deliverable, bringing the contract total to $3,769,005, and

WHEREAS GHD Consulting Services Inc. has submitted Amendment No. 7 for the raw water pump station redesign, the updated to the EPA administrative order, additional geotechnical services, added design work, additional services, and

WHEREAS GHD Consulting Services Inc. has submitted Amendment No. 8 for additional services already provided, the redesign of the project into a phased construction, construction administration, resident project representative, special inspections, material testing, post construction services and additional service allowance, and

WHEREAS funding for this change order is from the bond ordinance approved by City Council on April 15, 2024,

NOW THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 8 of the Professional Services Agreement with GHD Consulting Service, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, to include the additional services increase of $3,492,350.00, bringing the contract total to $7,458,468.00, and

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

Prior to the vote on Resolution 6, Council Member Garrabrant announced that he would be abstaining from the vote on this resolution and Resolution 7 due to potential conflicts of interest since his employer is a subconsultant with GHD and also has connections to Wright Pierce.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Shane P. Garrabrant who abstained.

Resolution No. 7 – Accepting Cost Proposal from Wright Pierce for Phase 1 Reservoir Lining for the New Water Storage Tank, Lining and Transmission Main

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2025 the City readopted the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget to add the Thompson Park Reservoir Reconstruction/Rehabilitation Project at an estimated maximum cost of $12,000,000.; and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown entered into an Agreement dated April 22nd, 2025 with Wright Pierce Engineering Consultants. Agreement is entitled Drinking Water Reservoir Engineering Services at a cost of $15,000 for the development and submission of a preliminary engineering report to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC); and

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WHEREAS On August 4, 2025 Council authorized the City Manager to apply for grant funding through the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, including the Water Infrastructure Improvement ACT (WIIA) and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF); and

WHEREAS, on October 6 2025 Council appropriated an additional $7,700.00 for Wright Pierce to develop and submit an application for funding from the New York State EFC Water Infrastructure Investment Act (WIIA) for the re-lining of the 5.0 MG reservoir; and

WHEREAS, on December 19, 2025 the City was awarded $5,000,000 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF); and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2026 The City posted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the project in accordance with the procurement requirements of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). On June 17, 2026 The City received RFQ and following the review procedure scheduled interviews with the top 2 scoring firms. Interviews were conducted on August 24 and August 25, 2026. Wright Pierce was selected and a cost proposal for the design services was requested; and

WHEREAS, Wright Pierce has submitted a split phase cost proposal for the East Reservoir Replacement Project that includes design, hydraulic modeling, bid services and construction administration and oversight. Phase 1 Reservoir Lining, encompasses planning, design, bid services, construction administration and system hydraulic modeling at a cost of $600,000.00; and

WHEREAS, Phase 2 Water Storage Tank and Transmission Main Modifications, planning, design bid services, construction administration and system hydraulic modeling associated with the aboveground tank will be proposed as an amendment in the future;

NOW THERFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Professional Services as outlined in the attached agreement in the amount of $600,000.00 between the City of Watertown and Wright Pierce, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.
Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Motion was made by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen to table the foregoing resolution. Motion was seconded by Council Member Douglas E. Osborne Jr.

Council Member Shoen said he would like more time to review the lengthy agreement.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the motion to table the resolution and it was carried with all voting yea.

Council Member Garrabrant returned to Chambers.

Resolution No. 8 - Authorizing New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Infrastructure and Implementation Grant Application

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Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Police Department is seeking City Council approval to apply for grant funding under the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Infrastructure and Implementation Program, and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is to support infrastructure and initiatives directly related to the implementation of New York State's Extreme Risk Protection Order law, and

WHEREAS the application, in an amount not to exceed $1,500,000 over a 36-month period with no required City match, would seek funding for additional secure firearms storage, overtime for ERPO-related activities, ERPO-related training and associated expenses, and attorney consultation services, and

WHEREAS grant funding must supplement, not supplant, funds already allocated for these activities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Police Department to submit a grant application under the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Infrastructure and Implementation Program, and

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

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

STAFF REPORTS

Amending the City of Watertown's 2023 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to schedule a Public Hearing regarding amending the City of Watertown's 2023 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Monday, December 7 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

NEW BUSINESS

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Phillips' Comments

Council Member Garrabrant stated he had emailed Mr. Phillips requesting the exact address of the property he had concerns about.

Nuclear Energy

Council Member Garrabrant informed Council that he would like to move forward with exploring nuclear energy potential and said he had drafted a letter.

Hydroelectric Contract

Council Member Garrabrant expressed his frustration and disappointment with the recent work session presentation regarding hydroelectricity. He commented that it seemed to him that the City was back at

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"step zero" and were not making any progress. Stating that time is of the essence as the City nears the end of the hydro contract, he suggested Council needs to be more involved and he requested monthly updates. Council Member Garrabrant noted that renegotiating with National Grid may not be the best answer.

Cannabis Revenue
Council Member Kimball informed Council that the first cannabis revenue had been received and the total was around $14,000.

Tax Exemptions
Council Member Kimball requested that Council have further discussions about full exemptions for totally disabled veterans and potential changes in exemption level for lower income residents so they can make a decision.

Hydroelectric Contract (continued)
Referring to Council Member Garrabrant's comments, Council Member Kimball indicated that he is not that concerned with the time, noting there were still four years left on the contract. He stated that the City was not that far behind and reminded Council that the relicensing must come first.

Council Member Osborne said he shared Council Member Garrabrant's sense of urgency regarding the hydro contract, noting the City has been working on this for the last 10-20 years and he is not sure that waiting another year and a half to two years will give the City ample time to make decisions.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Tehonica's Comments
Council Member Osborne thanked Mr. Tehonica for his comments regarding Parks and Rec and said it was good to hear positive feedback.

Watertown's Police and Fire Departments
Council Member Osborne commended the city's Police Department for their handling of a man waving a gun on Public Square and for the Fire Department's assistance in the tragic bus accident in Henderson. He noted his appreciation for all first responders.

City Council Office Hours
Council Osborne reminded the public that there would be Council Office Hours at the Library from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Phillips' Comments (continued)
Council Member Shoen stated that he had emailed Mr. Phillips to notify him that the property he cited has been brought to the City's attention before. He noted that there are numerous properties throughout the City in as bad or worse condition. He noted that he is still interested in pursuing the possibility of a land bank.

Hydroelectric Contract (continued)
Council Member Shoen advised that he shared the opinions of Council members Garrabrant and Osborne that there is urgency in addressing the end of the hydro contract. He noted that this has been discussed since long before he was on Council and there have been a number of committees and studies.

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He commented that in his 2 years and 10 months in his position as Councilman, there has been little progress made. He added his support for looking at alternative energy production.

Council Member Garrabrant added that he strongly suggests Council does not have plenty of time and that the timeline is shrinking.

Council Member Shoen agreed and said he appreciates the urgency.

Thanksgiving
Council Member Shoen wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Council Office Hours (continued)
Mayor Pierce reminded Council and the public that the Council Office Hours would be held at the library on Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Thursday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Response to Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Phillips' Comments (continued)
Mayor Pierce informed Mr. Phillips that she had also responded to his email.

Ribbon-Cutting
Mayor Pierce advised Council that there would be a ribbon-cutting 5 p.m. on Wednesday at the new Spark by Hilton, formerly the Best Western.

Halloween House Decorating Contest
Mayor Pierce announced that 537 Davidson was the winner of her Halloween House Decorating Contest.

Crows
Mayor Pierce mentioned she has received complaints from residents regarding the crows and asked if crow hazing should be considered even though it was removed from this year's budget.

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 7:36 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to come out of Executive Session.
Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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Mayor Pierce announced that Council had a resolution before them and would be voting tonight.

Resolution No, 9 - Rejecting the Proposal for the Lease and Operation of Thompson Park Golf Course and Authorizing Reissuance of the Request for Proposals

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown issued Request for Proposals No. 2026-11 on September 3, 2026, seeking 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., and

WHEREAS on October 19, 2026, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 9, authorizing the City Manager to designate a staff negotiating team, with assistance from the City Attorney, to review the proposal and negotiate a proposed lease agreement with Jefferson County Business Services, Inc., and

WHEREAS that resolution authorized negotiations only and expressly provided that it did not constitute acceptance of the proposal, award of a lease, or authorization to execute an agreement, and

WHEREAS representatives of Jefferson County Business Services, Inc. presented an amended proposal and responded to questions at the City Council work session held on November 9, 2026, and

WHEREAS the notice for Request for Proposals No. 2026-11 reserved the City's right to reject any or all proposals deemed not to be in the best interest of the City, and

WHEREAS after considering the proposal and the information presented at the work session, the City Council has determined that proceeding with the proposal is not in the best interest of the City and that proposals should be solicited again for the lease and operation of Thompson Park Golf Course,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby rejects the proposal submitted by Jefferson County Business Services, Inc. in response to Request for Proposals No. 2026-11, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the authorization to negotiate with Jefferson County Business Services, Inc. granted by Resolution No. 9, adopted October 19, 2026, is hereby rescinded, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, through the Purchasing Department and with assistance from the City Attorney, is hereby authorized and directed to reissue the Request for Proposals for the lease and operation of Thompson Park Golf Course and establish a new proposal submission deadline.

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

(Note: While this resolution was voted on and adopted on following executive session, the resolution is being re-presented and re-considered out of an abundance of caution due to a procedural irregularity. Please see Special Meeting on November 19, 2026 for the correct version of the resolution.)

A D J O U R N M E N T

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At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by motion of Council Member Robert O. Kimball seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

City Attorney Frateschi notified Council that they had overlooked the required waiver before voting on Resolution No. 9 and, since the meeting had already been adjourned, the resolution would need to be reconsidered at a future meeting.

Lisa M. Carr
Deputy City Clerk

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