CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
November 19, 2026
11:30 a.m.

Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce Presiding

Present:	**Council Member Shane A. Garrabrant** **Council Member Douglas E. Osborne, Jr.** **Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen** **Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce**
Absent:	**Council Member Robert O. Kimball**
Also Present:	**Eric F. Wagenaar, City Manager**

City staff present: Keely Barney, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Erica Anderson

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution 1 - Rejecting the Proposal for the Lease and Operation of Thompson Park Golf Course and Authorizing Reissuance of the Request for Proposals

Mayor Pierce read the notice of the Special Meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one spoke.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1 - 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 Benjamin P. Shoen

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

DRAFT

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 Shane A. Garrabrant

Prior to the vote Council Member Osborne read from a prepared statement indicating his goal as council member has been to ensure a fair and transparent process regarding the golf course and to shed the liability and controversy surrounding that property. He mentioned that the previous Request For Proposal (RFP) had yielded only one submission by the deadline from Andrea Doane. Council Member Osborne went on to explain that the City has now received two additional proposals from Ms. Doane as well as an additional proposal from another interested party. He stated that, in the interest of fairness, the only option for Council and the City is to repeat the RFP process and start over.

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

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 11:37 a.m. by motion of Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen, seconded by Council Member Shane A. Garrabrant and carried with all present voting in favor thereof.

Lisa M. Carr
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT