

CITY OF WATERTOWN, NEW YORK

AGENDA

Monday, July 3, 2023

7:00 p.m.

This shall serve as notice that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council will be held on Monday, July 3, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 245 Washington Street, Watertown, New York.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS

PROCLAMATION

Carl A. McLaughlin Day

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTIONS

- Resolution No. 1 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 Capital Fund Budgets and Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget– American Rescue Plan Act Funded Projects
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Change Order No. 1 with Luck Bros., Inc. for the Academy, High, Mill Streets Pavement Rehabilitation & ADA Ramps Project
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Changes to Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule – Pool Rental Fees

ORDINANCES

- Ordinance No. 1 – Amending City Municipal Code §293-58, Schedule X: Stop Intersections
- Ordinance No. 2 – Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, §301-28 Bulk Water Charges

LOCAL LAW

OLD BUSINESS

STAFF REPORTS

1. Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Streetscape Parking Alternatives
2. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program
3. Town of Watertown Fire District Inquiry
4. Thompson Park Hours

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WORK SESSION

Next Work Session is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment until Thursday, July 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING IS MONDAY, July 17, 2023.

Res. No. 1

June 26, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager

Subject: Readopting Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24 Capital Fund Budgets – American Rescue Plan Act Funded Projects

On June 12th City Council discussed numerous projects that were to be funded with American Rescue Plan Act (APRA) funds. Due to being oversubscribed with ARPA funded projects, cost increases to current ARPA projects, and the desire to use ARPA funds for the Disinfection By-Products Project, changes are needed to be made to the ARPA project list.

Consensus seemed to be reached on deleting the following projects that were to be funded by ARPA.

Sidewalk Program	\$ 2,134,060
City Hall 2nd Floor Reconfiguration	220,000
Bus Relocation Design	20,000
DPW Facility Design	200,000
Thompson Park Renovation (Reduced)	3,000,000
Zoo Phase 1	1,000,000
Black River Parks & Trails - Factory Square Park to Factory Street	100,000
Black River Parks & Trails - Vegetation Management (Reduced)	50,000
Fire - Emma Flower Fire Station Front Apron Replacement	120,000
Thompson Park Golf Cart Pre-Engineered Metal Storage Building	<u>350,000</u>
Total	\$ 7,194,060

As I indicated at the Work Session, we have been doing the City Hall 2nd Floor renovations with City employees and we wish to continue with that. I am proposing that \$20,000 be appropriated from Fund Balance for that work.

The attached resolution re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2022-23 and Fiscal Year 2023-24 Capital Budgets and the Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget to remove or reduce the projects, and adds \$20,000 from Fund Balance for the City Hall 2nd Floor renovations.

RESOLUTION

Page 1 of 2

Readopting Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24
Capital Fund Budgets and Fiscal Year 2023-24
General Fund Budget– American Rescue
Plan Act Funded Projects

Council Member HICKEY, Patrick J.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Mayor SMITH, Jeffrey M.

Total

YEA	NAY

Introduced by

WHEREAS on June 6, 2022 the City Council adopted the Fiscal Years 2022-23 through 2026-27 Capital Budget, and

WHEREAS on June 5, 2023 the City Council adopted the Fiscal Years 2023-24 through 2027-28 Capital Budget as well as the Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS the Capital Budgets included projects to be funded with American Rescue Plan Act funds, and

WHEREAS the City does not have enough American Rescue Plan Act funds to finance all the projects identified as American Rescue Plan Act projects, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Capital Budget to delete or reduce the following projects due to lack of available American Rescue Plan funds:

Sidewalk Program	\$ 2,134,060
City Hall 2nd Floor Reconfiguration	220,000
Bus Relocation Design	20,000
DPW Facility Design	200,000
Thompson Park Renovation	3,000,000
Zoo Phase 1	1,000,000
Black River Parks & Trails - Factory Square Park to Factory Street	<u>100,000</u>
Total	\$ 6,674,060

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-

RESOLUTION

Page 2 of 2

Readopting Fiscal Year 2022-23 and 2023-24
Capital Fund Budgets and Fiscal Year 2023-24
General Fund Budget– American Rescue
Plan Act Funded Projects

Council Member HICKEY, Patrick J.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Mayor SMITH, Jeffrey M.

Total

YEA	NAY

adopts the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Capital Budget to delete or reduce the following projects due to lack of available American Rescue Plan funds:

Fire Station Front Apron Replacement	\$ 120,000
Thompson Park Golf Cart Storage Building	<u>350,000</u>
Total	\$ 470,000

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget to provide partial funding for the City Hall 2nd floor reconfiguration:

A.0000.0909 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 20,000
A.1620.0460 Municipal Building – Materials and Supplies	\$ 20,000

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2023-24 General Fund Budget to reduce the following project due to lack of available American Rescue Plan funds:

A.0000.4960 Federal Aid – Disaster Assistance	(\$ 50,000)
A.7110.0430 Parks and Playgrounds Maintenance – Contracted Services (River Parks Vegetation Management)	(\$ 50,000)

Seconded by

Res. No. 2

June 26, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager

Subject: Approving Change Order No. 1 with Luck Bros., Inc. for the Academy, High, Mill Streets Pavement Rehabilitation & ADA Sidewalk Ramps Project

On October 3, 2022, City Council approved the Academy, High, Mill Streets Pavement Rehabilitation and ADA Sidewalk Ramp project at a price of \$969,319.

To make the sidewalk corner ramps ADA compliant, additional existing sidewalk needed to be removed and lowered adjacent to the street corners. The total additional work is 1998.35 ft² of sidewalk at the unit price of \$35/ft² for an additional \$69,942.15.

This project is being funded by a combination of CHIPS and CDBG funds. A resolution approving the Change Order has been prepared for City Council consideration.

RESOLUTION

Page 1 of 1

Approving Change Order No.1 with
Luck Bros., Inc. for the Academy, High,
Mill Streets Pavement Rehabilitation &
ADA Ramps Project

Council Member HICKEY, Patrick J.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Mayor SMITH, Jeffrey M.

Total

YEA	NAY

Introduced by _____

WHEREAS the City is rehabilitating Academy, High, and Mill Streets including paving and reconstructing sidewalk corner ramps to comply with current ADA guidelines, and

WHEREAS on October 3, 2022, City Council approved a Contract with Luck Bros., Inc. in the amount of \$969,319 for the construction of Academy, High, Mill Streets Pavement Rehabilitation & ADA Ramps, and

WHEREAS to make the sidewalk corner ramps ADA compliant, additional sidewalk adjacent to the street corners was required to be removed and lowered, and

WHEREAS Luck Bros., Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$69,942.25 for the additional sidewalk,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Contract Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$69,942.25, between the City of Watertown and Luck Bros., Inc. a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, bringing the total of the project to \$1,039,261.25 and

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

Seconded by _____

Change Order

No. 1

Date of Issuance: June 23, 2023

Effective Date: July 3, 2023

Project: Academy High Mill Pavement Rehabilitation & ADA Sidewalk Ramps

Owner: City of Watertown, NY

Owner's Contract No.:

Contract: Academy High Mill Streets Pavement Rehabilitation and ADA Ramps

Date of Contract: October 7, 2022

Contractor: Luck Brothers Inc,

Engineer's Project No.:

The Contract Documents are modified as follows upon execution of this Change Order:

Description: Addition of 1998.35 Square Feet of sidewalk on various intersection to blend into the new ADA sidewalk ramps.

Attachments: (List documents supporting change):

CHANGE IN CONTRACT PRICE:

Original Contract Price:

\$ 969,319.00

[Increase] [Decrease] from previously approved Change Orders No. _____ to No. _____:

\$ N/A

Contract Price prior to this Change Order:

\$ 969,319.00

Increase of this Change Order:

\$ 69,942.25

Contract Price incorporating this Change Order:

\$ 1,039,261.25

CHANGE IN CONTRACT TIMES:

Original Contract Times: ☐ Working days ☐ Calendar days

Substantial completion (days or date): June 30, 2023

Ready for final payment (days or date): _____

Increase from previously approved Change Orders

No. _____ to No. _____:

Substantial completion (days): _____

Ready for final payment (days): _____

Contract Times prior to this Change Order:

Substantial completion (days or date): _____

Ready for final payment (days or date): _____

Increase of this Change Order:

Substantial completion (days or date): 45 days

Ready for final payment (days or date): _____

Contract Times with all approved Change Orders:

Substantial completion (days or date) August 14, 2023

Ready for final payment (days or date): _____

RECOMMENDED:

By: 

Engineer (Authorized Signature)

Date: 6/23/23

Approved by Funding Agency (if applicable): _____

ACCEPTED:

By: _____

Owner (Authorized Signature)

Date: _____

ACCEPTED:

By: 

Contractor (Authorized Signature)

Date: 6/27/23

Date: _____

Res No. 3

June 27, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager

Subject: Approving Changes to City Fees and Charges Schedule – Pool Rental Fees

The City Council requested a fee structure for renting the swimming pools on an hourly basis to groups. The Superintendent of Parks and Recreation is suggesting \$150 per hour for one or two hours for groups up to 25 persons. For larger groups \$25 will be added per hour per lifeguard.

The resolution attached for City Council consideration amends the FY 2023-2024 City Fees and Charges Schedule with the described fees.

RESOLUTION

Page 1 of 1

Approving Changes to Annual City Fees
And Charges Schedule – Pool Rentals Fees

Council Member HICKEY, Patrick J.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Mayor SMITH, Jeffrey M.

Total

YEA	NAY

Introduced by _____

WHEREAS 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 2023-2024 City Fees and Charges Schedule was adopted by City Council on June 5, 2023 when the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget was adopted, and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to rent the swimming pools for group activities,

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:

Pool Rental (Groups of 25 or less)	\$150 per hour for one or two hours
Larger Groups	\$25 added per hour per lifeguard

Seconded by _____

Ord No. 1

June 27, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Kenneth Mix, City Manager

Subject: Amending City Municipal Code §293-58, Vehicles
Schedule X: Stop Intersections

The 300 block of Meadow Street North is a dead-end with its outlet on Newell Street. There is currently no Stop sign at this intersection and the City Code does not call for one. Signs directing who has the right-of-way are needed at every intersection.

Traffic from the Transitional Living Services building at 482 Black River Pkwy and the Apartment building of 497 Newell Street both flow onto Meadow Street North. There is a need to codify a stop sign on Meadow Street North at the intersection with Newell Street. An Ordinance that does this has been prepared for City Council consideration.

ORDINANCE

Page 1 of 1

Amending City Municipal Code §293-58,
Schedule X: Stop Intersections

Council Member Hickey, Patrick J.

Council Member Olney III, Clifford G.

Council Member Pierce, Sarah V. C.

Council Member Ruggiero, Lisa A.

Mayor Smith, Jeffrey M.

Total

YEA	NAY

Introduced by _____

BE IT ORDAINED that Section 293-58, Schedule X: Stop Intersections of the City Code of the City of Watertown is amended to add the following:

§ A293-58. Schedule X: Stop Intersections.

Stop Sign on	Direction of Travel	At Intersection of
Meadow St. N.	North	Newell St.

and,

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

Seconded by _____

Ord. No. 2

June 27, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager

Subject; Amending the Code of the City of Watertown, Section 301-28 Bulk Water Charges

The ordinance adopted by City Council on June 5, 2023 incorrectly included a reduction to the bulk water rate. The bulk water rate was not intended to be impacted by the 10% rate increase. The attached ordinance resets the bulk water rate to where it was prior to the June 5th ordinance being adopted.

ORDINANCE

Page 1 of 1

Amending the Code of the City of Watertown,
§301-28 Bulk Water Charges

Council Member HICKEY, Patrick J.

Council Member OLNEY III, Clifford G.

Council Member PIERCE, Sarah V.C.

Council Member RUGGIERO, Lisa A.

Mayor SMITH, Jeffrey M.

Total

YEA	NAY

Introduced by _____

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council that Chapter 301 of the Code of the City of Watertown is hereby amended by deleting Section 301-28 approved on June 5, 2023 and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the City Council that the Code of the City of Watertown, Chapter 301 is hereby amended by adding thereto new Section 301-28 as follows:

301-28. Bulk Water Charges.

A. The charge for water obtained from the bulk fill station at the Water Treatment Plant, 1707 Huntington Street shall be as follows:

(1) \$8.50 per 1,000 gallons

And,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall take effect on July 3, 2023, after it has been published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by _____

Staff Report

June 27, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director

Subject: Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Streetscape Parking Alternatives

The City's Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) award included a project for enhancements to the Governor Roswell P. Flower Monument, the intents of which are to protect the monument, create new and improved access to the monument and to increase pedestrian safety in and around the Washington Street / Stone Street intersection. To meet these goals, the final plans for the project included a new enhanced crosswalk across Washington Street with a pedestrian shelter extension to the monument island, and corresponding curb extensions (bump outs) on each side of the street.

At its June 19, 2023 meeting, the City Council directed Staff to explore potential replacement opportunities for three public parking spaces on the west side of Washington Street, immediately south of the intersection with Stone Street. Prior to construction, there were four angled public parking spaces in that location, two regular spaces and two ADA-accessible spaces. The originally approved construction plans included a single parallel ADA-accessible space alongside a small pedestrian plaza with shrubs and benches extending south from the curb extension at the crosswalk. This reconfiguration resulted in a net reduction of three spaces, one of which was ADA-accessible.

Working with Barton & Loguidice, the lead engineering firm on the project, Staff has identified two potential alternatives for mitigating the eliminated spaces. Both alternatives would include striping two traditional parallel parking spaces on the north side of Stone Street, approximately 35' northwest of the front door to 200 Washington Street, which would replace the two non-ADA-accessible spaces that the new curb line eliminates. The alternatives differ in how they address the lost ADA-accessible space.

The first alternative would be to designate the next parallel space south on Washington Street adjacent to the clock and compass on the sidewalk as an ADA-accessible space and paint hatching in the area between them. Both spaces would have access to the sidewalk via the ADA ramp adjacent to the hatching. This alternative could be accomplished with paint and Staff estimates a cost of **approximately \$1,000.**

The second alternative would be to remove the concrete that the contractor has already poured (including the new curb and the planters) and have them pour a revised curb line that would allow the City to restripe two angled ADA-accessible spaces. These spaces would leave intact the apex of the bump out, which must remain for safe access to the new crosswalk. This option contains significant financial costs.

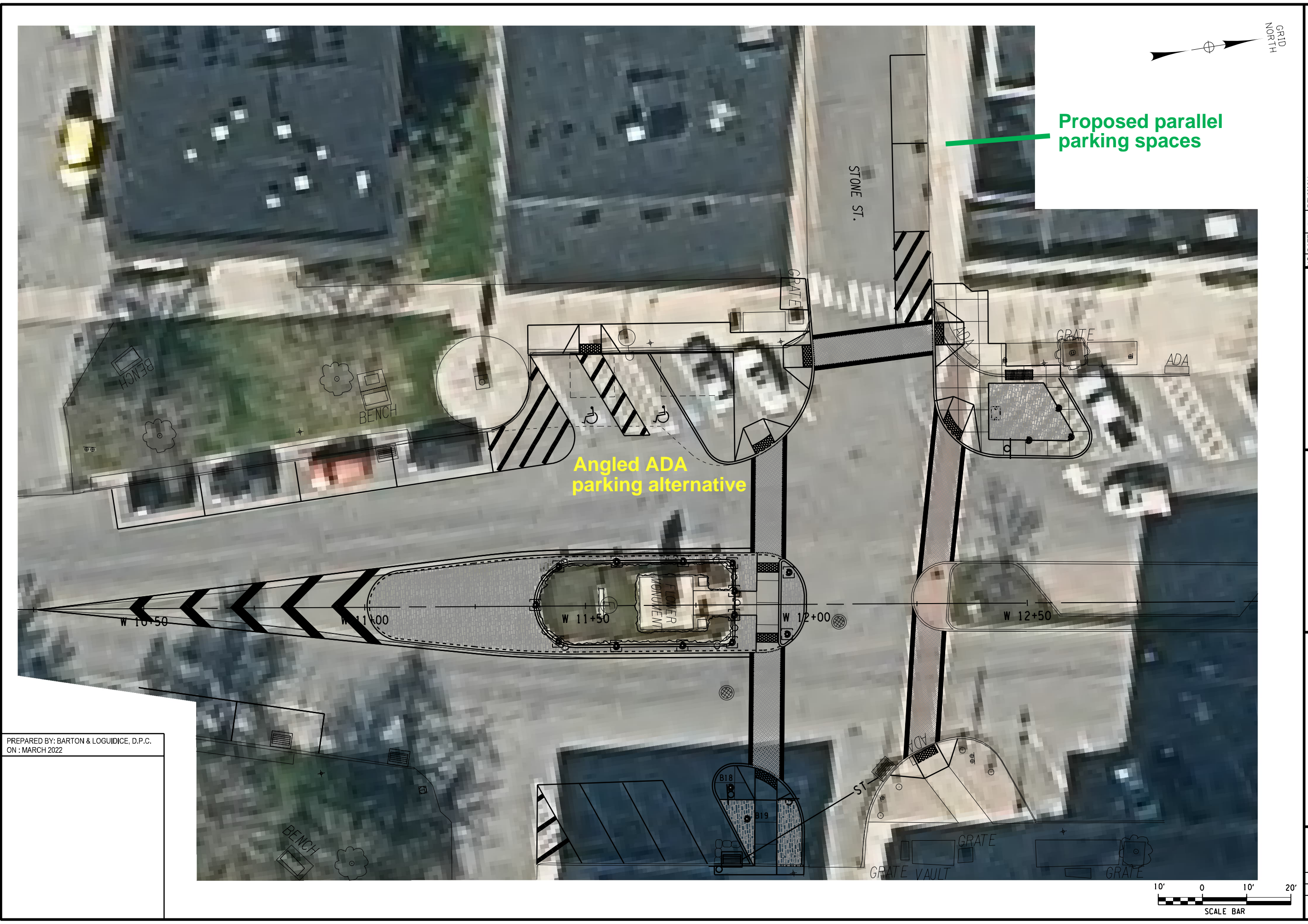
Barton & Loguidice, in cooperation with CCI Companies, Inc. has provided the following cost estimates for implementing the second alternative:

- Billable hours for Barton & Loguidice to engineer and create stamped field change plans: \$4,100
- Labor cost for CCI to remove the previously constructed curb and planter boxes: \$7,000
- Cost to construct revised layout/plans (includes labor and materials): \$4,000

The above alone totals **\$15,100 in new costs**. However, the Council should also note that the cost of work that CCI has already completed and which would need to be removed (materials and labor) represents a **\$23,500 sunk cost**. Combining the new and sunk costs yields an aggregate of **\$38,600** for the angled-parking alternative. The angled parking alternative would create two public ADA spaces immediately adjacent to the curb extension instead of just one, which leaves the existing parallel space adjacent to the clock and compass as a regular public space.


Finally, the Council should also note that the City is paying for this project using a combination of DRI, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and National Grid Urban Center/Commercial District Revitalization grant funding. All of these programs except for ARPA are reimbursement based, and the City would be unable to submit for reimbursement twice for the same project task, meaning that the City would need to cover the sunk costs described above, as well as the additional design fee, out of the General Fund rather than seeking reimbursement for those costs.

Conceptual drawings of both alternatives are attached to this Staff Report. Planning and Engineering Staff will work with Barton & Loguidice and CCI to implement the Council's preferred alternative.

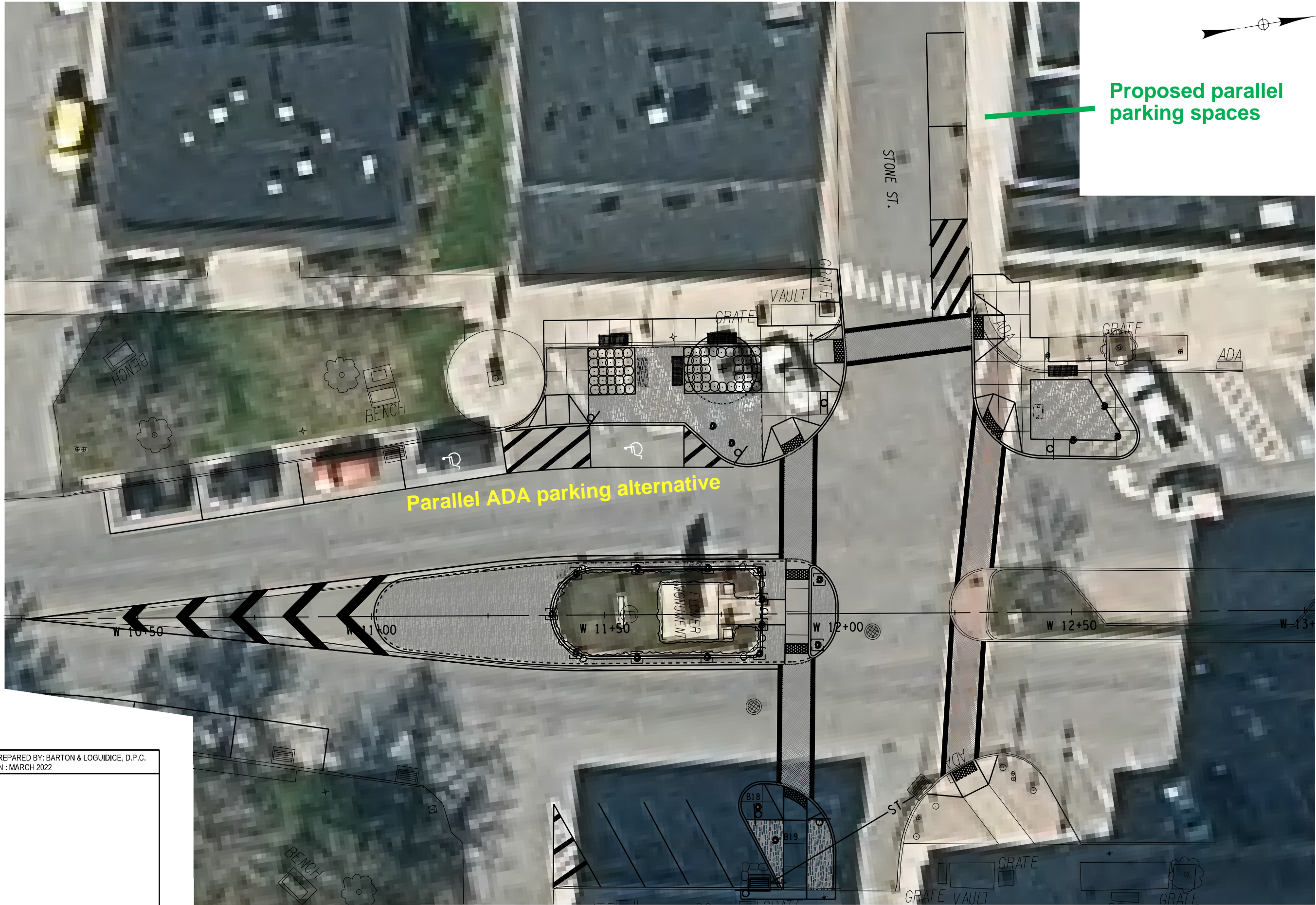



PREPARED BY: BARTON & LOGUIDICE, D.P.C.
ON : MARCH 2022



WATERTOWN STREETSCAPE DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS		 <p>Barton & Loguidice</p> <p>UNAUTHORIZED ALTERATION OR ADDITION TO THIS DRAWING IS A VIOLATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION LAW ARTICLE 145 SECTION 7209</p>	56
CITY OF WATERTOWN			79
JEFFERSON COUNTY			
STREETSCAPE PLAN			
SCALE: AS SHOWN			
DATE ISSUED: 03/2022			
DRAWING SP-6			

PREPARED BY: BARTON & LOGUIDICE, D.P.C.
ON : MARCH 2022



WATERTOWN STREETSCAPE DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS			56 79	
CITY OF WATERTOWN				
JEFFERSON COUNTY				
STREETSCAPE PLAN				
SCALE: AS SHOWN				
DATE ISSUED: 03/2022				
DRAWING SP-6				

Staff Report

June 27, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Michael A. Lumbis, Planning and Community Development Director

Subject: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program

The NYSDEC has recently announced that funding is available through the Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program for urban forestry related projects. Applications will be accepted through August 16, 2023, for projects such as tree inventories and management plans, tree planting, and tree maintenance. The minimum grant amount is \$10,000 while the maximum grant award is \$75,000.

In 2014, the City was awarded \$25,000 in funding from this grant program to conduct Phase I of a multi-phase City-wide tree inventory and management plan. Phase I of the contracted tree inventory focused on street trees and potential planting sites throughout the City. Work began and was completed in 2017. Later that year the City was awarded \$18,000 to complete the second phase of the project. Phase II of the inventory was completed in June of 2018. A City-wide management plan consisting of data from both phases was delivered to the City in August of 2018. This plan provides staff with accurate information on the health and condition of each inventoried tree on City property, identifying those that may require something as simple as minor pruning to those that are potentially hazardous and may require removal. This information allowed the City to better prioritize maintenance efforts and reduced potential liability that results from hazardous trees. The tree inventory provided other key data about the state of the urban forest including potential tree planting locations, species and size class distribution and provides the basis for determining annual environmental, aesthetic and economic benefits that the urban forest provides.

In 2018, the City was awarded \$20,250 in funding from this grant program for tree planting. Over 1,900 available planting sites were identified by the inventory. Priority areas for tree planting consisted of sites where necessary tree removal has occurred, disadvantaged neighborhoods, streets lacking in tree cover, areas vulnerable to stormwater issues, such as those adjacent to combined sewers, streams, rivers, and wetlands, as well as City owned parks and playgrounds. Tree planting efforts took place between spring 2019 and spring 2020 by DPW staff and contractors totaling 159 trees planted. A portion of this funding was also allocated for the treatment of 57 ash trees to help protect them against the Emerald Ash Borer.

In 2019, the City was awarded \$50,000 in funding from this grant program for tree maintenance. Utilizing the tree inventory and management plan, staff prioritized the removal of 45 potentially hazardous trees of various sizes along streets, and in playgrounds and parks. A portion of this funding was also allocated for the treatment of 60 ash trees. In-

house DPW labor and equipment costs for tree maintenance related work satisfied the required 25% match.

The latest round of NYSDEC's Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program provides funding for Tree Maintenance grants with a 25% City match. The recently completed tree management plan recommends numerous maintenance needs including the priority pruning and necessary removal of potentially hazardous trees of various sizes throughout City streets, parks, and playgrounds.

As you are aware, the City takes a proactive approach to tree maintenance and uses the tree management plan and tree inventory data as a guide for this work. While our DPW Buildings and Grounds crew has and continues to do outstanding work in this regard, our ability to address tree maintenance on a regular or full-time basis is limited given wide range of responsibilities of the crew.

The City's Street Tree Advisory Board, Tree Watertown, discussed this grant opportunity at its recent meeting and is recommending that the City apply for grant funding for tree maintenance. Planning Staff as well as the Superintendent of Public Works, Patrick Keenan, also recommends that the City apply.

As noted above, the latest round of funding requires a 25% match for Tree Maintenance projects. The match can consist of cash or the value of in-kind labor and equipment. Staff is recommending the use of an in-kind labor and equipment match of \$18,750 to allow the City to apply for the maximum grant amount of \$75,000. The total project cost would be \$93,500. The City match would consist of in-kind labor and equipment costs that are incurred for in-house tree maintenance work that we already do. Essentially, the match for this grant would be at no additional cost other than continuing our annual tree maintenance efforts.

If the grant is awarded, the City would use this funding to supplement priority tree maintenance efforts. Funding would be used for tree pruning and necessary tree removal at sites throughout the city. If the City Council would like to apply for funding through this program, Staff will begin preparing the application and will draft a resolution for Council consideration at the July 17, 2023, meeting.

Staff Report

June 27, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager
Subject: Town of Watertown Fire District Inquiry

The attached letter was received from the Town of Watertown Fire District. They are inquiring as to the City Council's interest in contracting with them to provide fire service until they can implement their own paid service.



Town of Watertown Fire District

22825 County Route 67
Watertown, New York 13601

Board of Fire Commissioners Chairman
Arthur D. Cooley

Phone (315) 788-9101
Fax (315) 788-9107
E-mail-Sec-Treas@twfdistrict.com

June 23, 2023

City of Watertown
245 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601



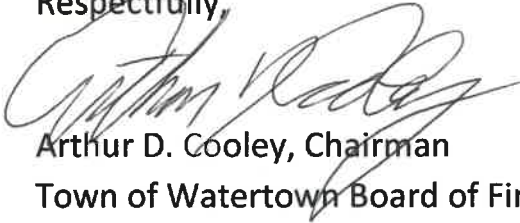
The Town of Watertown Fire District is hiring professional firefighters to supplement our dwindling volunteer firefighter force to ensure 24 hours a day, 365 days a year response to emergency incidents in the fire district. The process to hire professional firefighters takes many months from establishing the job with the County civil services office, obtaining NYS approvals, getting a civil service test scheduled and obtaining a list of candidates. We don't anticipate having the ability to hire from a civil service list until sometime next year. Our plan would be to eventually have three firefighters on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide first due response to all incidents dispatched including: fires, fire alarms, explosions, hazardous conditions, rescues, motor vehicle accidents, and medical service first responses. This first due company would be supplemented with available volunteers and/or Mutual Aid. However, due to costs and anticipated property tax increases to fund professional firefighters, it may take several years to work up to this goal. In the meantime, we must still provide adequate fire protection to the taxpayers in the Town of Watertown Fire District.

In 2022, The Town of Watertown was dispatched to 694 incidents, of which 442 were fire/rescue incidents (non-medical calls). We expect that number to increase in 2023 and beyond. We request the City of Watertown consider providing the first due response for all fire/rescue incidents until such time we can have our own professional firefighter staff. We would request the closest available engine company to respond upon the initial dispatch. Any volunteers responding on Town of Watertown apparatus would then supplement the city

engine company or relieve them to return to service to the city. Would the City of Watertown consider contracting with the Town of Watertown to respond to fire/rescue calls? If so, what would be the cost to provide these services?

For any questions or more additional information, please contact our Fire District Manager, Fred Sourwine, at 315-788-9101 or email: fsourwine@twfdistrict.com .

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur D. Cooley", is written over the printed name and title.

Arthur D. Cooley, Chairman

Town of Watertown Board of Fire Commissioners

Staff Report

June 28, 2023

To: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager

Subject: Thompson Park Hours

The City Code currently states that “No person shall enter or remain in John C. Thompson Park from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., except for the purpose of driving through without stopping, other than for traffic signs.” The exception allowed patrons of the former Watertown Golf Club to exit through the park after hours. However, the golf course is now within the park, so anyone there after 9:00 p.m. is in violation of the ordinance.

Spokes on the Green plans to be open until 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. They may eventually have events that occasionally go later.

There are also people walking in the park before 6:00 a.m.

Staff is suggesting that Section 216 -3 of the City Code be amended so that the park is closed from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. If the Council concurs, an ordinance will be drafted for the next meeting.