

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
February 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, Harris Beach Murtha, City Attorney

City staff present: Erica Anderson, James Mills, Michael Lumbis, Tina Bartlett-Bearup, Erica LeClerc, Thomas Compo

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for Trickling Filter Pump Repair Project – 2025 – Blue Heron Construction Company LLC
- Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for Watertown Water Treatment Plant Water Quality Improvement Project – Tree Clearing - Powis Contracting, Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing City Manager to Perform Various Banking Actions
- Resolution No. 4 - Nominating a City Council Member for Appointment as a Board Liaison to the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing the Conveyance of a Portion of Former Waterman Drive to Jefferson County
- Resolution No. 6 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General, Water and Sewer Fund Budgets – Financial Management Software System Project
- Resolution No. 7 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 426, 430, 440 and 454 State Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 12-03-220.100, 12-03-220.200, 12-03-220.300, and 12-03-201.000 from Downtown to Urban Mixed Use and Future Site Development at 440 State Street Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Old Business Ordinance - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 426, 430, 440 and 454 State Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 12-03-220.100, 12-03-220.200, 12-03-220.300, and 12-03-201.000 from Downtown to Urban Mixed Use
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2026-2031 Consolidated Plan and 2026 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 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.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Christopher Tehonica, Carthage, requested Council recognize three women who work at the Salvation Army feeding and clothing the homeless.

Edward Scharf, Morrison Street, read from a prepared statement regarding the recurring flooding on his property, noting the problem was more than four years old and staff members from Code Enforcement and Engineering had been unable to solve his issues. He requested Council direct staff to find a permanent corrective solution.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, addressed Council concerning the amount of snow left on sidewalks and how it impedes pedestrian traffic. He also complained that the adjusted CitiBus schedule is not working. He stated his belief that the turn lane on Arsenal Street should be eliminated and commented that the parking situation on Court Street with so much snow is not ideal.

Frank Battista, Palmer Street, proposed eliminating green waste pickup and suggested the City make it mandatory to compost. He indicated that this could save the City \$100,000 per year.

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 426, 430, 440 and 454 State Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 12-03-220.100, 12-03-220.200, 12-03-220.300, and 12-03-201.000 from Downtown to Urban Mixed Use

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

Erik Russell, Grant Street, spoke on behalf of Jumpin’ Goat, and offered his support of the rezoning on State Street, commenting that it was an opportunity to bring life to a spot that has been vacant for at least the last 15 years.

Kiera Russell, co-owner of Jumpin’ Goat, addressed Council to say that she was from the area, having graduated from Watertown High School in 2017, and agreed with her father and co-owner, Eric, in his support for this zone change.

Nigel Spahr, West Prospect Street, offered his support of the zone change noting that Jumpin’ Goat is a good fit for State Street.

Greg Stickel, 134 Haley Street, offered his support for the Jumpin’ Goat on State Street, noting that it would improve a blighted property and offer more jobs.

Mayor Pierce declared the hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for Trickling Filter Pump Repair Project – 2025 – Blue Heron Construction Company LLC

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City desires to retain a contractor to remove, repair, and reinstall two (2) Two-Process System Inc. Vertical Turbine Pumps (aka trickling filter pumps), and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received three (3) sealed bids for the Trickling Filter Pump Repair Project - 2025, and

WHEREAS on January 13, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Water Superintendent and Chief Operator, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted by Blue Heron Construction Company LLC,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the base bid received from Blue Heron Construction Company LLC in the amount of \$97,000.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Watertown 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. 2 - Accepting Bid for Watertown Water Treatment Plant Water Quality Improvement Project – Tree Clearing - Powis Contracting, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City desires to retain a contractor to clear trees, including the removal of stumps, shrubs, and underbrush as part of the Water Disinfection By-products Project, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received three (3) sealed bids for the Watertown Water Treatment Plant Water Quality Improvement Project – Tree Clearing, and

WHEREAS on January 20, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Water Department, in consultation with GHD Consulting Services, Inc., and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted by Powis Contracting, Inc., and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the base bid received from Powis Contracting, Inc. in the amount of \$143,000.00, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City Watertown 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 the foregoing resolution, Council Member Kimball asked for the size of this property and where it was located.

City Manager Eric Wagenaar said it was about 3.5 acres and was just before Eastern Boulevard.

In response to Council Member Kimball's question of whether it was for the new settling basin, City Manager Wagenaar confirmed it was the location for the new treatment facility.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing City Manager to Perform Various Banking Actions

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has funds on deposit with various banks, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown makes withdrawals, transfers funds on deposit, and issues checks from various accounts, and

WHEREAS the City Comptroller is the only designated City Officer authorized to perform these duties, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to have an additional authorized Officer to perform these duties for continuity of business operations should the City Comptroller be unable to perform his duties,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that if the City Comptroller is unable to perform his duties in relation to banking activities, the City Manager is hereby authorized to make withdrawals, transfer funds on deposit, and issue checks in the name of the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any check authorized to be drawn in the name of the City of Watertown may be signed with the facsimile or original signature of the City Comptroller or the facsimile or original signature of the City Manager.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Osborne stated his concerns about having the City Manager fill this position in the absence of the City Comptroller. He noted that the City Manager has oversight of the Comptroller and suggested the person responsible for banking in the Comptroller's absence also be a staff member that falls under the oversight of the City Manager. He suggested possibly the City Clerk. Additionally, he expressed concern that a resolution was sufficient to make this change and suggested it was potentially a charter change. He asked the City Attorney for his thoughts.

City Attorney Joseph Frateschi suggested the Charter would likely detail the methods Council could use to bestow powers and make appointments. He said he would look into it further.

Motion was made by Council Member Douglas E Osborne Jr. to table the foregoing resolution. Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 4 - Nominating a City Council Member for Appointment as a Board Liaison to the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization established to support, enhance and promote Zoo New York, which is located in Thompson Park in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. and the City of Watertown have expressed a mutual desire to establish a City Council Liaison between the Conservancy and the City, and

WHEREAS by resolution dated January 22, 2026, the Board of Directors of the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. amended its bylaws to formally define the appointment process, purpose, rights and restrictions, and confidentiality requirements a Board Liaison as follows:

Board Liaison

Appointment: The Board of Directors may, by a majority vote, appoint one or more individuals serving in local government to the position of Board Liaison.

Purpose: The Board Liaison shall serve to facilitate communication and cooperation between the Corporation and local government entities.

Rights and Restrictions: Board Liaisons may be invited to attend all regular and special meetings of the Board. Board Liaisons shall not have voting privileges. Board Liaisons shall not be included in ascertaining a quorum.

Confidentiality: Board Liaisons shall be required to recognize and protect the confidential nature of information discussed at Board meetings in the same manner as directors.

And,

WHEREAS the amended bylaws further provide that Board Liaisons shall be excluded from executive sessions of the Board of Directors unless specifically invited to remain by a majority vote of the Board, and

WHEREAS the amended bylaws require Board Liaisons to recognize and protect the confidential nature of information discussed at Board meetings in the same manner as directors, and to maintain the confidentiality of executive session proceedings,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby nominates Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen for appointment as the City Council Liaison to the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Shoen asked the City Attorney if he should abstain from the vote.

City Attorney Frateschi informed the Councilman that the decision was up to him.

Council Member Shoen informed Council that he had received some feedback regarding the confidentiality clause in this resolution and asked Kenneth Mix, Board Chair of the Thompson Park Conservancy, who was in attendance, to clarify what the confidentiality would entail.

Mr. Mix clarified that Board members are held to confidentiality when it comes to personnel matters and some business strategies, but he did not believe this would hamper the Council liaison's ability to keep Council informed.

Council Member Shoen stated that he did not feel that a degree of confidentiality would be a problem, noting that the City offers PILOT programs to developers and the City does not have oversight into their finances. He indicated that he did not feel this was going to be a problem.

Mr. Mix noted that the Board's meetings are not secretive and reminded Council that financial reports have been provided to the City.

Mayor Pierce thanked Council Member Shoen for serving this role and said she thought this was a good step for the Council and the Conservancy.

In response to Council Member Garrabrant's question of whether the confidentiality clause was overly broad, City Attorney Frateschi commented that it was as narrowly tailored as possible.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing the Conveyance of a Portion of Former Waterman Drive to Jefferson County

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City of Watertown previously discontinued a portion of a City street known as Waterman Drive, adjacent to the Jefferson County Public Safety Building, pursuant to Resolution dated October 6, 2025, and

WHEREAS the purpose of discontinuing said portion of Waterman Drive was to allow Jefferson County to enhance the security of the Public Safety Building complex, and

WHEREAS the discontinued portion of Waterman Drive is no longer required for any municipal purpose and is deemed surplus City property, and

WHEREAS the City will retain a permanent utility easement over the subject property for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of utilities, as set forth in a Utility Easement Agreement between the City of Watertown and Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the attached Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and has determined that the proposed conveyance of the subject property will not have a significant impact on the environment, and

WHEREAS the parcel to be conveyed is more particularly described as follows:

All that parcel of land located in the City of Watertown, County of Jefferson and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at an existing iron pipe at the northeast corner of land conveyed to County of Jefferson (Liber 1548 Page 150); and runs thence, from the point of beginning, South 84 degrees 15 minutes 05 seconds West, 766.08 feet, along the north line of said land of County of Jefferson, also being along the south street boundary of Waterman Drive, to a point; thence North 05 degrees 44 minutes 55 seconds West, 66.00 feet, across Waterman Drive, to a point in the north street boundary of Waterman Drive, said point also being at the southeast corner of land conveyed to AFGRITECH LLC (Instrument 2016-00001135) and at a corner. of land conveyed to New York Central Lines, LLC (Liber 1703, Page 80) on the north and east; thence North 84 degrees 15 minutes 05 seconds East, 812.75 feet, along the south line of New York Central Lines, LLC, also being along the north street boundary of Waterman Drive, to an existing iron pipe at a corner thereof; thence South 29 degrees 31 minutes 05 seconds West, 80.84 feet, along said land of New York Central Lines, LLC on the east, also being the east street boundary of Waterman Drive, to the point the point of beginning, containing 1.19 acres of land, more or less.

The above described parcel being a portion of Waterman Drive, formerly City Center Drive West, dedicated to the City of Watertown by resolution dated February 3, 1992.

SUBJECT TO a permanent utility easement granted to the City of Watertown for the construction, maintenance, repair, and replacement of utilities, as more fully set forth in the Utility Easement Agreement between the City of Watertown and the County of Jefferson.

SUBJECT TO any other rights or restrictions of record that may exist.

And,

WHEREAS the resolution discontinuing said portion of Waterman Drive contained a typographical error in the legal description stating that the parcel was dedicated to the City of Watertown by resolution dated January 19, 1999, and

WHEREAS the correct dedication date of said parcel is February 3, 1992, and the legal description attached hereto reflects the correct dedication date, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Board of Legislators authorized the acceptance of real property formally known as Waterman Drive in the City of Watertown by Resolution No. 370, dated December 10, 2025, a copy of which is attached hereto,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 16 adopted by the Council on June 6, 1977, that the City Council hereby approves the conveyance of the above-described parcel, formerly a portion of Waterman Drive, to Jefferson County, without consideration, and subject to the reservation of a permanent utility easement in favor of the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact is known, and the proposed sale of land will not have a significant impact on the environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to effectuate the conveyance of said property to Jefferson County and to execute and deliver the deed and any other documents or instruments necessary to carry out the purposes set forth herein.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered Part II of the Short Environmental Assessment Form.

Council Member Shoen asked the City Manager outline the purpose of this resolution for the public's benefit.

City Manager Wagenaar explained that the City is required by State statute to perform this review before transferring the property.

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

Resolution No. 6 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General, Water and Sewer Fund Budgets – Financial Management Software System Project

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS on June 6, 2022 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022-23, of which included in the Capital Budget was a project to acquire a new financial management software system at an estimated cost of \$650,000 and,

WHEREAS on June 2, 2025 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26, of which \$58,342,043 was appropriated for the General Fund, \$7,282,838 was appropriated for the Water Fund and \$8,827,781 was appropriated for the Sewer Fund and,

WHEREAS the costs of the project have increased, resulting in a funding gap of \$165,540, and

WHEREAS the General Fund has savings from a vacant Information Technology Specialist position of \$42,675 that are recommended to be applied towards the project with appropriated fund balance from the General, Water and Sewer Funds for the remaining deficit,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts and makes the following adjustments to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budgets for the General Fund, Water Fund, and Sewer Fund Budgets:

GENERAL FUND:

A.0000.0909 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 94,515
	<u>\$ 94,515</u>
A.1680.0130 Information Technology - Wages	(\$ 30,300)
A.1680.0810 Information Technology - Retirement	(\$ 4,025)
A.1680.0830 Information Technology – Social Security	(\$ 2,325)
A.1680.0850 Information Technology – Health Insurance	(\$ 6,025)
A.9950.0900 Transfer to Capital Fund	<u>\$ 137,190</u>
Total	<u>\$ 94,515</u>

WATER FUND:

F.0000.0909 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 14,175
	<u>\$ 14,175</u>
F.9950.0900 Transfer to Capital Fund	<u>\$ 14,175</u>
Total	<u>\$ 14,175</u>

SEWER FUND:

G.0000.0909 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 14,175
	<u>\$ 14,175</u>
G.9950.0900 Transfer to Capital Fund	<u>\$ 14,175</u>
Total	<u>\$ 14,175</u>

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Osborne asked why there had been such a delay in choosing a financial system.

City Manager Wagenaar informed Council that the City had taken the time to make sure they had the correct team to implement this system. He explained that the City’s current financial system is very outdated and it had been one of his goals when he took his position to get this accomplished and avoid the collapse of the financial system. He noted that the implementation requires staff preparation and is a major undertaking.

Council Member Kimball asked if the financial system would cover all departments within the City that handle money.

Mr. Wagenaar explained that the new system will consolidate other departments like human resources, and purchasing, which will allow the production of reports in a timely manner. He noted current reports are produced manually. He suggested that the implementation of this system will bring the City into the 21st Century.

Council Member Kimball questioned the implementation consultant cost of \$370,000, asking if that fee included staff training.

City Comptroller James Mills said that the consultant would oversee the implementation for the next two years, ensuring that the system will be tailored to the City's particular needs and this would allow the City to get the best bang for its buck.

Council Member Garrabrant asked if the costs represented a one-time fee or if there were subscription costs going forward.

City Manager Wagenaar replied that this was a one-time installation fee.

Mr. Mills added that there would be cloud-based subscription charge going forward.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 426, 430, 440 and 454 State Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 12-03-220.100, 12-03-220.200, 12-03-220.300, and 12-03-201.000 from Downtown to Urban Mixed Use and Future Site Development at 440 State Street Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment

Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it an Ordinance to change the approved zoning classification of 426 State Street, Parcel Number 12-03-220.100, 430 State Street, Parcel Number 12-03-220.200, 440 State Street, Parcel Number 12-03-220.300, and 454 State Street, Parcel Number 12-03-201.000 from Downtown to Urban Mixed Use, and

WHEREAS the Zone Change is intended to redevelop one of the subject parcels into a future food service establishment with an accessory drive-through component, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the adoption of the proposed Ordinance and future site development constitutes such an "Action," and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that the proposed Ordinance is an "Unlisted

Action” as that term is defined by 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (al), and

WHEREAS the City Council must consider the “Whole Action” pursuant to SEQRA, which includes the environmental impacts of the Zone Change and the proposed subsequent redevelopment, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Planning Commission is an Involved Agency for SEQRA review as that term is defined in 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (al), because it is the body with the authority to grant Site Plan Approval, and

WHEREAS the Planning Commission adopted a motion at its January 6, 2026 meeting acknowledging that the City Council is the most appropriate body to act as Lead Agency pursuant to SEQRA, and

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed zone change will have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared by the applicant, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

WHEREAS Planning Staff has prepared recommended answers to the questions contained in Part 2 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form for City Council consideration,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that:

1. Based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact is known and the adoption of the Zone Change and future site development will not have a significant impact on the environment.
2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered Part II of the Short Environmental Assessment Form.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 426, 430, 440 and 454 State Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 12-03-220.100, 12-03-220.200, 12-03-220.300, and 12-03-201.000 from

Downtown to Urban Mixed Use. *(Introduced on 1/20/2026 ; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2026 Minutes Book on page 13-14 of the 1/20/2026 minutes).*

Council Member Shoen offered support for this zone change noting it would help with the current traffic situation on Coffeen Street. He commented that the public could be slightly more considerate and not block lanes of traffic while waiting for coffee. He said he looked forward to seeing something in that empty lot on State Street.

Mayor Pierce thanked the Russells and the other representatives of Jumpin' Goat for their investment in Watertown adding it was exciting to see their business grow and how she has been impressed by what they have been able to accomplish.

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

STAFF REPORTS

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2026-2031 Consolidated Plan and 2026 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to schedule a Public Hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. to obtain input regarding the development of plan goals, community needs, funding priorities and projects to be included in the City's Community Development Block Grant 2026-2031 Consolidated Plan and 2026 Annual Action Plan.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Hydro Consultant

Council Member Garrabrant asked for confirmation that the RFPs for this consultant had gone out and the findings were meant to be revealed to Council at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Wagenaar confirmed this was the case.

CDBG Spending

Council Member Garrabrant expressed his wish to use as much of the CDBG funds as possible on infrastructure as is possible, citing specifically water and hydrants.

Thank You to City Staff for Winter Cleanup

Council Member Kimball thanked members of DPW and Water for their efforts to keep the streets and sidewalks clear as well as their timely response to water pipe concerns.

Council Member Osborne added his thanks noting that staff has been "all hands on deck" for much of the winter season.

Snowtown Events

Council Member Osborne informed Council that he had attended Snowtown events and was particularly impressed with the skating path near the Rotary pavilion. He also mentioned the Zoo was packed on their free day.

Council Member Shoen commented that it was nice to finally have a winter that supported the Snowtown events. He mentioned that the skate path would be open until at least February 8th but might be extended.

Mr. Wagenaar confirmed that staff will try to keep it open longer and Parks and Recreation will evaluate the conditions.

Council Member Shoen noted he had also attended Trivia Night.

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

Council Member Shoen noted that he had asked staff how many citations had been issued this season for failure to remove snow and there were more than 170. He expressed his wish that property owners would feel some civic responsibility to keep the walks clear without resorting to having to cite them to get them to comply. He stated that snow on sidewalks is a public safety problem which is just as important as other safety issues in the City. He suggested members of the public call the Code Enforcement office to report unshoveled walks.

Response to Comments During Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Battista

Council Member Shoen expressed his opposition to ceasing a green waste pick up program for the City. He asked if there was a place to compost at the City's transfer site, adding that he was certain the City had the equipment to turn over the soil.

Mr. Wagenaar said he could look into that.

RFPs

Council Member Shoen requested that Council be provided with the complete list of the entities to whom RFPs are sent.

CitiBus Schedule Modification

In response to Council Member Shoen's question of whether the revised bus schedule had been implemented yet, Mr. Wagenaar replied that it had not.

From the audience, Mr. Phillips said that the drivers were following the new schedule.

Mayor Pierce stated the new schedule would be in place as of February 16th.

Snowtown Events continued

Mayor Pierce thanked the Snowtown Committee as well as staff from the DPW and Parks and Recreation. She indicated she had received a lot of positive feedback.

City Court Judge Vacancy

Mayor Pierce informed Council that she had met with candidates for the part-time judge for the City. She indicated she would have her recommendation soon.

Flag on Public Square

Mayor Pierce asked staff to investigate the condition of the flag on Public Square.

Response to Comments During Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Scharf

Mayor Pierce said she empathized with Mr. Scharf but noted it was her understanding the problem is out of the City's hands.

Response to Comments During Privilege of the Floor – Mr. Battista continued

Mayor Pierce thanked Mr. Battista for bringing his ideas to Council and requested other members of the public do the same, noting that the City needs new ideas.

Meeting with Jefferson County

Mayor Pierce informed Council that she and the City Manager would be meeting with Jefferson County at their quarterly meeting on Tuesday.

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

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

Council moved into Executive Session at 8 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:25 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