

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
January 4, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

**Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding**

**Present:** Council Member Sarah V. Compo  
Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson  
Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia  
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero  
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

**Also Present:** Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager  
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

**City staff present:** James Mills, Vicky Murphy

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - City of Watertown Opposition to the Closing of the Watertown Correctional Facility
- Resolution No. 2 - Designating Depositories of City Funds for 2021
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, General Construction, Continental Construction, LLC
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, Plumbing, Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, Electric, Scriba Electric, Inc.
- Resolution No. 6 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 Water Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 7 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 Community Development Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 8 - Amendment No. 126 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-21
- Resolution No. 9 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 General, Water, Sewer, Library, Community Development and Self-Funded Health Insurance Budgets
- Resolution No. 10 - Accepting Donation from L.L. Bean
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated August 5, 2019, Authorizing the Issuance of \$270,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, in and for Said City, to Increase the Estimated Maximum Cost Thereof and the Amount of Bonds Authorized to \$575,000

**Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk**

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2020, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

## COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications.

## PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

**Jason Traynor**, 142 Mechanic Street, spoke to Council about his belief that the COVID-19 pandemic is a conspiracy and the side effects are causing anxiety to the population. He also stated he was upset that he was denied entrance to the last Council meeting because he would not comply with the COVID-19 requirements and that he felt his civil rights were violated.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, mentioned that he watches the Public Square Cam every night and noticed that most people do not look before they cross the intersection. He said Council should do something about this. He also suggested installing solar panels on the fire stations in the City in an effort to make revenue. Lastly, he said the City should put locks on trash cans so that people cannot pick through them due to a possible increased exposure to and risk of COVID-19.

**Donnie Lee Barrigar**, 134 Union Street, informed Council that he turned himself into New York State for not complying with social distancing and wearing a mask. He encouraged Council to look into “The Great Reset,” which is headed by the World Economic Forum and meant to take out small businesses. He then asked Council why they supported LGBTQ organizations, complaining that they are proponents of “genital mutilation.”

## RESOLUTIONS

### **Resolution No. 1 - City of Watertown Opposition to the Closing of the Watertown Correctional Facility**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS a provision in the New York State Budget allows Governor Andrew Cuomo the ability to close prisons in New York with a 90-day notice, and

WHEREAS Governor Cuomo has announced his plans to close the Watertown Correctional Facility on March 30, 2021, and

WHEREAS the closure of this facility will most certainly result in a negative economic impact on our community and residents, because of the loss of approximately 400 jobs,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby joins with our State and Federal elected officials, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, Senator Patty Ritchie and Assemblyman Mark Walczyk, in voicing our strong opposition to the closure of Watertown Correctional Facility, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby requests that Governor Cuomo reconsider this decision to close the facility for the sake our residents.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Compo stated that she called for this resolution to be brought forward. She said the facility is important to the community and that it will affect the employment of 400 people that live in the City and the surrounding area.

Council Member Roshia commended Council Member Compo for bringing this resolution forward and said he will support it, noting that most people know an employee or family member that will be affected by this.

Council Member Ruggiero said she was glad to see this resolution on the agenda and agreed that Council needs to stand alongside the local State representatives fighting against this closure.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson commented that it was unfair that this news was announced by the Governor right before Christmas, as well as during a pandemic which is already causing financial hardship to many families.

Mayor Smith said that this shows support for the facility and the many workers living in the City and community. Stating he understands this is a fiscally tough time for New York State, he indicated that there are other wasted funds in the State's budget that should be addressed instead of closing the correctional facility. He added that there needs to be changes to Bail Reform and that emptying out the jails because of Bail Reform should not be the way to save money.

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

**Resolution No. 2 - Designating Depositories of City Funds for 2021**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS Section 30 of the City Charter requires the City Council to designate each year at its first meeting some incorporated bank or banks or trust company located in the City of Watertown for the deposit of all moneys belonging to the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following banks be and they are hereby designated as depositories of the City of Watertown, New York, for the year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021:

Community Bank, N.A.  
Key Bank  
WSB Municipal Bank

And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Community Bank, N.A., Key Bank and WSB Municipal Bank each be required to either execute a bond, deliver to the City of Watertown, New York approved collateral or to deposit at a mutually agreed upon depository approved collateral of a value up to THIRTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$35,000,000).

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, General Construction, Continental Construction, LLC**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to (15) prospective bidders with two (2) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department reviewed the bids received with Bernier, Carr & Associates, PC, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Continental Construction, LLC – General Construction – Contract #1, in the amount of \$223,674,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Continental Construction, LLC in the amount of \$223,674 for WTP Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, as the lowest qualified bidder meeting our specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Continental Construction, LLC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution is contingent upon approval of the Bond Ordinance Amendment.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, Plumbing, Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to (15) prospective bidders with two (2) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department reviewed the bids received with Bernier, Carr & Associates, PC, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc. – Plumbing – Contract #3, in the amount of \$142,900,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$142,900 for WTP Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, as the lowest qualified bidder meeting our specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution is contingent upon approval of the Bond Ordinance Amendment.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Bid for Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, Electric, Scriba Electric, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to (15) prospective bidders with five (5) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, December 3, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department reviewed the bids received with Bernier, Carr & Associates, PC, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Scriba Electric, Inc. – Electric – Contract #2, in the amount of \$186,500,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Scriba Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$186,500 for WTP Soda Ash System Rehabilitation – Rebid #2, as the lowest qualified bidder meeting our specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Scriba Electric, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution is contingent upon approval of the Bond Ordinance Amendment.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Water Superintendent Vicky Murphy provided a quick overview of the project, noting that its purpose is to help with the lead problem in the City water.

**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 2020-21 Water Fund Budget**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS on June 1, 2020 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21, of which \$5,525,726 was appropriated for the Water Fund, and

WHEREAS the City has been notified of the upcoming retirement of the Water Distribution System Supervisor, and

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Water has requested the addition of a temporary Water Distribution System Operator to train with the Supervisor before his retirement, and

WHEREAS the Water Fund has had a vacancy in a Water Maintenance Mechanic position in Fiscal Year 2020-21 that provides adequate appropriations for this temporary addition to the budget without a negative financial impact,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Water Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to add the temporary position of Water System Distribution Operator, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted Water Fund Budget:

**WATER FUND**

Expenditures:

		\$
F.8340.0130	Water Distribution System Operator	26,000
		<u>(\$</u>
F.8340.0130	Water Maintenance Mechanic	<u>26,000)</u>
Total		<u>\$</u>
Expenditures		=

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 7 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 Community Development Fund Budget**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS on June 1, 2020, the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21, of which \$2,188,536 was appropriated for the Community Development Fund, and

WHEREAS on October 5, 2020, the City Council approved the Grant Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CDBG Program CARES Act Grant Funding in the amount of \$541,672,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Community Development Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to add the CDBG Program CARES Act Grant in the amount of \$541,672, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following adjustments be included in the re-adopted Community Development Fund Budget:

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

Revenues:

CD.0000.4940.8615	Entitlement – CARES Act	<u>\$541,672</u>
Total Revenue		<u>\$541,672</u>

Expenditures

CD.8668.0430.8615	Contracted Services – CARES Act	<u>\$541,672</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$541,672</u>

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 8 - Amendment No. 126 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-21**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 126 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan, in order to amend the annual compensation for the positions listed below effective January 5, 2021,

<b><u>Position</u></b>	<b><u>Salary</u></b>
Accountant (part-time)	\$ 22,183
Assistant Superintendent of Public Works	\$ 80,248
Benefits Administrator	\$ 44,704
Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator	\$ 65,759
Chief Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator	\$ 77,119
City Assessor	\$ 70,743
City Comptroller	\$ 95,309
City Engineer	\$ 89,410
Civil Engineer II (Mauer)	\$ 75,498
Civil Engineer I (Hammond)	\$ 65,759
Civil Engineer I (Damon)	\$ 64,541
Code Enforcement Supervisor	\$ 67,574
Confidential Secretary to the City Manager	\$ 55,528
Deputy City Clerk (Carr)	\$ 36,593
Deputy City Clerk (Puccia)	\$ 39,117
Executive Secretary to the Civil Service Commission	\$ 46,940
Fire Chief	\$ 110,000
Human Resources Manager	\$ 73,583
Information Technology Manager	\$ 78,925

Information Technology Project Manager	\$ 59,680
Library Director	\$ 75,999
Planning and Community Development Director	\$ 74,442
Planner (Urda)	\$ 47,299
Planner (DeMarco)	\$ 45,855
Police Captain	\$ 112,326
Police Chief	\$ 117,942
Purchasing Manager	\$ 74,825
Senior Planner	\$ 61,869
Street and Sewer Maintenance Supervisor (3)	\$ 69,847
Superintendent of Public Works	\$ 93,919
Superintendent of Water	\$ 93,844
Supervisor of Water Distribution	\$ 69,700

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith explained that Management and Council were the only ones to have taken a pay cut in this year's budget, so this resolution restores their salary to the original amount pre-COVID. He also mentioned that one position was given a \$3,000 raise because she performs additional duties for him as the Mayor, which is not in her job title. He said he has asked the City Manager to amend this title to reflect that it is the Confidential Secretary to the City Manager and the Mayor. He clarified that since this resolution restores the salaries to the amount that they were before COVID-19 hit, these employees still took a pay cut for the overall year.

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

**Resolution No. 9 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 General, Water, Sewer, Library, Community Development and Self-Funded Health Insurance Budgets**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS on June 1, 2020 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the General, Water, Sewer, Library, Community Development and Self-Funded Health Insurance Funds Budgets, and

WHEREAS the adopted operating budgets included appropriations for management and management confidential employees which represented a two-percent reduction from the Fiscal Year 2019-20 salary amounts, and

WHEREAS City Council would now like to restore management and management confidential salaries to the Fiscal Year 2019-20 levels,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General, Water, Sewer, Library, Community Development and Self-Funded Health Insurance Funds' Budgets for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to restore management and management confidential salaries to the Fiscal Year 2019-20 levels, and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown establishes the salary for the Mayor to be \$17,753 and the salary of each Council Member to be \$13,314 effective January 5, 2021 and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following adjustments be included in the re-adopted General, Water, Sewer, Library, Community Development and Self-Funded Health Insurance Funds' Budgets:

**GENERAL FUND**

A.0000.0909	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$31,378</u>
A.1010.0110	City Council - Salaries	\$ 4,000
A.1010.0810	City Council – Retirement	\$ 495
A.1010.0830	City Council – Social Security	\$ 308
A.1210.0110	Mayor - Salaries	\$ 1,000
A.1210.0810	Mayor – Retirement	\$ 165
A.1210.0830	Mayor – Social Security	\$ 77
A.1230.0110	Manager - Salaries	\$ 2,025
A.1230.0810	Manager – Retirement	\$ 334
A.1230.0830	Manager – Social Security	\$ 155
A.1315.0110	Comptroller - Salaries	\$ 1,176
A.1315.0810	Comptroller – Retirement	\$ 194
A.1315.0830	Comptroller – Social Security	\$ 90
A.1345.0110	Purchasing - Salaries	\$ 749
A.1345.0810	Purchasing – Retirement	\$ 124
A.1345.0830	Purchasing – Social Security	\$ 57
A.1355.0110	Assessment - Salaries	\$ 708
A.1355.0810	Assessment – Retirement	\$ 117
A.1355.0830	Assessment – Social Security	\$ 54
A.1410.0110	Clerk - Salaries	\$ 758
A.1410.0810	Clerk – Retirement	\$ 125
A.1410.0830	Clerk – Social Security	\$ 58
A.1430.0110	Civil Service - Salaries	\$ 469
A.1430.0810	Civil Service – Retirement	\$ 77
A.1430.0830	Civil Service – Social Security	\$ 36
A.1435.0110	Human Resources - Salaries	\$ 752
A.1435.0810	Human Resources – Retirement	\$ 124
A.1435.0830	Human Resources – Social Security	\$ 57
A.1440.0110	Engineering - Salaries	\$ 2,690
A.1440.0810	Engineering – Retirement	\$ 445
A.1440.0830	Engineering – Social Security	\$ 205
A.1490.0110	Public Works Administration - Salaries	\$ 1,742
A.1490.0810	Public Works Administration – Retirement	\$ 287
A.1490.0830	Public Works Administration – Social Security	\$ 133
A.1680.0110	Information Technology - Salaries	\$ 1,387

A.1680.0810	Information Technology – Retirement	\$ 229
A.1680.0830	Information Technology – Social Security	\$ 106
A.3120.0110	Police - Salaries	\$ 2,302
A.3120.0820	Police – Retirement	\$ 380
A.3120.0830	Police – Social Security	\$ 176
A.3410.0110	Fire - Salaries	\$ 1,100
A.3410.0820	Fire – Retirement	\$ 182
A.3410.0830	Fire – Social Security	\$ 84
A.3620.0110	Code Enforcement - Salaries	\$ 676
A.3620.0810	Code Enforcement – Retirement	\$ 112
A.3620.0830	Code Enforcement – Social Security	\$ 52
A.5010.0110	Municipal Maintenance - Salaries	\$ 468
A.5010.0810	Municipal Maintenance – Retirement	\$ 77
A.5010.0830	Municipal Maintenance – Social Security	\$ 36
A.5110.0110	Maintenance of Roads - Salaries	\$ 468
A.5110.0810	Maintenance of Roads – Retirement	\$ 77
A.5110.0830	Maintenance of Roads – Social Security	\$ 36
A.5142.0110	Snow Removal - Salaries	\$ 462
A.5142.0810	Snow Removal – Retirement	\$ 76
A.5142.0830	Snow Removal – Social Security	\$ 34
A.5184.0110	Hydro-electric Production - Salaries	\$ 357
A.5184.0810	Hydro-electric Production – Retirement	\$ 51
A.5184.0830	Hydro-electric Production – Social Security	\$ 35
A.8020.0110	Planning - Salaries	\$ 1,768
A.8020.0810	Planning – Retirement	\$ 292
A.8020.0830	Planning – Social Security	\$ 135
A.8140.0110	Storm Sewers - Salaries	\$ 349
A.8140.0810	Storm Sewers – Retirement	\$ 58
A.8140.0830	Storm Sewers – Social Security	\$ 27
	Total	<u>\$ 31,378</u>

**WATER FUND**

F.0000.0909	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 2,206</u>
F.8310.0110	Administration - Salaries	\$ 422
F.8310.0810	Administration – Retirement	\$ 70
F.8310.0830	Administration – Social Security	\$ 32
F.8330.0110	Purification - Salaries	\$ 697
F.8330.0810	Purification – Retirement	\$ 115
F.8330.0830	Purification – Social Security	\$ 53
F.8340.0110	Transmission and Distribution - Salaries	\$ 658
F.8340.0810	Transmission and Distribution – Retirement	\$ 109
	Transmission and Distribution – Social Security	\$ 50
F.8340.0830	Security	\$ 50
	Total	<u>\$ 2,206</u>

**SEWER FUND**

G.0000.0909	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 1,916</u>
G.8110.0110	Administration - Salaries	\$ 422
G.8110.0810	Administration – Retirement	\$ 70
G.8110.0830	Administration – Social Security	\$ 33
G.8120.0110	Sanitary Sewers - Salaries	\$ 350
G.8120.0810	Sanitary Sewers – Retirement	\$ 57
G.8120.0830	Sanitary Sewers – Social Security	\$ 26
G.8130.0110	Treatment and Disposal - Salaries	\$ 772
G.8130.0810	Treatment and Disposal – Retirement	\$ 127
G.8130.0830	Treatment and Disposal – Social Security	\$ 59
	Total	<u>\$ 1,916</u>

**LIBRARY FUND**

L.0000.0909	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 943</u>
L.7410.0110	Library - Salaries	\$ 760
L.7410.0810	Library – Retirement	\$ 125
L.7410.0830	Library – Social Security	\$ 58
	Total	<u>\$ 943</u>

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

CD.0000.4940.8614	Entitlement Grant - 2020	<u>\$ 654</u>
CD.8668.0110	Community Development - Salaries	\$ 527
CD.8668.0810	Community Development – Retirement	\$ 87
CD.8668.0830	Community Development – Social Security	\$ 40
	Total	<u>\$ 654</u>

**SELF-FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND**

MS.0000.0909	Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>\$ 535</u>
MS.1710.0110	Self-Funded Health Insurance - Salaries	\$ 431
MS.1710.0810	Self-Funded Health Insurance – Retirement	\$ 71
	Self-Funded Health Insurance – Social	
MS.1710.0830	Security	\$ 33
	Total	<u>\$ 535</u>

***Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.***

**Resolution No. 10 - Accepting Donation from L.L. Bean**

***Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson***

WHEREAS L.L. Bean held an outdoor shopping pop-up shop in Public Square this fall, and

WHEREAS as a thank you to the City for allowing them to setup their shop on Public Square, L.L. Bean is making a \$2,500 donation to the City, and

WHEREAS the money is to be used for a project that encourages individuals to spend time outdoors or other projects that benefit downtown or the waterfront, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown accepts this donation with the intent of using these funds for new landscaping materials to enhance the two traffic islands on the eastern side of Public Square,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the financial donation from L.L. Bean in the amount of \$2,500 for landscape materials in Public Square.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Compo commented that the L.L. Bean Pop-up Sale was a very popular event, and she would like to see them come back for another sale in the future. She hoped that next time there would be more notice so that an event could be coordinated with other downtown businesses.

Other members of Council offered comments of similar sentiment.

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

## **ORDINANCES**

**Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated August 5, 2019, Authorizing the Issuance of \$270,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, in and for Said City, to Increase the Estimated Maximum Cost Thereof and the Amount of Bonds Authorized to \$575,000**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS, by ordinance dated August 5, 2019, the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, authorized the issuance of \$270,000 bonds of said City to pay the cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, all in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, a specific object or purpose, at an estimated maximum cost of \$270,000, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to increase the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose from \$270,000 to \$575,000, an increase of \$305,000 over that previously authorized, and to authorize the issuance of bonds sufficient to pay said estimated maximum cost; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, as follows:

Section A. The title and Sections 1 and 2 of the ordinance of this Council dated and duly adopted August 5, 2019, authorizing the issuance of \$270,000 bonds to pay the cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, all in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, a specific object or purpose, at an estimated maximum cost of \$270,000, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby amended, in part, to read as follows:

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$575,000 BONDS OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF A WATER TREATMENT PLANT SODA ASH DRY CHEMICAL SYSTEM, IN AND FOR SAID CITY.”

....

“Section 1. For the specific object or purpose of paying the cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, all in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$575,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$575,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$575,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, provided however, that the amount of bonds to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of any grant funds received therefor.”

- Section B. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:
- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
  - (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this ordinance are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
  - (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section C. Upon this ordinance taking effect, the same shall be published in summary in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section D. This ordinance is effective immediately.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

**Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**EMS Meeting/COVID-19 Response**

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson said that during the EMS discussion at the next work session, he would like to know what the minimum staffing could be in case the department is hit hard with a COVID-19 outbreak. He also asked when the Police and Fire Departments would receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

City Manager Mix advised that the Fire Department received their vaccinations last week, but he is not sure when the Police Department is scheduled.

**Response to Barrigar’s Comments During Privilege of the Floor**

Noting that this topic has nothing to do with Council, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson said that he found it insulting to suggest that transgender matters have anything to do with body mutilation.

**House Fire on Mechanic Street**

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned the recent fire in which families were displaced from their home. She said she spoke to one of them and offered agencies that could assist them with housing, and she encouraged people to donate to the Red Cross and Urban Mission on their behalf. She also commended the Fire Department for saving the family dog.

**Resignation of Council Member Roshia**

Council Member Roshia read from a prepared statement (on file in the City Clerk’s Office) stating he would be resigning from his position on Council effective January 31, 2021. Stating this was a very difficult decision, he said it was necessary because of COVID-19 altering his family’s day-to-day life. He noted that the impact has been an unexpected change in his primary employer, selling of his family home and a future change in his primary residence. Stating his new employment is in Syracuse, he explained his travel time and longer workdays have resulted in less availability for his family and his dedication to the residents of the City of Watertown. He thanked City staff, in particular City Manager Kenneth Mix, City Clerk Ann Saunders and City Attorney Robert Slye for their professional partnerships as well as members of Council and the Mayor for his leadership during this unusual time. He also thanked former Mayor Joseph M. Butler, Jr. for inspiring him to pursue a seat in politics.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 7:38 p.m. by motion of Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

*Ann M. Saunders*  
City Clerk