

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
January 19, 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: Fire Chief Matthew Timerman, Michael Lumbis, Michael DeMarco, James Mills

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Appointing Eric T. Swartz to Part-Time City Court Judge for the City of Watertown
- Resolution No. 2 - Requesting Emergency Medical Dispatch as it Relates to City of Watertown Fire Department EMS Response
- Resolution No. 3 - Appointment of Commissioner of Deeds
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub-recipient Grant Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2020 Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Special Use Permit Request Submitted by Cary J. Parker of Lawngevity Lawn Service to Allow Two 10' x 12' Storage Buildings as the Primary Use in a Commercial District at 317 Meadow Street North, Parcel Number 7-18-113.000
- Resolution No. 6 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment
- Resolution No. 7 - Appointment to Board of Ethics, Stephen A. Jennings
- Ordinance No. 1 - Designating the Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 As Residence A
- Public Health - Amending the City of Watertown's 2018 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan
- Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program – Rounds 14 & 15 Updates
- New York State Water Environment Federation (WEF) Laboratory Excellence Award at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Sales Tax Revenue – December 2020
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – December 2020
- Year-end Financial Report

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 January 4, 2021 and work session of January 11, 2021, 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

An email was received from Michel Gravelle, 157 Thompson Boulevard, in opposition of selling the Heavy Rescue Truck and the discontinuance of EMS service if the County does not take over the EMD.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Smith interrupted the regular course of business to present Council Member Roshia with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of Council, City staff and the residents of Watertown for his service and commitment to City government.

Council Member Roshia thanked the Mayor and said he appreciates the recognition. He stated that his decision to step down from Council was not an easy decision and it was based on personal reasons as he stated at the last Council meeting. He indicated that he wanted to clarify some misinformation that has been circulated within the community and media regarding his residence. He said that he currently resides in the City and has lived in the City for 40 years and never had a permanent address outside the City. He remarked that he was surprised at the content of the media story last night that questioned his residency, and he does not think he has given anybody reason to think that he was not trustworthy during this process. Noting he was surprised at Council Member Ruggiero's comments, he said he is not an unethical person and would never do what was proposed that he may be doing. He added that there are reports that he is moving to Syracuse, which he clarified he is not, and will continue to live in the County, just not within the City limits. He stressed that it is his obligation to vote on tonight's resolutions and he owes it to the taxpayers who elected him. He added that he never votes on how it will affect him and always votes for how it will affect the people that put him in this seat and with their best interests in mind.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Todd Demar, 332 South Indiana Avenue, informed Council of his credentials and professional certifications in regard to fire services and stated he was a 21-year member of the Watertown Fire Department. He said that, in his professional opinion, it is a mistake to narrow the services of the Fire Department by eliminating EMS services. He noted that it is the opposite of what other professional Fire Departments are doing across the country. He read from a prepared statement offering points which supported his position. He also commented that it is a mistake to sell the Heavy Rescue Truck without knowing if the new policy will work, stating Council needs more information before it should make this decision.

Cliff Olney, 847 Washington Street, spoke of a personal experience of an incident in which EMS services were required and noted that Guilfoyle was the last to arrive. He stressed that Council should not rush to a decision, especially during a pandemic, and said the responsible thing to do is to investigate

this thoroughly and provide answers to the community's questions first. He also questioned Council Member Roshia's ability to vote this evening.

Mayor Smith stated, for the record, that this is the problem with misinformation being disseminated in the community and media and that Council Member Roshia does reside in the City and has not resigned yet, so he has an obligation to vote tonight.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, stated that Council should honor the oaths that they took, which is to service the community. Noting that he will be submitting his name for consideration for appointment to the upcoming vacant Council seat, he indicated he would serve on behalf of the disabled population. He also expressed concerns with the COVID-19 vaccine and the possible side effects.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, spoke in support of the Fire Department and his concerns with Council wanting to eliminate the use of the Heavy Rescue Truck and sell it. He also said he does not feel that Council Member Roshia has a right to vote on this since he is stepping down at the end of the month.

Mayor Smith clarified that Council Member Roshia not only has the right to vote, but that it is his duty to vote.

Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, discussed the EMD dispatch system and compared the list of conditions/calls within the resolution to the EMD dispatch system. He cited incidents that are not listed within the resolution, such as abdominal pain, and provided examples which could result in a condition, such as abdominal aneurysm, that requires life supporting measures.

Robert Schorr, 640 Leray Street, agreed that the Heavy Rescue Truck should be sold, but because it has issues and should be replaced. He commented that EMD dispatch will result in spending more money and not save money. In regard to the argument that the Fire Department currently responds to every call with "lights and sirens" which can cause a hazardous condition in traffic, he suggested that once it is determined that the call is lower level, the Fire Department can easily turn the lights and sirens off and respond appropriately.

Donnie Lee Barrigar, 134 Union Street, addressed Council regarding Resolution No. 1 and stated that he has no objection to Eric Swartz being appointed, but he hopes Mr. Swartz stands by the constitution. Regarding the Fire Department issue, he stated that he listens to the public's comments at the meetings, but Council continues to vote against what the public wants. Lastly, he mentioned Resolution No. 7 and stated that he is opposed to Stephen Jennings being appointed to the Ethics Board.

PUBLIC HEARING

The 7:15p.m public hearing was held virtually as well as in person so there was a short break while IT staff setup the virtual link and audio.

At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning amending the City of Watertown's 2018 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan

Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:20 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:21 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Appointing Eric T. Swartz to Part-Time City Court Judge for the City of Watertown

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Mayor of the City of Watertown is empowered by the laws of the State of New York to appoint to the office of Part-Time City Court Judge for the City of Watertown, subject to the consent of City Council, and

WHEREAS a vacancy occurred January 1, 2021, and

WHEREAS the Mayor, Jeffrey M. Smith, appoints Eric T. Swartz, 140 Park Avenue, Watertown, New York, to the position of Part-Time City Court Judge, and

WHEREAS Mr. Swartz is a 1992 Syracuse Law graduate, in private practice since 1994, and has served as a judge for the Town of Watertown, and

WHEREAS Mr. Swartz currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Jefferson County Historical Society and the Watertown Boxing Club,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby confirms the appointment of Eric T. Swartz, 140 Park Avenue, Watertown, New York, to the position of Part-Time City Court Judge effective immediately for a six (6) year term ending December 31, 2026.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith announced that Mr. Swartz and his wife were present in the audience. He listed Mr. Swartz's credentials and spoke of his experience, stating he looks forward to him serving as the part-time City Judge.

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

Resolution No. 2 - Requesting Emergency Medical Dispatch as it Relates to City of Watertown Fire Department EMS Response

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Guilfoyle Ambulance Service holds the Certificate of Need (CON) to provide Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the residents of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS Guilfoyle Ambulance is the transporting agency for all EMS calls to the City of Watertown residents, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department assists Guilfoyle with Emergency Medical Services as a Basic Life Support First Responder unit, and

WHEREAS the City Council does not want to duplicate EMS services, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires that the City of Watertown Fire Department continue to assist Guilfoyle with the most severe type of EMS calls, and

WHEREAS Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) is the national standard for dispatching EMS, and

WHEREAS Jefferson County provides EMD for all EMS calls to all Jefferson County residents outside the Guilfoyle Ambulance service area, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires that the City of Watertown Fire Department respond to EMS calls based on the same EMD service that all other EMS agencies in Jefferson County, except for Guilfoyle, receive,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby requests Jefferson County to provide the City Fire Department with complete Emergency Medical Dispatch for EMS calls, as it is presently provided to other County EMS Agency's except Guilfoyle Ambulance, by January 1, 2022, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fire Department shall continue to respond to EMS calls using the current system of dispatch for the call types listed below with the Engine Company from the nearest Fire Station responding until January 1, 2022, at which time ***the City will develop an alternate model, EMS shall cease operation**, unless EMD has been implemented for the City:

- Allergies/Environmental
- Assault-EMS
- Assist-EMS
- Breathing Problem
- Burns
- Cardiac/Resp
- Chest Pain
- Choking
- Co/Inhalation
- Convulsions/Seizure
- Drowning/Diving Accident
- Electrocution
- Fall
- Heart Problem
- Inaccessible Incident/Other Entrapments Non-Vehicle
- Overdose/Poison

Pregnancy/Birth
Stab/Gunshot
Stroke
Traumatic Injury
Traffic Accidents
Uncons/Fainting
Unknown Problem, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future increase or decrease in EMS response from the Fire Department must be approved by the City Council of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned that the cover memo states the City will continue to respond to EMS calls until January 1, 2022 under the current system, but he feels there is some confusion as to whether the City will discontinue EMS calls after January 1, 2022.

Mayor Smith confirmed the intent is to discontinue it under the current methodology, noting the City does not have EMD now, so EMD must be in place to continue with those calls.

Council Member Ruggiero asked for clarification, citing the language in the resolution implying that EMS will cease unless EMD is implemented.

Mayor Smith reiterated that EMS would continue under EMD if the County provides EMD services. He stressed that it is not Council's intent to not respond to EMS calls, but he just wants to have the same safety level of services. He noted that even the Fire Chief has agreed that EMD is the preferred method.

Council Member Ruggiero questioned the list of conditions included in the resolution and argued the importance of having the Fire Department respond to types of calls that were not on the list. Noting the Fire Department has access to many buildings by use of a Knox Box, she asked how Guilfoyle would get into these properties.

Mayor Smith stated that the property owners should let them in. He said that Guilfoyle currently responds to calls without the Fire Department, and mentioned that at last week's work session, the City Manager provided a list of calls that Guilfoyle already responds to without the Fire Department, and some of these occur within those properties.

Council Member Ruggiero stated she feels this resolution says that if the County does not provide EMD then the Fire Department will not provide EMS services. She expressed concerns because she feels that, based on County Legislature Chairman Gray's comments, the County will not provide EMD to the City. She said she is also worried that people will now receive bills from Guilfoyle. She commented that she is opposed to this because it will affect public safety and it has been noted that Guilfoyle sometimes takes 15-20 minutes to respond. She suggested putting this on the ballot so the residents can decide how they want this handled.

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's questions regarding the treatments for allergic reactions to bee stings, Fire Chief Timerman explained how the Fire Department would respond and the timeliness

of the response. He did point out that it is unusual for Guilfoyle to not respond by 15-20 minutes but confirmed that the Fire Department typically arrives first.

Mayor Smith spoke about what he feels is a lot of misinformation being given to the public. Regarding the ballot issue, he said this is a representative democracy, in which Council is elected to represent their constituents and is elected to vote on issues. He stressed this is not a mandatory referendum issue which needs to be put on the ballot. He commented that this is no different from voting \$3 million out of the fund balance for a pool, which some thought should have been put on a ballot but was not.

Attorney Syle explained the City is entitled to have a mandatory referendum when the municipal Home Rule allows it, and this is not one of those circumstances.

In response to the comment that Guilfoyle takes 20 minutes to respond to calls, Mayor Smith said the potential is there for that to occur, but that it is not the norm, so scaring the public by saying it is normal is doing a complete disservice to the public. He reviewed the standard treatment of care for some of the medical conditions which Council Member Ruggiero referred to earlier in the meeting and indicated that even though the Fire Department does a good job, those treatments can only be administered by the ALS providers at Guilfoyle. Stressing that Guilfoyle is already going to 100% of the calls, Mayor Smith said it is misleading the public to imply that the Fire Department is responding and treating people for their medical emergencies and Guilfoyle is not, and that by changing the dispatch system, people will now get a bill from Guilfoyle. He further discussed information which has been put out to the public that he feels is misleading or not true and said Council Member Ruggiero has done a disservice to Guilfoyle as well.

After being interrupted, Mayor Smith referred to the Rules of Council in reference to when the Chair has the floor.

Mayor Smith explained that the purpose of the resolution is that the City wants the Fire Department to respond to the most severe calls, which is what he has consistently heard from the public. In addition, he said EMD protects the public and saves lives, which he indicated both the Fire Chief and Mr. Wright from Guilfoyle agreed with, and that it is the best avenue for the Fire Department to respond. Stating the City is not telling the County that they must provide EMD, he reiterated that EMD is a service which is provided to the rest of the County. In regard to the County's response that it will require them to hire five new dispatch employees costing approximately \$300,000, Mayor Smith reviewed his calculations of the extra time needed to provide EMD to each call, based on an average of 2,300 - 2,600 calls per year, and indicated that it calculated to less than one hour per day.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson questioned whether the City would continue to provide EMS service under these guidelines if the resolution was to be approved but the County did not agree to provide EMD.

Mayor Smith replied that Council would need to approve another resolution, but the goal is to have the County do EMD.

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's request for the Fire Chief's opinion on this, Chief Timerman said EMS and structural firefighting are the most important services the department provides. He stated the Fire Department's job is to protect life and property and that applies to both pulling someone out of a

burning building or by providing emergency medical services. In regard to dispatch, he commented he would agree with EMD, but, if it is not provided, then the current system works well also. He noted it is difficult to separate the nonemergency versus the emergency calls now, so EMD would assist with that, but the dispatcher will still need to make those judgement decisions based on the information received from the caller. He responded to questions regarding the firefighters' EMT status and training if EMS response was to be discontinued.

Council Member Roshia wanted to make clear, for the public, that Mr. Wright is in a business which does not get funds from the City and he is doing the County a service free of charge. He does not want it to come across that if Council passes this resolution, then they are going to incur extra expenses from Guilfoyle because Guilfoyle gets dispatched to the calls anyway. He also indicated that the intent of this resolution is not to eliminate the Fire Department's response to EMS calls, noting there are situations in which the Fire Department is needed to respond, and that Guilfoyle has the ability to request the Fire Department's response whenever necessary.

Council Member Compo agreed the intent of this resolution is not to cease EMS services, noting the Fire Department plays a vital role in that. She said the intent is to streamline services and eliminate the duplication of services, which can be accomplished by the use of EMD. She advised she researched other communities of similar size and found they follow EMD provided by their own County.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson noted that the use of Knox Boxes could fall under the category listed in the resolution of "Inaccessible Incident/Other Entrapments Non-Vehicle."

A detailed discussion occurred regarding the number of Knox Boxes within the City and the types of properties that use them, and it was questioned whether Guilfoyle, the Fire Department and the Police Department could work together to share access.

Council Member Ruggiero referred back to the language of the resolution concerning what happens if the County will not provide EMD and suggested changing the wording.

Mayor Smith noted that EMD is the safest and most effective method for dispatch and mentioned that residents already pay for it through their County taxes and a portion of their cell phone bill.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson stated the Mayor makes some good points about how the County should be treating its City constituents the same as it does the non-City constituents, but he has concerns that the City cannot bind the County. He suggested removing the language stating that on January 1, 2022, the City will stop doing EMS or change it to say that in the event the County will not provide EMD, the City will come up with an alternate model. He clarified that this change will not send the message that there will be no EMS service after January 1, 2022.

Mayor Smith said he thinks that this is reasonable in terms of the City coming up with an alternative model if the County does not provide the City residents with EMD by January 1, 2022

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to amend the foregoing resolution as noted above. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia and carried with all voting in favor thereof except for Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero voting nay.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson clarified that the amendment implies that Council has until the end of the year to come up with an alternate model for EMS dispatch, provided the County does not provide the City with that service.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero voting nay.

Resolution No. 3 - Appointment of Commissioner of Deeds

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Commissioner of Deeds in the cities of this state shall be appointed by the common councils of such cities, and

WHEREAS Commissioner of Deeds shall hold the term of two years, and

WHEREAS any person who resides in or maintains an office or other place of business in any such city and who resides in the county in which said city is situated shall be eligible to appointment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following individuals are hereby appointed Commissioner of Deeds for the term expiring December 31, 2022.

Non-City Employee

Cynthia E Cronk

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

Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Sub-recipient Grant Agreement with Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2020 Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2020 includes the rehabilitation of seven (7) substandard housing units within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Annual Action Plan identifies the Owner Occupied Rehabilitation activity to be \$215,000 in funding for rehabilitation, administration and program delivery, and

WHEREAS Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. will serve as the Sub-Recipient of the funds for program administration, and

WHEREAS a Sub-Recipient Agreement between the City of Watertown and Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the CDBG funds has been prepared,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Sub-Recipient Agreement for program administration with the Neighbors of Watertown for the 2020 Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Sub-Recipient Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to Neighbors of Watertown, Inc. for the 2020 Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Program.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Special Use Permit Request Submitted by Cary J. Parker of Lawngevity Lawn Service to Allow Two 10' x 12' Storage Buildings as the Primary Use in a Commercial District at 317 Meadow Street North, Parcel Number 7-18-113.000

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Cary J. Parker of Lawngevity Lawn Service has made an application for a Special Use Permit to allow two 10' x 12' storage buildings as the primary use in a Commercial District at 317 Meadow Street North, Parcel Number 7-18-113.000, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the request for a Special Use Permit at its meeting held on January 5, 2021, and voted to recommend that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the Special Use Permit with the following conditions:

1. The applicant must obtain Building Permits for both sheds prior to any further construction.

and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed Special Use Permit on February 1, 2021, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form, responding to each of the questions contained in Part II and has determined that the project, as submitted, is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant effect on the environment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown declares that the proposed Special Use Permit to allow two 10' x 12' storage buildings as the primary use in a Commercial District at 317 Meadow Street North, Parcel Number 7-18-113.000 is an Unlisted Action for the purposes of SEQRA and hereby determines that the project, as proposed, will not have a significant effect on the environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that a Special Use Permit is hereby granted to Cary J. Parker of Lawngevity Lawn Service to allow two 10' x 12' storage buildings as the primary use in a Commercial District at 317 Meadow Street North, Parcel Number 7-18-113.000, contingent upon the applicant meeting the condition listed above.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing resolution for Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 6 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has various surplus equipment, the description of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS the various equipment may have some value best determined by on-line auction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by on-line auction, of the various surplus equipment as described in the attached listing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final acceptance of such bids shall constitute acceptance of the same by the City Council.

Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero commented that if the City does not use the Rescue Truck, then it will need to buy tools for the other trucks that are used in its place.

Chief Timerman explained that some of the tools are battery powered so those have already been moved to other vehicles. He further explained that some of the specialty tools are run by the generator attached to the Heavy Rescue Truck. He indicated the estimate for replacing the generator powered tools could cost approximately \$32,000 - \$35,000.

There was a lengthy discussion of the consequence of selling the Heavy Rescue Truck in case the union filed a grievance, which might cause additional legal costs or the possibility of needing to reinstate it.

Attorney Slye advised he does not believe it would be a breach of the Fire Contract to not have a particular piece of equipment. He provided the example of if Council wanted to replace a current pumper with a quint, then it would be Council's decision and not something to be grieved. He stressed that Council gets to decide on equipment since Council is the one responsible for figuring out how the taxpayers will pay for it. He reminded Council that the level of service to be provided by the Fire Department is a decision of City Council and the implementation of that is the responsibility of the Fire Department.

In response to Council Member Roshia's question, Chief Timerman confirmed that the firefighters previously assigned to the Heavy Rescue Truck have been reallocated throughout the department and reassigned to different trucks.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked if the City could purchase a smaller vehicle to hold the generator powered equipment which led to a further discussion of replacing the generator powered tools with battery powered tools and whether the existing equipment could be redistributed to other vehicles currently in the department.

Fire Chief Timerman responded to several questions posed, confirming the replacement costs of the generator powered tools is approximately \$32,000 - \$35,000 and that the department currently has a F550 truck, which is assigned as the reserve rescue vehicle and it can hold the battery powered tools.

Regarding the remaining equipment that is currently operated by the generator on the Heavy Rescue Truck, he stated it makes sense to replace those tools with battery powered tools. He noted that the industry is switching over to battery powered tools because there are many benefits to the equipment not being tethered to a vehicle and being more portable. He pointed out that the department had already begun this transition to battery powered equipment and had plans to finish the transition over time, so doing it now would not put the department at a disadvantage. In regard to the replacement cost of the Heavy Rescue Truck in the capital budget for \$250,000, Fire Chief Timerman said if it was to be replaced, then his recommendation would be to replace it with a smaller vehicle and not another Heavy Rescue Truck.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero voting nay.

Resolution No. 7 - Appointment to Board of Ethics, Stephen A. Jennings

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby appointed to the Board of Ethics for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2021:

Stephen A. Jennings
219 Green Street
Watertown, New York 13601

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith commented that Mr. Jennings is a very honorable person and he thanked him for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Other members of Council offered words in agreement.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Designating the Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 As Residence A

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT ORDAINED where the City of Watertown has made an application by petition filed with the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 83 of the New York General City Law to designate the zoning classification of recently created 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 as Residence A, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown considered the zone change request at its January 5, 2021 meeting and adopted a motion recommending that City Council approve the zoning designation, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zoning designation on February 1, 2021, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of Negative Findings of the impacts of the proposed zone change according to the requirements of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the requested zone change,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the approved zoning classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 shall be designated as Residence A, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Zoning Map of the City of Watertown shall be amended to reflect the zone change, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Motion was made by Council Member Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding

Mayor Smith indicated that he is not in agreement with all the suggested changes recommended by staff and asked that this be discussed further at a future work session.

Planning and Community Development Coordinator Michael Lumbis clarified that none of the changes have been finalized yet. He explained that additional guidance was received from HUD on how the money should be spent and that the original approved plan had too many funds being spent on infrastructure, which is not enough of a direct connection to the impact of COVID-19.

Council Member Compo agreed there should be further discussion at a work session and advised that she has done some research to see how other communities are spending the additional funding.

City Manager Mix reminded Council that CDBG funds must benefit low to moderate income individuals.

Mr. Lumbis added that the CARES Act component requires that it also respond to the effects of COVID-19.

Council initially agreed to holding a work session on Monday, January 25 at 6:15 p.m. to discuss this further, but after the executive session, agreed to change the work session to Wednesday, January 27 at 6:15 p.m.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program – Rounds 14 &15 Updates

City Planner Michael DeMarco provided Council with an overview of the staff report. He noted that the DEC allowed for the reallocation of funding to go towards the treatment of ash trees, which the Watertown Noon Rotary Club contributed additional funding as well. He also pointed out that the City was recently notified of the awarding of a \$50,000 Tree Maintenance Grant, which was applied for in November 2019.

New York State Water Environment Federation (WEF) Laboratory Excellence Award at the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mayor Smith explained that an employee of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Angel French, was awarded the WEF Laboratory Excellence Award. He spoke highly of the staff and work that is being done at the sewer plant, noting that many communities use the City of Watertown as an example.

Sales Tax Revenue – December 2020 and Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – December 2020

Mayor Smith commented that sales tax has done well and outperformed what was budgeted, but hydro revenue is down, which was expected due to a shutdown for planned improvements.

Year-End Financial Report

A detailed report was available for Council to review and City Comptroller James Mills explained that the yearend audit is wrapping up and will be presented to Council next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Support for Watertown Correctional Facility

Council Member Compo indicated there was a rally on Public Square last Saturday in support of the Watertown Correctional Facility. She encouraged everyone to continue to support the facility in hopes that the Governor will change his mind about closing it.

Police Reform

In response to Council Member Henry-Wilkinson's request for an update on Police Reform, City Manager Mix indicated that there is still a lot of work to do. He said they are in the process of scheduling meetings with community stakeholders.

Mayor Smith noted that a benefit of the department already being credentialed is that some of the requirements have been met already.

Board of Elections Request

Council Member Roshia reminded Council that the Board of Elections had requested the City update its election law and he asked that Council not lose sight of this request.

Josephine Leon – 105 Years Old

Council Member Ruggiero announced that a member of the community, Josephine Leon, recently turned 105 years old.

Alliance for Better Communities Meeting

Council Member Ruggiero indicated she attended a recent meeting and noted there is a rise in cases of people suffering from drug abuse, mental health issues and domestic violence.

Mayor Smith said that one of the downsides of some individuals receiving stimulus checks is that they have increased funds and ability to purchase illegal drugs.

Vice President Pence's Visit to Fort Drum

Mayor Smith mentioned that Vice President Pence visited Fort Drum over the weekend and he said it was an honor to have him visit and recognize Fort Drum's role in the country's defense.

Council Member Roshia's Departure From Council

Each Council Member expressed their farewells to Council Member Roshia, stating they respect his decision to put his family first, but his human resources experience and sound reasoning skills will be missed. It was noted that he brought a calm to the Council and was highly respected by the members of Council and City staff.

Council Member Roshia thanked everyone, including City staff, and gave final remarks. He stressed that he appreciated their support during his time on Council.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:54 p.m.

City Manager Mix - recording secretary for the below discussion.

Work Session Next Week

Council Member Compo asked if the Work Session previously scheduled this evening for January 25 could be moved to another day, because she may not be available next Monday. It was agreed to schedule it on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:15 pm.

Proposal From Developer

Mayor Smith informed the Council of a meeting he and the City Manager had with Michael Lundy. Mr. Lundy discussed three proposals in the meeting, which are as follows: He wishes to acquire the portion of Thompson Park that Watertown Golf Club leases through a property trade. He would also like to acquire the City-owned Van Duzee Street site in return for him cleaning up any environmental contamination. The third item pertained to property he owns on Washington Street/U.S. Route 11 that is partially in the City and partially in the Town of Watertown that he would like to develop. He wants to annex the City portion into the Town of Watertown, because there is a water pressure problem on the City's side. He offered to annex a portion of the golf course that is in the Town into the City in return.

The Council discussed these proposals, and the consensus was that they did not support any of them. Staff was directed to investigate ways to increase water pressure on the Washington Street.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 10:20 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