

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
February 1, 2021  
7:00 p.m.**

**Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding**

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

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

**City staff present:** Patrick Keenan, Fire Chief Matthew Timerman, James Mills, Michael Lumbis

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 General Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services, Disabled Persons Action Organization Foundation
- Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing Shared Services Agreement Between New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and City of Watertown
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Donation from Brookfield Renewable U.S.
- Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing Application for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)
- Resolution No. 6 - Adopting the Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Annual Action Plan
- Resolution No. 7 - Finding That Designating the Approved Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 as Residence A Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving Temporary Change of Fees Within the Franchise Agreement With International Development Hockey League
- Public Hearing - Resolution 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
- Public Hearing - Ordinance Designating the Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 As Residence A
- Police Reform Plan Update
- YMCA Request for City-Owned Property
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

**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 19, 2021 and work session of January 27, 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**

A letter was received from Amanda McCracken, 652 Arsenal Street, notifying the City of the unshoveled sidewalk in front of 217 Arsenal Street, causing her to fall and injure herself.

**Above communication was placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.**

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Independent Auditors' Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 - Liz Bush, CPA, Bowers & Company CPAs PLLC**

Ms. Bush began the presentation by reviewing the Independent Auditors' Report, which is found on the pages directly following the table of contents. She explained the responsibilities of management and the auditor, the required supplemental information included in addition to the basic financial statements and the other information included in relation to the schedule of expenditures of Federal Awards (more commonly known as the Single Audit). She highlighted that they issued an unmodified clean opinion of the financial statements, as well as an unmodified clean opinion on the Single Audit of Federal Awards.

She referred Council to the Management's Discussion and Analysis (page 4 - 22), which is prepared by the City Comptroller and provides valuable information for the financial statements and the financial analysis of the City, and she encouraged Council to read through it.

Ms. Bush reviewed in detail the various Audited Financial Statements, which start on page 23. She pointed out that the Statement of Net Position is a balance sheet which includes all the funds, capital assets, long-term debt, the City's proportionate share of the NYS pension system and some deferred inflows and outflows, and she advised there is a variety of significant estimates contained in this financial statement. She explained the total assets were \$181 million, of which approximately \$140 million were capital assets and about \$41 million were in current or liquid assets, and that the total liabilities were about \$228 million, which included about \$30 million in serial bonds and approximately \$152 million in other post employment benefit (OPEB) and about \$25 million in net pension liability. She clarified that the OPEB liability is for health insurance for retirees. She summarized that the total net position, which is the difference between all the assets, deferrals and liabilities, for the Governmental Funds (General Funds and Capital Funds) is a deficit of about \$44 million and for the Water and Sewer Funds is a positive position of about \$26 million, and therefore, this calculates to an approximately \$18 million deficit in the total net position for the government-wide statements. She advised Council to keep in mind that these statements include several significant estimates, which are required to be included, however if these actuarial evaluations and accruals were to be taken out, then the City would end up with a positive net position. Explaining the Statement of Activities, page 24, Ms. Bush indicated the total expenses were approximately \$65 million and the total revenues were approximately \$62 million, leaving a change in the net position of about a negative \$2.8 million.

On the Balance Sheet for the Governmental Funds on page 25, she noted the total General Fund fund balance was approximately \$17.8 million and reviewed the restricted portions for reserves and the amounts assigned, which leaves an unassigned fund balance amount of about \$11.2 million. On page 27, Ms. Bush drew Council's attention to the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund

Balance for Governmental Funds and reviewed it in detail, summarizing that the net change in the General Fund fund balance from the end of last year was approximately \$926,000.

Ms. Bush reviewed the financial statements for the Proprietary Funds, which begin on page 29 and include the Statement of Net Position, Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position and the Statement of Cash Flows. She explained that the Proprietary Funds represent the Water and Sewer Funds and summarized that the year ended with approximately \$26 million in the total net position for these funds, which is a change in net position of approximately \$800,000.

Regarding the Notes to the Financial Statements starting on page 34, Ms. Bush said she will only point out some of the significant notes. On page 36, she indicated the new accounting standards which were either adopted by the City or will be adopted in the future. She referred Council to page 48 for the Cash and Cash Equivalent Note which states that all the City's cash is either collateralized or insured by the FDIC, so there was no uncollateralized cash. She advised that page 49 and 50 provides more detail of the capital assets and depreciation expense of the Governmental Funds and Water and Sewer Funds. She turned to the debt disclosures and discussed in detail the Short-Term Debt Note on page 54 and the Long-Term Debt Note beginning on page 55. Beginning on page 57, she highlighted the General Obligation Bonds outstanding for the City, which totals approximately \$30 million, and detailed the amounts due for principal and interest in the upcoming years on page 58. She summarized the Retirement Benefit Note beginning on page 60, highlighting the employer contributions and the employee contributions on page 64, and she reviewed the Postemployment (Health Insurance) Benefits beginning on page 71.

Ms. Bush drew Council's attention to page 88, which shows the Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund. She noted the budgeted and actual amounts, and she offered explanations as to why some of the items had variances.

The next section of the audit pertains to the Federal Awards Program information and Ms. Bush stated the Independent Auditor's Report on Government Auditing Standards on page 94 and 95 reports there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. She indicated the Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance For Each Major Program and Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance on page 94 and 95 shows a clean unmodified opinion on the Single Audit/Audit of the Federal Awards Programs. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards was on page 97, and she stated the major programs audited were the Highway Planning and Construction and the SAFER Grant.

She reviewed the Summary of the Audit Results listed under Note A on page 99, stating it summarizes all of the different opinions of the financial statements and whether there were any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. She reviewed the list and stressed that the City is a low-risk auditee because there have not been any findings in the last two years and all reports are filed in a timely manner.

The last section of the report is regarding State Transportation Assistance Programs, and Ms. Bush advised that an unmodified clean opinion was issued on page 103 and a detail of what was expended is listed on page 105. She noted the CHIPs program was audited this year.

Lastly, Ms. Bush reviewed the findings listed in the management letter and the communication report.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Denise Young**, Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA, spoke regarding the staff report on this evening's agenda requesting a small strip of land on the western edge of a City-owned parking lot near the former Convergys building be sold to the JCIDA for expansion of the future aquatics center.

**Jason Traynor**, 142 Mechanic Street, advised Council that he submitted his name for consideration for the vacant seat on Council. He also advocated for the expansion of the bus system and the proposal for a Chick-fil-A to build a restaurant in the City.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, spoke to Council about the bus system and the difficulty that some individuals in wheelchairs have fitting on the bus and the condition of the sidewalks during winter causing safety issues. He also expressed his concerns regarding the Fire Department's response to EMS calls and recent proposed changes to the dispatch process.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning 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.**

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:15 p.m.**

No one spoke.

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:16 p.m.**

**At 7:16 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the Deputy City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning designating the Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 as Residence A.**

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

No one spoke.

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:17 p.m.**

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 1 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 General 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 \$41,872,180 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the City has been notified of an upcoming retirement of a Senior Account Clerk Typist in the Department of Public Works, and

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Public Works has requested the temporary over-hiring of an additional Senior Account Clerk Typist to train with the current individual in that position before their retirement, and

WHEREAS the Department of Public Works has budgetary savings in the Municipal Maintenance temporary labor line item due to not hiring during the Covid-19 pandemic 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 General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to add temporarily an additional Senior Account Clerk Typist in the Department of Public Works which shall cease upon the retirement of the current employee’s retirement, and

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

GENERAL FUND

Expenditures:

A.1490.0120	DPW Administration - Clerical	\$ 6,250
A.1490.0810	DPW Administration – Retirement	\$ 625
A.1490.0830	DPW Administration – Social Security	\$ 500
A.1490.0850	DPW Administration – Health Insurance	\$ 2,500
A.5010.0140	DPW Municipal Maintenance - Temporary	(\$ 8,400)
A.5010.0810	DPW Municipal Maintenance - Retirement	(\$ 825)
A.5010.0830	DPW Municipal Maintenance - Social Security	<u>(\$ 650)</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ _____</u>

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

**Resolution No. 2 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services, Disabled Persons Action Organization Foundation**

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

WHEREAS the Disabled Persons Action Organization Foundation (“the Foundation”) provides quality and effective individualized services to developmentally disabled children and adults in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the work of the Foundation serves the public and/or municipal purposes set forth at Section 21 of the New York General City Law, and, thereby, promotes the general welfare of the citizens of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown (City) desires to enter into a contract with the Foundation to provide those services which fall within the ambit of General City Law Section 21 in furtherance of the City’s “public or municipal purposes,” and

WHEREAS the City owns a public park known as The Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds (the “Fairgrounds”) located in the City of Watertown and the Fairgrounds is home to the Watertown Municipal Arena, and

WHEREAS the City further owns a public park known as the John C. Thompson Park (“Thompson Park”), and

WHEREAS the Foundation promotes and, in part, funds its services through the sponsorship of music concerts at the Fairgrounds, which concerts also serve to promote amusement and recreational opportunities in the City, which is also a valid City public or municipal purpose and may, in the future, sponsor concerts or other performances at Thompson Park, and

WHEREAS the City desires to provide both financial and in-kind services in support of the Foundation’s operations including, but not limited to, providing a venue at reasonable cost to the Foundation in order to facilitate the Foundation’s promotion of public or municipal purposes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and Disabled Persons Action Organization Foundation, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute this Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Compo asked Attorney Slye for a ruling on whether she should recuse herself from voting since she is on the board of the DPAO.

Attorney Slye said that was up to the Councilwoman, but added that a member of Council should always vote if they are able and that the appearance of impropriety was eliminated when the possible connection was made public. He further noted that Council Member Compo would have no personal gain from the approval of this agreement.

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

**Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing Shared Services Agreement Between New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and City of Watertown**

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

WHEREAS pursuant to Section 99-r of the General Municipal Law, the State of New York and the City of Watertown wish to share services, exchange or lend materials or equipment which shall promote and assist the maintenance of State and City roads and highways, and provide a cost savings by maximizing the effective utilization of both parties’ resources, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to enter into an Agreement to share these services for any undeclared Emergency Events for four years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Shared Services Agreement Between NYSDOT and City of Watertown, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

**Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Donation from Brookfield Renewable U.S.**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department has a good working relationship with Brookfield Renewable U.S., and

WHEREAS Brookfield Renewable desires to make a donation of \$6,364 to the City for the purchase of an outboard boat motor and pump-jet lower unit, and

WHEREAS the money is to be used for this project to assist the water rescue program,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the financial donation from Brookfield Renewable U.S. in the amount of \$6,364 to purchase an outboard boat motor and pump-jet lower unit.

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

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero thanked Brookfield and noted this was a very generous gift.

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

**Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing Application for Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG)**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Fire Department is seeking City Council approval to apply for grant funding under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, and

WHEREAS the purpose of this program is for critically needed resources necessary for protecting the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards, and

WHEREAS the application, in the amount of \$210,950, with the City match being \$21,095, would provide funding to cover overtime and backfill costs for much needed training,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the Fire Department to submit a grant application under FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute the grant application on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero asked how many firefighters would be trained with the funds from this grant.

Chief Timerman stated that the goal was for all the firefighters to receive the training. He indicated that there were 16 trained personnel currently, and that the last major push for training was around ten years ago so many of the trained staff are older firefighters who are nearing retirement. Chief Timerman informed Council that the goal with this grant was to train the younger and newer staff members to keep the department current.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson remarked that this goal was important to make sure institutional knowledge is not lost to retirement.

Mayor Smith noted that the City Fire Department is often called in support of other counties' Hazardous Materials emergencies.

Chief Timerman noted that the City only has an agreement with Lewis County currently, but they have supported other areas. He went on to say that the County provides \$1-2 million worth of hazardous materials equipment for the City's use and in return gets the benefit of the City's expertise.

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

**Resolution No. 6 - Adopting the Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant 2018 Annual Action Plan**

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

WHEREAS on June 18, 2018, the City Council adopted a resolution approving the City's Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2018 for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and

WHEREAS the approved plan included various projects including an owner-occupied housing rehabilitation program, a sidewalk project, a playground improvement project, a demolition project, a bus shelter installation project, a point-in-time outreach and education initiative, as well as a planning activity that paid for part of the City's Comprehensive Plan, and

WHEREAS there have been changes in the cost and scope of several projects that necessitate amending the plan to reflect the various adjustments, and

WHEREAS Staff conducted outreach efforts with local constituency groups and the City Council held a public hearing on January 19, 2021, to solicit public comments regarding the proposed amendment, and

WHEREAS the draft amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan was completed and published on December 23, 2020, and was made available to the public for review and placed in various offices at City Hall, at the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library, at the Watertown Housing Authority offices and on the City's website, and

WHEREAS a 30-day public comment period for the draft amendment to the 2018 Annual Action Plan was held between December 25, 2020 and January 25, 2021, after a notice of the comment period was published in the *Watertown Daily Times*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby adopts the Amendment to the City of Watertown's CDBG Program Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2018, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and authorizes the submission of the amendment to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

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

**Resolution No. 7 - Finding That Designating the Approved Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 as Residence A Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment**

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

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it an Ordinance to designate the approved zoning classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000, as Residence A, 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 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 there are no other involved agencies for SEQRA review as that term is defined in 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (t), and

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

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 zoning designation 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.

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

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered Part 2 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.**

**Resolution No. 8 - Approving Temporary Change of Fees Within the Franchise Agreement With International Development Hockey League**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown and the International Development Hockey League (“IDHL”) entered into a certain Franchise Agreement effective October 1, 2019 whereby the IDHL obtained certain rights and privileges for the use of the City’s Municipal Arena located at the Alex T. Duffy Fairgrounds; and

WHEREAS among the rights and privileges enjoyed by the IDHL was the use of the Arena’s ice rink for practices and games at billing rates approved for each; and

WHEREAS the Franchise Agreement, at Section IV(a) generally calls for payment by the IDHL for ice time for practices in the amount of \$80.00 per hour of scheduled time and for games at \$150.00 per hour of scheduled time; and

WHEREAS IDHL has informed the City that, given the constraints imposed by the COVID-19 emergency, games which were scheduled for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> and February 3,4,11,12,20, 21, 25, and 26 may not have the public in attendance; and

WHEREAS the reasoning for the Franchise Agreement’s assignment of higher rates per hour of ice time for games was to take into consideration the City’s additional costs of cleaning, etc., the elimination of the public makes the games more akin to a scrimmage or practice than a “game” as contemplated by the Franchise Agreement; and

WHEREAS the IDHL has asked the City to agree to charge the IDHL the \$80.00 per hour of ice time for these un-attended games given the reduction in City expense,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that, notwithstanding Section IV(a) of the parties’ Franchise Agreement, the rate to be applied for the IDHL games otherwise scheduled for Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> and February 3,4,11,12,20, 21, 25, and 26, shall be billed at the rate of \$80.00 per hour of ice time.

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

**Rules waived by Motion of 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 resolution and carried with all voting yea.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Resolution - 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 on 1/19/2021; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 7-8 of the 1/19/2021 minutes).**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered Part 2 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.**

**Ordinance - Designating the Zoning Classification of 330 Brett Street, Parcel Number 11-16-128.000 As Residence A. (Introduced on 1/19/2021; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 9 of the 1/19/2021 minutes).**

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

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Police Reform Plan Update**

City Manager Mix explained the purpose of this report was to keep Council aware of the progress on the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative Plan required by the Governor. He explained that there would be virtual public listening sessions, the first of which is scheduled for February 10 at 7 p.m. He added that members of the public could submit questions or comments to the email [policereform@watertown-ny.gov](mailto:policereform@watertown-ny.gov).

### **YMCA Request for City-Owned Property**

David Zembiec, representing the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) spoke regarding the request for additional space at the site of the future YMCA Community and Aquatics Center. He then re-introduced Denise Young.

Ms. Young explained the benefits of bringing the lap pool with its moisture issues outside of the current structure's roof, which she pointed out was built in the 1970s. She further noted that the additional space would accommodate seating for the new lap pool and they could have seven lanes for practice and six

lanes for competition. She went on to explain that the architect studied the parking lot and determined there would be no reduction in parking spaces with this expansion.

Mayor Smith questioned why it would not have been easier to just build an entirely new structure on the site of the former Mercy Hospital.

Ms. Young informed Council that the Department of Defense had given this project \$9 million to build at this particular site, which is located in Downtown and has the added benefit of re-using a currently unused structure.

Council Member Ruggiero stated in the interest of clarity that she was a member of the JCIDA and saw no conflict in voting on this expansion.

Council Member Compo asked why the expansion was to include six competitive lanes instead of the eight necessary for state meets.

Ms. Young remarked that this was because of cost and that the Y's desire was to serve the most people possible and six lanes serves most events, adding that the events that need eight lanes only come around every ten to twelve years.

Council Member Ruggiero suggested that it was in the City's best interest to free this strip of property up as it does not benefit the City in any way currently.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson added his support for this project.

Council Member Compo inquired about the timeline for the project.

Ms. Young stated that the architects and engineers were ready to go right now and were just waiting for City approval. She added that construction could begin at the end of August with completion scheduled for end of summer 2022. She added that they were ready to move very, very quickly once this was decided and the footprint of the building was final.

Mayor Smith proposed a resolution be drafted and voted on this evening and asked Attorney Slye if that could be done and what it would entail.

Attorney Slye advised that Council could do that this evening and suggested the wording for the resolution. He further counseled that although the five-member Council was down to four members, they would still need a 4/5 vote.

The following resolution was offered:

**Resolution No. 9 – Approving the Conveyance of a 75' x 135' Strip of Land to the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) for the Expansion of the YMCA Community and Aquatics Center**

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby agrees to convey a 75' x 135' strip of property, located at the western edge of the City-owned parking lot, as it abuts the former Convergys call center, to the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA) for the purpose of accommodating the construction of a swimming pool and accompanying seating for the proposed Watertown YMCA Community and Aquatics Center.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the conveyance will be for the amount of \$1 and other good and valuable consideration, and the deed will contain a right of reversion to the City of Watertown in the event that the proposed Watertown YMCA Community and Aquatics Center is not built.

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo**

**Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo, and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

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

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing**

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis requested a Public Hearing for the 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan on March 1, 2021.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. to solicit input from citizens, involved agencies and interested persons regarding the development of funding priorities and projects that will be included in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan.**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Chili Cook-Off**

Council Member Ruggiero informed Council that her Facebook Memory told her that last year at this time she was at the annual Chili Cook-Off benefitting the Volunteer Transportation Center. She noted that this year the event was going on but in a different manner with various restaurants still offering tastes of chili and a vote taking place for the winner.

**Chick-fil-A**

Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero mentioned that she is a supporter of Chick-fil-A coming to Watertown and added that she thought they had already been approved by the County Planning Board and the next step was the City Planning Board. She added that she had heard the main concerns were about traffic congestion and noted that that was a good problem to have. She stated that it is always good to have a new business move into the City.

Mayor Smith added his support and noted that his kids were excited about the potential new restaurant.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.**

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

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:07 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:07 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.**

*Lisa M. Carr and Ann M. Saunders*  
Deputy City Clerk and City Clerk