

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
April 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 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 Timmerman, Michael Lumbis, Geoffrey Urda, James Mills

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing the Acceptance of Funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for The Thompson Park Stone Feature Upgrade Project
- Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for Library Window Replacement Project, Zerodraft of CNY
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Unarmed Security for the Flower Memorial Library, ICU Security & PI
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Actuarial Services, Armory Associates, LLC
- Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Bid for Tilden Street Water Main Project, Edge Civil Corporation
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of an 11,000 Square-Foot (SF) Building Addition at 146 Arsenal Street, Parcel Number 7-02-102.001
- Resolution No. 7 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 General Fund Budget – Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$400,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of the Replacement of a Water Main at Tilden Street, in and for Said City
- Ordinance No. 2 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000, From Light Industrial to Residence B
- Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c
- Tabled Resolution - Appointment to Fill Vacant City Council Seat, Leonard G. Spaziani
- Laid Over Under the Rules - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,400,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of the Purchase of a New Aerial Platform Fire Ladder Truck for Use by the Fire Department, in and for Said City
- Budget Release and Public Hearings for 2021-22 Operating Budgets and 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Annual Action Plan
- Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Small Business Assistance
- Sales Tax Revenue – March 2021
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – March 2021

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 April 5, 2021, adjourned meeting of April 6, 2021 and work session of April 12, 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 Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, listing the benefits of legalizing marijuana in the City of Watertown.

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

PROCLAMATION

In recognition of Mike Plummer’s contributions within the community, Mayor Smith proclaimed Monday, April 19, 2021 as “Mike Plummer Day” in the City of Watertown and urged all residents to wish Mike and his family (Miriam, Elizabeth and Michael) well as they leave the North Country later this month to relocate in Alabama.

Joseph Butler, Jr., former Mayor and now Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, spoke to thank retired Colonel Plummer for his role in reactivating the 10th Mountain Division and the work that he has done to make the community better both in uniform and out of uniform. He talked, in particular, about the Honor the Mountain Monument built within Thompson Park which honors the work done and sacrifices made by the local military community. He submitted a letter (on file in the City Clerk’s Office) to be given to Mr. Plummer along with the proclamation.

Brian Ashley, Vice Chairman of the Friends of Thompson Park, read and submitted a letter (on file in the City Clerk’s Office) from the Friends of Thompson Park thanking Mr. Plummer for his involvement and contributions to the community. He stated that Mr. Plummer was one of the founders of Friends of Thompson Park, which developed out of the Rotary Club. He added that the Rotary Club’s motto is “service above self” and that there is no greater example of that than what Mike Plummer has done for this community.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, addressed the chair stating she would like to see a traffic light with a camera installed at the intersection of Arsenal and Arcade Streets. She also expressed concern with the legalization of marijuana and hopes that the City of Watertown opts out of it.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, discussed the benefits of legalizing marijuana and his desire to see the bus service expanded.

Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, provided Council with an update from the Neighborhood Watch Program and requested permission to replace the current Neighborhood Watch Program signage and add new locations. He showed Council an example of the new sign and distributed a packet (on file in the City Clerk's Office) which listed the potential locations for the new signs.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, said he witnessed children riding their bicycles within the Public Square Fountain and would like Police to watch this area, as well as have a fence installed to prevent this happening again. He also urged Council to approve the resolution authorizing the City to pay for the July 4th Fireworks and Concert in the Park.

Donnie Lee Barrigar, 134 Union Street, mentioned that the City is planning to raise the Pride Flag in front of City Hall in June and he requested that Council not authorize this because he does not feel this is a City issue.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing the Acceptance of Funds from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for The Thompson Park Stone Feature Upgrade Project

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown applied for financial assistance from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYS OPRHP) under the Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for the purpose of funding the maintenance and upgrade of the stone features at the Pinnacle Pavilion in Thompson Park, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown was awarded \$131,000 for the Thompson Park Stone Feature Upgrade Project from NYS OPRHP, and

WHEREAS the City Council must accept the funding so that the State of New York can prepare a Master Contract for the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown is authorized and directed to accept these grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$131,000 for the project described in the grant application, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of the Master Contract with NYS OPRHP for such development in Thompson Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Council is authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of any required deed or easement granted to OPRHP that affects title to real property owned by the municipality and improved by the grant funds, which may be a duly recorded public access covenant, conservation easement, and/or preservation covenant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown delegates signing authority to execute the Master Contract and any amendments thereto, any required deed of easement, and any other certifications, to the Mayor of the City of Watertown.

Secoded by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for Library Window Replacement Project, Zerodraft of CNY

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for Library Window Replacement Project, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to qualified bidders with four (4) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Friday, April 2, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bid received with the Engineering Department, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Zerodraft of CNY,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Zerodraft of CNY in the amount of \$110,000 for Library Window Replacement Project 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 Zerodraft of CNY.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Unarmed Security for the Flower Memorial Library, ICU Security & PI

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the unarmed security for the Flower Memorial Library, as per City specifications, which will run from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, with the option to renew for three additional one-year periods, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to qualified bidders with one (1) sealed bid submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., the bid received was publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bid received with the Library Director Yvonne Reff, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by ICU Security & PI,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of ICU Security & PI in the amount of \$30.79 total hourly wage paid by the City for unarmed security at the Flower Memorial Library, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to ICU Security & PI
Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Actuarial Services, Armory Associates, LLC

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed proposals for Actuarial Services, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS proposals were sent to (11) eleven actuarial service companies, with four (4) proposals submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Friday, April 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., the proposals received were opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the proposals received with the Comptroller, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accepts the proposal submitted by Armory Associates, LLC,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the proposal of Armory Associates, LLC for Actuarial Services, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Armory Associates, LLC.
Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Bid for Tilden Street Water Main Project, Edge Civil Corporation

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for Tilden Street Water Main Project, as per City specifications, and

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

WHEREAS on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bid received with the Engineering Department, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Edge Civil Corporation,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Edge Civil Corporation in the amount of \$363,582 for Tilden Street Water Main Project as the lowest qualified bidder meeting our specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this project is contingent upon approval of the Bond Ordinance for the project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Edge Civil Corporation.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith asked if this project would include sidewalks on Grant Street.

City Manager Mix indicated that this is a water main project which is a separate project from the Grant Street sidewalks.

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

Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of an 11,000 Square-Foot (SF) Building Addition at 146 Arsenal Street, Parcel Number 7-02-102.001

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Michael Altieri, P.E. of BCA Architects and Engineers on behalf of the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, has submitted an application for Site Plan Approval for the construction of an 11,000 square-foot (SF) building addition at 146 Arsenal Street, Parcel Number 7-02-102.001, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board reviewed the application at its March 30, 2021 meeting, pursuant to Section 239-m of New York State General Municipal Law, and adopted a motion that the project does not have any significant County-wide or intermunicipal issues and is of local concern only, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on April 6, 2021 and voted to recommend that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the site plan with the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall eliminate the two parking spaces closest to the building entrance to provide safer pedestrian access from the parking lot to the building that will include a pedestrian walkway and landscaping area.
2. Tree protection for the trees in the existing landscaped area along the Arsenal Street sidewalk and along the access road must be shown on the site plan and installed and maintained by the contractor throughout the duration of construction.

3. All existing storm basins must be connected to the relocated storm line if they do not flow to another outfall point.
4. The applicant must obtain a license agreement from the City Manager's Office to allow the monument sign on City property.
5. The applicant must obtain the following permits, minimally, prior to construction: Building Permit, Sign Permit, Sanitary Sewer Connection Permit, a Water Supply Permit, and a Zoning Compliance Certificate.

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form, responding to each of the questions contained in Part 2, and has determined that the project, as submitted, is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown declares that the proposed construction and site plan constitute an Unlisted Action for the purposes of SEQRA and hereby determines that the project, as proposed, will not have a significant impact on the environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is an express condition of this Site Plan Approval that the applicant provide the City Engineer with a copy of any change in stamped plans forming the basis for this approval at the same time such plans are provided to the contractor. If plans are not provided as required by this condition of site plan approval, the City Code Enforcement Officer shall direct that work on the project site shall immediately cease until such time as the City Engineer is provided with the revised stamped plans. Additionally, any change in the approved plan, which, in the opinion of the City Engineer, would require Amended Site Plan Approval, will result in immediate cessation of the affected portion of the project work until such time as the amended site plan is approved. The City Code Enforcement Officer is directed to periodically review on-site plans to determine whether the City Engineer has been provided with plans as required by this approval, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that Site Plan Approval is hereby granted to Michael Altieri, P.E. of BCA Architects and Engineers on behalf of the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, for the construction of an 11,000 square-foot (SF) building addition at 146 Arsenal Street, Parcel Number 7-02-102.001, as depicted on the site plan submitted to the City Engineer on March 17, 2021, contingent upon the applicant meeting the conditions listed above.

Seconded by Council Member Ruggiero

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

Michael Altieri, P.E. of BCA Architects and Engineers on behalf of the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, spoke and stated he was pleased to work on this project, which will be a part of Downtown redevelopment.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 General Fund Budget – Fourth of July Concert and Fireworks

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 Watertown Noon Rotary sponsors and organizes an annual concert and fireworks in John C. Thompson Park (“Thompson Park”) on or about July 4th, and

WHEREAS Rotary did not raise funds for the concert and fireworks this year due to COVID-19, and

WHEREAS providing said concert and fireworks serves the public and/or municipal purposes set forth at Section 21 of the New York General City Law, including promotion of art, amusement, and recreation and, thereby, promotes the general welfare of the citizens of the City, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to provide financial support for the concert and fireworks so that they may occur this year,

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 fund a concert and fireworks in Thompson Park, 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.1990.0430	Contingency – Contracted Services	(\$40,000)
A.7110.0430	Thompson Park – Contracted Services	<u>\$ 40,000</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ _____</u>

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero noted that Watertown Noon Rotary had sponsored this event the last few years.

Mayor Smith stated the Rotary had paid for this event in the past but was not able to do it this year. He explained that the fundraising for it is normally done in February, but at that time, they were not sure what the COVID-19 restrictions would be like in July and whether it could be held, so the fundraising was not done. He further explained the amount it would cost for the stage, lighting, fireworks and extra manpower, noting the orchestra alone costs \$15,000. He stressed that the event would follow strict COVID-19 guidelines which would include 20% capacity and proof of vaccination or negative test.

Council Member Compo commented that it has been a challenging year for everyone, so this is a small way to raise everyone’s spirits.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson pointed out that vaccinations are free, and that Jefferson County is doing an excellent job distributing them.

Council Member Ruggiero remarked that this is a nice thing to do and a good way to give back to the community.

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 Authorizing the Issuance of \$400,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of the Replacement of a Water Main at Tilden Street, in and for Said City

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital purposes hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act to the extent required, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital project; NOW,
THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. For the specific object or purpose of paying the cost of the replacement of a water main at Tilden Street, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including demolition, surfacing, and incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$400,000 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 \$400,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$400,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is forty years, pursuant to subdivision one of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The faith and credit of said City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year.

Section 6. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Comptroller and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the City Clerk.

Section 7. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the City Comptroller, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as he shall deem best for the interests of the City, including, but not limited to, the power to sell said bonds to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation; provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, he shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the City Comptroller shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.

Section 8. The power to issue and sell notes to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation pursuant to Section 169.00 of the Local Finance Law is hereby delegated to the City Comptroller. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents as may be prescribed by said City Comptroller consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 9. The City Comptroller is hereby further authorized, at his or her sole discretion, to execute a project financing agreement, and any other agreements with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, including amendments thereto, and including any instruments (or amendments thereto) in the effectuation thereof, in order to effect the financing or refinancing of the specific object or purpose described in Section 1 hereof, or a portion thereof, by a bond, and, or note issue of said City in the event of the sale of same to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Section 10. The intent of this ordinance is to give the City Comptroller sufficient authority to execute those applications, agreements, instruments or to do any similar acts necessary to effect the issuance of the aforesaid bonds and, or notes, without resorting to further action of the City Council.

Section 11. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the City by the facsimile signature of the City Comptroller, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the City), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the

consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the City Comptroller. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the City not to impose and collect from registered owners of such bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the City Comptroller shall determine.

Section 12. This ordinance shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this ordinance, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

- Section 13. 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 14. This ordinance, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in summary in a 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.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Laid over under the rules.

Ordinance No. 2 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000, From Light Industrial to Residence B

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT ORDAINED where Jeffrey R. Ostland has made an application by petition filed with the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 83 of the New York General City Law to change the approved zoning classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000 from Light Industrial to Residence B, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown considered the zone change request at its April 6, 2021 meeting and adopted a motion recommending that City Council approve the zone change, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zone change on May 3, 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 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000 shall be changed from Light Industrial to Residence B, 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 Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

LOCAL LAW

Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 - A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

A local law to override the tax levy limits established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the City of Watertown pursuant to General Municipal Law §3-c, and to allow the City of Watertown to adopt a budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the “tax levy limit” as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c; and

WHEREAS, such override is authorized by the provisions of subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes the City Council to override the tax limit by adoption of a local law approved by a vote of at least sixty percent (60%) of the City Council.

WHEREAS a public hearing on this was held on May 3, 2021, at 7:15 p.m. in the City Council Chambers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, as follows:

Tax Levy Limit Override: The City Council of the City of Watertown, County of Jefferson is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Severability: If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, individual, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Effective Date: This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Mayor Smith clarified that Council is only setting a public hearing to hear public comment and is not voting on the local law to override the tax cap this evening.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing local law for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

OLD BUSINESS

An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$1,400,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of the Purchase of a New Aerial Platform Fire Ladder Truck for Use by the Fire Department, in and for Said City (Introduced on 4/5/2021; laid over under the rules; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 9-11 of the 4/5/2021 minutes).

Fire Chief Matthew Timmerman said the department worked hard to get a reasonable replacement to the 1986 ladder truck which is on or under budget. He added that the 2004 Pierce ladder truck will need refurbishing in the near future, so he recommended keeping the 1986 ladder truck in reserve until that is done prior to selling it. In response to Mayor Smith wondering if the 1986 ladder truck should be kept in place of the 2004 ladder truck because it is in better shape, Chief Timmerman stated the 1986 ladder trucks lacks some of the safety equipment which is standard in the newer trucks.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned that the truck will be bought through a purchasing co-op instead of the traditional bidding process and asked if there was a chance for the City to get it sooner.

Chief Timmerman replied that it might take 380 days to receive it but getting it through the co-op, saves the time that it takes to put the bid specs together, distribute the bid to vendors and wait for the responses.

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

Resolution - Appointment to Fill Vacant City Council Seat, Leonard G. Spaziani *(Introduced on 4/6/2021; tabled; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 1-2 of the 4/6/2021 minutes).*

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to take the foregoing resolution from the table. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Mayor Smith mentioned that Council Member Ruggiero and Council Member Henry-Wilkinson met with Mr. Spaziani again after the last meeting.

Council Member Ruggiero commented that she had some additional questions and had a very productive meeting with Mr. Spaziani.

Council Member Compo stated that she will support this appointment, noting Mr. Spaziani is a good person who is informed and up-to-date with the City's issues.

Mayor Smith clarified a media report stating that he was related to Mr. Spaziani through marriage, explaining it is his sister who is related to Mr. Spaziani through marriage. He added that his sister married Mr. Spaziani's nephew. Mentioning that he has known Mr. Spaziani for years, Mayor Smith said he is a Conservative and was pleasantly surprised when Council Member Ruggiero brought his name forward because he agrees with him on some of the City issues. He added that he is a great pick and has a similar political philosophy to former Council Member Roshia.

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

Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to Mr. Spaziani and Council Member Spaziani joined Council at the dais.

STAFF REPORTS

Budget Release and Public Hearings for 2021-22 Operating Budgets and 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget

A report was presented asking Council to set the public hearing for the budget.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budgets and 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget for Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis stated the report is to notify Council that staff has finished the Consolidated and Annual Action Plans and it is going through the public comment period. He said once that is completed, a resolution will be brought before Council to approve the plans.

Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Small Business Assistance

City Planner Geoffrey Urda provided Council with an update of the development of the CDBG-CV Small Business Assistance Program. He reported that he has reviewed similar programs done in Auburn and Rochester and has been in discussion with the Watertown Local Development Corporation (WLDC) for their assistance with the City’s program. He provided an update on their progress and explained what the focus of the program would be.

Mayor Smith summarized the CDBG-CV funding that was received from the federal government, noting some of its prior uses such as the food banks and backpack program. He said approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000 of this funding would be dedicated to this Small Business Assistance Program.

Sales Tax Revenue – March 2021

A report was available for Council to review.

Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – March 2021

A report was available for Council to review and City Comptroller James Mills added that hydro is just not performing well.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Equipment and Low Bonding Rates

Mayor Smith reported that he discussed with the City Comptroller the low rates for bonding and the fact that the City has aging Fire Department Equipment. He mentioned the City should take advantage of these low rates and consider bonding for the equipment now, knowing the first bond payments will not be due for at least eighteen months. He said he asked the Comptroller to put a report together.

Mr. Mills warned that it is too late for the spring bonding cycles but he could do another round of bonding in the fall.

Watertown Entrance Signage - \$23 Million Federal Relief Funds/American Rescue Plan

Council Member Compo mentioned that better welcoming signs at the main entrance point of the City would be a good use for this funding. She thought it could possibly fall under the tourism category.

In response to Council Member Henry-Wilkinson stating that signage was discussed under the Comprehensive Plan and DRI funding, Mr. Lumbis explained that it would have to be signage for the Downtown area.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson agreed with Council Member Compo’s idea and recommended that any new signage be consistent with the wayfinding signage throughout the City.

Route 3 Wave - \$23 Million Federal Relief Funds/American Rescue Plan

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson suggested using some of the funding towards fixing the Route 3 wave for the kayakers.

Mr. Lumbis explained that the rocks need to be removed for the crevasse which created the wave and attracted kayakers and major kayak competitions. He pointed out that the rocks have been moved twice but it keeps filling back in and that some kayakers suggested looking at the larger picture to remove debris upstream in order to prevent it filling in again.

Mayor Smith noted that if Council is interested in this, then staff will need to get some pricing estimates for the work.

Court Street Bridge Resurfacing

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked for an update on this project.

City Manager Mix explained that this is a pass-through project being done by NYS DOT but he will get an update.

Road Repairs and Reconstructions - \$23 Million Federal Relief Funds/American Rescue Plan

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned that Council has discussed putting \$3-4 million above what is normally budgeted to do road construction. He expressed concern that there may not be enough contractors to perform the work.

City Manager Mix said his notes from the work session were to allocate another \$1 million per year over the next three years to road construction.

Mobility Manager

Council Member Ruggiero asked for an update from the Mobility Manager about the funding for the expansion of the bus routes and connection to other counties.

Recent Website Issues

Council Member Ruggiero pointed out that she sent an email regarding the City's website not working and a constituent being worried over the weekend because they were trying to pay their water bill online. She added the constituent had concerns over whether there would be penalties if they could not make the online payment on time.

City Manager Mix said the City's website has had recurring issues lately and explained that the IT Department believes it may have something to do with a security scanning that is being done. He indicated that staff is working hard to keep the old website running and get the new website implemented.

Home Birth Assisted by the Fire Department

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned the recent delivery of a baby at home which was assisted by the Fire Department. She commented that there was a nice article in the newspaper about this and thanked the firefighters involved. She added her appreciation for City employees as a whole, stating they all go above and beyond their duties.

Cleanup Day at Thompson Park

Mayor Smith thanked all the volunteers who showed up this past Saturday to help clear trails and clean up Thompson Park. He also acknowledged the Parks and Recreation crews and Public Works crews for the work being done in the Park, stating it looks very good.

Media Story Regarding Lack of Employees

Mayor Smith noted there was a recent news story stating many businesses are looking for workers but are having difficulty finding people that want to work due to the increase in unemployment benefits.

Budget Sessions

City Manager Mix asked if Council would like to start scheduling budget sessions since the budget will go to Council on Friday and be released to the public on the following Monday.

Mayor Smith suggested turning the May work session into a budget session and asked Council Members to start reviewing their calendars and send him dates of availability.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof.

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

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:26 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:00 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