

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 3, 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
Council Member Leonard G. Spaziani
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

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

City staff present: Scott Weller, Michael Delaney, James Mills, Michael Lumbis, Patrick Keenan

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Halting Demolition of the Alteri Pool and Directing Staff to Open the Pool for the 2021 Season
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical Co., Inc.
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Harrison Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project, JL Excavation LLC
- Resolution No. 5 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 Sewer Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 6 - Authorizing Supplemental Agreement #3 Contract No. D035666, Massey Street, Coffeen Street, & Court Street Bridges, PIN 775362, Project Engineering, Design, ROW Incidentals, ROW Acquisition
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving the 2021-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Police Benevolent Association, Inc.
- Resolution No. 8 - Adopting the City's Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2021-2025 and Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2021
- Resolution No. 9 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000, From Light Industrial to Residence B Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budgets and Fiscal Year 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget
- Public Hearing - Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 - A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c
- Public Hearing - Ordinance on Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000 From Light Industrial to Residence B
- Laid Over Under the Rules - 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
- Zoo Master Plan Meeting Request

- County Mobility Management

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence. Mayor Smith asked that this be in remembrance of Terry O'Brien and Maxine Quigg, the victims of the active shooter incident which occurred last week.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 19, 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 St., suggesting Council apply some of the Covid-19 relief funds to purchase washers, dryers and elevators for Watertown Housing Authority apartments.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, mentioned that the Town of Watertown is opting out of the legalization of marijuana and she would like the City to do it as well. She would also like to have traffic lights with cameras installed at various intersections with crosswalks.

Genie Weaver, resident of both Jefferson and Lewis County, spoke about discrimination and how she feels it would be discrimination to only allow vaccinated or COVID-19 negative tested individuals attend the July 4th Concert in the Park. Noting that many people do not want the vaccination, and some cannot afford the testing, she expressed concerns that this regulation would also violate HIPAA.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, agreed with the prior speaker regarding the COVID-19 restrictions on the July 4th Fireworks and stated that if he is not allowed to attend then he will bring a Federal lawsuit against the City. He discussed issues with the Watertown Housing Authority's washers, dryers and elevators and would like to see some of the COVID-19 funds used for this.

Robert Schorr, 640 Leray Street, asked if some of the funds from the Federal COVID-19 Relief and DOD could be used to repair the Flynn pool. He noted that there are many apartment complexes in this area and many families are military.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, discussed his concerns with distracted drivers and the need for lights to be installed at crosswalks. He also said he is opposed to opting out of the legalization of marijuana and stated that it could generate revenue for the City.

Donnie Lee Barrigar, 134 Union Street, spoke about his right to sit during the Pledge of Allegiance,

his belief that the earth is flat, his opposition to the City raising the Pride flag and his opposition to Covid-19 restrictions.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operating Budgets and Fiscal Year 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget.

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 City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 - A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c.

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

Frank Battista, 201 Palmer Street, addressed the chair stating the purpose of the tax cap is to keep members of Council fiscally responsible. He said that he is against overriding the tax cap due to the hardships brought on by COVID-19 and requested Council not raise taxes this year.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:18 p.m.

At 7:18 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning Ordinance on Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000 From Light Industrial to Residence B.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:18p.m.

Richard Brouse, 622 Hazelhurst Avenue, addressed the chair stating he owns adjacent property which is to the north of 933 Morrison Avenue. He said he does not understand why this parcel would be zoned as light industrial because the rest of the surrounding area is all residential.

Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, spoke to inform Council that there is a property owner in this area who will not allow the DPW crews on his property to clear debris from Kelsey Creek, so it causes flooding on these properties. He warned that if this parcel is zoned as residential and sold, then there will be another property owner complaining of flooding.

Richard Brouse, 622 Hazelhurst Avenue, readdressed Council stating that he has never been asked to have crews access Kelsey Creek from his property.

Jeff Ostland, 933 Morrison Avenue, informed Council that he is the owner of the property and is requesting the zone change so that he can sell the property. He indicated that he has had difficulty selling the property with the zoning of light industrial.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:24 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Halting Demolition of the Alteri Pool and Directing Staff to Open the Pool for the 2021 Season

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS at the May 16, 2020 Budget Session the City Council determined that Alteri Pool would be permanently closed, and

WHEREAS at the May 18, 2020 Budget Session the City Council confirmed that Alteri Pool would be permanently closed, and

WHEREAS at the August 10, 2020 Work Session the City Council determined that Alteri Pool would be demolished, and

WHEREAS at the March 8, 2021 Work Session the City Council determined that Alteri Pool would not be demolished and would be renovated for the 2022 season based on new information about the condition of the Flynn Pool,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby formally rescinds any previous decision to demolish Alteri Pool and that work will continue to refurbish it, and

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby directs staff to open and operate Alteri Pool for the 2021 season.**~~

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith expressed concern, stating this resolution was not necessary since Council has already agreed to not demolish the Alteri pool. He reminded Council that this was discussed and decided in a prior work session regarding the discovery of the extensive repairs needed to the Flynn pool. He also expressed concern with the last paragraph directing staff to open the Alteri pool for the 2021 season because the funding to open and staff the pool is not in the current budget and the Alteri pool was to have repairs done as well in the upcoming budget. He said the last paragraph of the resolution sets staff up to fail and suggested amending the resolution.

Motion was made by Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith to amend the foregoing resolution by eliminating the last paragraph and motion was seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of opening the pool for the 2021 season and the extent and timeline of the repairs to get it operational.

City Manager Mix indicated that if staff is directed to open it then they will try, but he is not sure of the timing since the repairs were planned for the next budget year. He explained that this was discussed at a prior work session and Council had decided to only open one pool this coming summer, which allowed time for the repairs to be made to the Alteri pool. He stressed that Sundance Leisure has informed staff that they will not be able to do the work right away, at this point, and he added that Sundance Leisure would have needed this decision in January in order to get the pool ready to open for this season. He detailed the parts that were needed and the timeline for getting them ordered and received.

Mayor Smith noted that the opening of the pool should be discussed further during the upcoming budget sessions because there is nothing budgeted for the operation of it in the current budget or in the proposed budget for next year.

Council Member Ruggiero asked if the parts could be ordered now and paid out of the new budget after July 1. She said she feels the City can financially afford to open the pool because sales tax is up and the State gave back the AIMS funding that it was holding back.

There was a discussion of staffing lifeguards and the rate of pay. Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Scott Weller indicated that he currently has only enough lifeguards to run one pool and the rate of pay is \$14 per hour. He clarified for Council Member Spaziani that Sundance Leisure states that it cannot do all the work this season and that the plan had been to do the work in the off-season during the winter.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the amendment to the resolution 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.

Resolution No. 2 - 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 this 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 Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, Slack Chemical Co., Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the purchase of process and disinfection chemicals for use at the City’s Waste Water Treatment Plant, for the City’s 2021-2022 fiscal year’s requirements, and

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to eight (8) prospective bidders with a total of nine (9) bids submitted by two bidders, and

WHEREAS on April 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with the Waste Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bids from Slack Chemical Co., Inc. as detailed below:

Description	Company	2021-2022
		Unit Price
Dry Polymer – Stac Flocc 6532	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$92,000
Dry Polymer – Stac Flocc 8627	Slack Chemical Co., Inc.	\$99,000

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid submitted by Slack Chemical Co., Inc. as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Dry Polymer for use at the City’s Waste Water Treatment Plant.

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

Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Harrison Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project, JL Excavation LLC

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for Harrison Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to qualified bidders with three (3) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, April 22, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing Manager Dale Morrow reviewed the bids received with the Engineering Department, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by JL Excavation LLC,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of JL Excavation LLC in the amount of \$451,461.18 for Harrison Street Sewer Rehabilitation 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 JL Excavation LLC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that approval of this resolution is contingent upon approval of the Sewer Fund Budget Re-adoption also in tonight's agenda to fund the project.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith asked if the other part of Harrison Street needed to be done as originally proposed.

City Manager Mix explained that the sewer work was what was driving this project and, when the first bid came in over budget, it was determined that it was not necessary to do the whole sewer, so the project was scaled back and rebid.

City Engineer Michael Delaney provided details regarding whether the storm water and sewer were combined and addressed Mayor Smith's concerns that this area might need to be torn up again for future work.

In response to Council Member Henry-Wilkinson's question as to why the one bidder was so high, City Manager Mix indicated that staff usually does not know why the bidders bid the way they do.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2020-21 Sewer 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 \$6,925,556 was appropriated for the Sewer Fund, and

WHEREAS the reconstruction of the Harrison Street sanitary sewer was included in the Fiscal Year 2019-20 Capital Budget and intended to be paid for through the issuance of debt, and

WHEREAS the City has been awarded approximately \$23,000,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 for which investing in sewer infrastructure is an allowable use,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Sewer Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 to fund the Harrison Street sanitary sewer reconstruction project from the American Rescue Plan of 2021 funding in the amount of \$475,000, and

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

SEWER FUND

Revenues:

G.0000.4960	Federal Aid – American Rescue Plan Act	<u>\$475,000</u>
Total Revenue		<u>\$475,000</u>

Expenditures

G.9950.0900	Transfer to Capital Fund	<u>\$475,000</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$475,000</u>

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

Resolution No. 6 - Authorizing Supplemental Agreement #3 Contract No. D035666, Massey Street, Coffeen Street, & Court Street Bridges, PIN 775362, Project Engineering, Design, ROW Incidentals, ROW Acquisition

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS a project for the reconstruction of Massey Street, Coffeen Street & Court Street Bridge, PIN 7755362, (the “Project”) is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the cost of such program to be borne at the ratio of eligible costs at 80% federal funds and 20% non-federal funds, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the costs of the Design, Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right-of-Way Acquisition in the amount of \$703,000, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown authorizes the City Comptroller to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the costs of Design, Right-of-Way Incidentals and Right of Way Acquisition, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sum of \$703,000 is hereby appropriated from the existing Bond and made available to cover the local cost of participation in the above phase of the Project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to pay in the first instance 100% of the federal and non-federal share of the costs associated with the phase of the projects listed above in the amount of \$703,000 from the Bond, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event the full federal and non-federal share costs of the project exceeds the amount appropriated above, the City Council of the City of Watertown shall convene as soon as possible to appropriate said excess amount immediately upon notification by the City Manager, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City of Watertown, Kenneth A. Mix, is hereby authorized and directed to execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal Aid and Marchiselli Aid on behalf of the City of Watertown with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the project and providing for the administration of the project and the municipality’s first instance funding

of project costs and permanent funding for the local share of federal aid eligible project costs and all project costs within appropriations that are not eligible, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Approving the 2021-2024 Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the 2017-2021 Employment Contract between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Police Benevolent Association, will expire on June 30, 2021, and

WHEREAS negotiations have been concluded on a successor Contract,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Police Benevolent Association, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor, Jeffrey M. Smith., and City Manager Kenneth A. Mix are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith commented that this was a nice and smooth process with the Police Benevolent Association, and he was glad that a compromise was reached by both sides so that it could be approved prior to the expiration of the contract.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Adopting the City's Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2021-2025 and Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2021

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS on August 5, 2013, the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City of Watertown to become an Entitlement Grantee under the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) under the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG), and

WHEREAS as an Entitlement Grantee, the City must adopt a Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan(s) for its Housing and Community Development Program, and

WHEREAS the Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan must be developed with community input and citizen participation, and

WHEREAS Staff discussed the proposed plans at a City Council work session, at a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board and held numerous public meetings over the course of the last two years as part of the development of the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Goals and Objectives, and

WHEREAS Staff conducted outreach efforts with local constituency groups, and the City Council held a public hearing on March 1, 2021, to solicit public comments regarding the development of funding priorities and projects to be included in the plans, and

WHEREAS drafts of the Program Year 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan and Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan were completed and published on March 24, 2021, and

WHEREAS the draft plans were 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 plans was held between March 27, 2021 and April 26, 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 and authorizes the submission of the City of Watertown’s CDBG Program Consolidated Plan for Program Years 2021-2025 and the Annual Action Plan for Program Year 2021, which allocates the CDBG funds as follows:

CDBG Program Year 2021 Proposed Budget

Sources

Program Year 2021 Entitlement Grant \$930,085

Total Funds Available for Allocation \$930,085

Proposed Uses

Grant Street Sidewalk Project	\$350,000
Thompson Park ADA Ramps	\$75,000
North Hamilton Playground Basketball Court	\$12,500
535 Olive Street Demolition Project	\$35,000
Northeast Target Area Tree Planting Project	\$10,000
Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	\$196,000
Homebuyer Program	\$140,000
Homeless Assistance	\$10,000
Fair Housing Education	\$5,000
WCSD Food for Families Program	\$6,500
Smoke Detector Program	\$5,000

Seward Street Reconstruction Design	\$25,000
Program Administration	\$60,085
Total Funds Proposed for Allocation	\$930,085

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson thanked Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis and his staff for the work done on the development of this plan.

Mayor Smith agreed that staff did a nice job with this plan and mentioned that some of the projects focus on the north side of the City, such as Grant Street and Tilden Street. He added that he would like to see historic street lighting installed in this area as well.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000, From Light Industrial to Residence B 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 for the zone change application of Jeffrey R. Ostland 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 City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS the approval of the zone change constitutes such an “Action,” and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that changing the zoning classification of this property 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 zone change will have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared by the applicant, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution,

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

1. Based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing

the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact is known and the adoption of the zone change will not have a significant impact on the environment.

2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute Part 3 of the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered Part 2 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form.

Mayor Smith asked if this zone change contradicts anything being done with the comprehensive City-wide zoning rewrite.

Mr. Lumbis explained that a draft version has been completed and this zone change is consistent with it. He added that the intent is for this area to be residential after the zoning rewrite is completed.

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

OLD BUSINESS

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 on 4/19/2021; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 12-13 of the 4/19/2021 minutes).*

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing local law and defeated with Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and Council Member Leonard G. Spaziani voting yea and Council Member Sarah V. Compo, Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.

Ordinance on Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 933 Morrison Avenue, Parcel Number 1-10-414.000 From Light Industrial to Residence B. *(Introduced on 4/19/2021; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 11-12 of the 4/19/2021 minutes).*

Mayor Smith said that he received a call from an individual who owns property in the area zoned as commercial and wondered if this change would impact them.

Mr. Lumbis indicated that the change will only affect the property at 933 Morrison Street.

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

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 on 4/19/2021; laid over under the rules; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 9-11 of the 4/19/2021 minutes).*

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

STAFF REPORTS

Zoo Master Plan Meeting Request

Mayor Smith suggested this topic be discussed at the May 24 work session and proposed a start time of 6:00 p.m.

Council agreed.

Larry Sorel, Executive Director of Zoo New York, explained that this will be the first master plan in 30 years and that they are in the beginning stages of the public input process. He advised that the final draft would come before Council for approval, and he hoped for that to be in August.

County Mobility Management

A report was available for Council to review.

Council Member Ruggiero said that she appreciated the information and timeline that was given to Council in response to her inquiry.

Moody's Rating

City Manager Mix indicated that Moody's rating came out this week and a report has been given to Council regarding this information. He said that the report shows factors that could lead to an upgrade as well as factors that could lead to a downgrade.

Error in the Proposed Budget

City Manager Mix explained it was discovered that the correct rate of the current Fire Department contract was not used for their salaries. He said the report shows his plan to mitigate the additional expenses by delaying one-time expenses to another year and to use short-term borrowing for some projects.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Sessions

Mayor Smith announced that budget sessions have been scheduled for Friday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m.

23 Million Federal Relief Funds/American Rescue Plan – Privilege of the Floor Comments

Mayor Smith noted that the City has not received the final guidelines yet, but they are expected around May 10. He stated there are some restrictions on the funding so he wanted to clarify the public opinion that it could be used for general use.

COVID-19 Restrictions for July 4th Concert and Fireworks– Privilege of the Floor Comments

Mayor Smith stressed that the restrictions are from the regulations set by New York State and not the City of Watertown. Stating that he does not agree with the restrictions, he advised the City cannot ignore the State regulations and if the City did, the State could hold back some of the City's funding.

Vigil for Maxine Quigg and Terry O'Brien

Each member of Council thanked DPW and Parks and Recreation staff for their assistance in putting this event together with short notice. It was noted that this was a good way for the community to come together and offer support in such a tragic event.

Annual Tree Planting

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson thanked Rotary and City staff for the work put into the annual tree planting event. He said that it is a great way to volunteer and give back to the community.

Mayor Smith noted that it was nice to see the number of people that came out to volunteer.

Watertown Housing Authority – Privilege of the Floor Comments

Council Member Ruggiero explained that the Watertown Housing Authority have their own budget and finances and the concerns should be directed to Mr. Robare. She advised that the City has no control of their finances and budgetary items.

EV Chargers for Electric Cars

Council Member Ruggiero said she was contacted by someone interested in EV charges and getting them installed within the City limits. She remarked that there would be a benefit to looking into this.

Mayor Smith reported this was looked at before but said the issue was that the City could not give the electricity away.

Attorney Slye agreed, stating that National Grid wanted the City to provide the electricity in the past, which would be a gift of taxpayer's money, so he was against it. He commented that the City taxpayers should not pay to charge peoples' cars.

Mayor Smith listed several locations in which the EV chargers are installed and mentioned that he thinks it could now be set up to charge the users.

Crosswalk Light – Privilege of the Floor Comments

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's inquiry regarding the installation timeline, City Manager Mix said that it is in the proposed budget to be paid for with the FTA CARES funding.

Opening of Alteri Pool

Council Member Ruggiero readdressed Resolution No. 1 and Council's thoughts on directing staff to open the pool.

Mayor Smith noted that funding for opening the pool is not in the current budget so it should be addressed during the proposed budget discussions.

City Manager Mix reiterated that the plan was to do the repairs and get it up and running for the 2022 season.

City Hall Security

Council Member Spaziani commented that Council needs to give serious consideration to increasing the security of City Hall. He said a plan for security should be put together with the use of a metal detector screening.

City Manager Mix advised that there is the potential to work with the court system and he was talking to the Court Security Sergeant today regarding this. He said that if Council is interested in pursuing this then he can investigate it further.

Mayor Smith said it is a reasonable request and that the City should try to look into working with the court system.

Council Member Compo agreed, stating the time has come to implement security.

Mayor Smith asked the City Manager to start working on this.

Opting Out of Legalization of Marijuana - Privilege of the Floor Comments

Mayor Smith advised that the City has until the end of the year to make a decision and it should plan for a work session to discuss this topic.

Thompson Park Trail Cleanup

Mayor Smith announced that the next volunteer event to help clear trails will be this Saturday.

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 8:57 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:34 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:34 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