

**CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 24, 2021
6:00 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

City staff present: James Mills

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 8 - Approving 2021-22 Operating Budgets, City of Watertown, New York
- Resolution No. 9 - Establishing Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2021-22
- Resolution No. 10 - Approving 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Program Budget, City of Watertown, New York
- Resolution No. 11 - Establishing Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Mayor Smith opened the adjourned meeting from May 17, 2021.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 8 - Approving 2021-22 Operating Budgets, City of Watertown, New York

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has met and considered the Proposed Budget for the City of Watertown for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and it has conducted public hearings on the Proposed Budget and has determined that revenues and appropriations for the several funds in the Budget for 2021-22 will be amended as indicated in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets, which detail is attached and made a part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that it hereby adopts the Budget for the City Government for Fiscal Year 2021-22 in the total amount of \$64,615,576 of which in the General Fund \$35,540,540 is to be raised by estimated revenues other than real property taxes, \$1,200,000 is to be appropriated from fund balance, \$34,347 is to be appropriated from the sidewalk program reserve, \$14,942 is estimated to be received from omitted taxes and \$9,749,575 is to be raised by real property tax levy. In adopting the Budget, the City Council hereby appropriates \$64,615,576 for all operating funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Budget, the City Council hereby appropriates \$9,799,310 for all reserve funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Budget, the City Council approves the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets, which is attached and made a part of this resolution.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and Council Member Leonard G. Spaziani voting nay.

Later in the meeting, after Resolution No. 11 was considered, discussion turned to the reconsideration of Resolution No. 8. See below minutes.

Resolution No. 9 - Establishing Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2021-22

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has adopted the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 to be in the amount of \$46,539,384, and of this amount \$9,749,575 is to be raised by taxes on real estate and \$14,942 is to be collected in omitted City taxes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the tax on real estate in the amount of \$9,764,517 is hereby levied and the rate to produce \$9,749,575 of this levy is hereby established at \$8.9450 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, and the remaining \$14,942 is to be collected in omitted taxes.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Approving 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Program Budget, City of Watertown, New York

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has met and considered the Proposed Budget for the City of Watertown for Fiscal Year 2021-22, including the Proposed Capital Program for the years 2021-22 through 2025-26 and has conducted public hearings on the Proposed Capital Program Budget, and has determined that the projects as listed in the Proposed Capital Program shall constitute the Capital Program Budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York hereby adopts the Capital Program Budget for the years 2021-22 through 2025-26.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Capital Program Budget, the City Council approves the Capital Budget Detail of Changes to Proposed Budget FY 2021-22 through FY 2025-26 as amended on May 24, 2021, which is attached and made a part of this resolution.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned the Taylor Playground Replacement project was still on the list to be removed from the proposed budget and she hoped the \$50,000 for the pool demolition would have been deleted in order to fund the Taylor Playground Replacement project.

Mayor Smith noted the pool demolition was in the operating budget, which was already adopted by Resolution No. 8 and the resolution that is on the table for consideration is regarding the capital budget.

Discussion occurred regarding how to reconsider Resolution No. 8 in order to fund the Taylor Playground Replacement project.

City Comptroller James Mills explained that Council would have to amend the operating budget to remove the \$50,000 from the pool demolition and transfer this amount into the Capital Fund. He referred Council to page 193 of the proposed budget listing the account A.9950.0900 (Transfer to Capital Fund). He further explained that this resolution would need to be amended to eliminate the deletion of the Taylor Playground Replacement project from the capital budget.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to amend the attached Capital Budget Detail of Changes to Proposed Budget in order to eliminate the deletion of the Taylor Playground Replacement project for \$50,000 (page 292 of the Proposed Budget FY 2021-22).

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

Discussion turned to the purchases necessary for single stream recycling (page 293 and page 302 – 305).

Council Member Ruggiero indicated that she spoke with Carl Farone, Executive Director of DANC, to obtain more information on DANC's position on this. She reported that DANC is currently doing a study to determine whether it is feasible for the Harrisville site to receive the City's recyclables. She stated that there were many questions still to be answered on DANC's part. She expressed concerns with spending over \$1.2 million with nothing to show that there would be a savings.

Mr. Mix replied that staff has been looking into this for a few months but there are still a lot of questions to be resolved. He noted that there still needs to be a determination as to where the City will take their recyclables, whether it be Harrisville or another site. He advised that he hoped to have a full plan worked out and presented to Council before Council makes a decision on the funding of it through a bond.

Mayor Smith reviewed his prior meetings with DANC and went over his calculations which he thought showed a savings in tipping fees, staff time and efficiencies. He explained further the differences in time and efficiencies between driving to the Jefferson County Transfer site multiple times versus the Rodman landfill. He also noted the improvements in service provided to the customers and that single stream recycling would promote more recycling, which would ultimately save the life of the landfill. He discussed funding the equipment through bonding, which would be voted upon at a later time and need the support of four Council Members, or the option of transferring money from the General Fund, which would only need the support of three Council Members.

Council Member Spaziani pointed out that private haulers make money doing single stream recycling because they charge more for the service. He stressed that, at this point, it would be fiscally irresponsible for Council to move forward with single stream recycling in the capital budget without having all the answers. He suggested holding off on this project for one year and allow time for DANC to finish their study.

Council Member Ruggiero agreed, stating that she is in support of single stream recycling but there are a lot of unknowns. She suggested removing single stream recycling from the capital budget because there

is the option to readopt the budget anytime through the fiscal year to add it back in once the full plan is developed.

The conversation turned to the process of collecting refuse and recycling under the proposed project and the storage and transporting requirements, as well as the building which would need to be built.

Council Member Spaziani stated that people have told him that they are satisfied with the current system and reiterated that he would not support the project at this time.

Council Member Compo pointed out that the bond would not be voted on until the City has more answers to their questions. She also noted that the savings in switching to single stream recycling would be realized in approximately ten years, which is when the fiscal cliff would hit from the expiration of the hydro contract.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson remarked that he would prefer to bond for the project rather than fund it by a transfer from the General Fund and noted that leaving the project in place within the capital budget provides staff with direction to work on developing a plan to move forward with it.

Further debate occurred with Council Member Spaziani and Council Member Ruggiero indicating that they wanted this project removed from the capital budget, but Council Member Henry-Wilkinson, Council Member Compo and Mayor Smith agreed to keep it in.

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

Resolution No. 11 - Establishing Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS City Council established a City Fees and Charges Schedule for the City of Watertown, as authorized by Local Law No. 2 of 2016, and

WHEREAS Local Law No. 2 of 2016 requires that the “City Fees and Charges Schedule” be established at least annually by the City Council of the City of Watertown through a budget resolution, and

WHEREAS through budget deliberations, fees being collected by the City have been reviewed for the FY 2021-2022 and is reflected in the City Fees and Charges Schedule,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the City Fees and Charges Schedule attached and made a part of this Resolution for FY 2021-2022.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Spaziani and Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero asked if there was going to be a fee for using the pool since it had been discussed during budget sessions.

Mr. Mix explained that Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Scott Weller was gathering information and working on a proposal, which will be presented to Council possibly in June. He said that if Council agrees to the proposed fees, then the City fee schedule could be readopted.

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

Discussion turned back to Resolution No. 8 in an effort to fund \$50,000 for the Taylor Playground Replacement project, which was added back into the Capital Program Budget by the amendment to Resolution No. 10.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to reconsider Resolution No 8. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Resolution No. 8 - Approving 2021-22 Operating Budgets, City of Watertown, New York

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York has met and considered the Proposed Budget for the City of Watertown for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and it has conducted public hearings on the Proposed Budget and has determined that revenues and appropriations for the several funds in the Budget for 2021-22 will be amended as indicated in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets, which detail is attached and made a part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York that it hereby adopts the Budget for the City Government for Fiscal Year 2021-22 in the total amount of \$64,615,576 of which in the General Fund \$35,540,540 is to be raised by estimated revenues other than real property taxes, \$1,200,000 is to be appropriated from fund balance, \$34,347 is to be appropriated from the sidewalk program reserve, \$14,942 is estimated to be received from omitted taxes and \$9,749,575 is to be raised by real property tax levy. In adopting the Budget, the City Council hereby appropriates \$64,615,576 for all operating funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Budget, the City Council hereby appropriates \$9,799,310 for all reserve funds, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in adopting the Budget, the City Council approves the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets **as amended on May 24, 2021**, which is attached and made a part of this resolution.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and Council Member Leonard G. Spaziani voting nay.

Council Member Ruggiero asked the City Comptroller for his recommendation as to how to fund the additional \$50,000 for the Taylor Playground Replacement project.

Mr. Mills explained that Council could eliminate the pool demolition from A.7180.0430 (Pools – Contracted Services) for \$50,000, as suggested by Council Member Ruggiero, cut expenditures by \$50,000 elsewhere in the operating budget or appropriate an additional \$50,000 from the General Fund. He further explained that whatever Council decided would then need to result in a \$50,000 increase to A.9950.0900 (Transfer to Capital Fund) to fund the playground project.

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to amend the attached Fiscal Year 2021-22 Detail of Changes in Revenues, Expenditures and Fund Balance Appropriations to the Proposed Budgets to decrease A.7180.0430 (Pools – Contracted Services) by \$50,000 to eliminate the Pool Demolition (page 170 of the Proposed Budget FY 2021-22) and increase A.9950.0900 (Transfer to Capital Fund) by \$50,000 (page 193 of the Proposed Budget FY 2021-22) in order to fund the Taylor Playground Replacement project. Motion was seconded by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 6:41 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