

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
July 6, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

Present: Council Member Sarah V. C. Pierce
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: Fire Chief Matthew Timerman, Michael Lumbis, Michael Delaney, Scott Weller

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields, Watertown Pop Warner Football Association
- Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for CDBG Grant Street Sidewalk Repair Project, Upstate Construction Services, Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Flower Memorial Library Ceiling Replacement Project, Construction, Design and Management, Inc.
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Municipal Arena Boiler Replacement Project, Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Bid for Thompson Park Discovery Center Roof Replacement Project, Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc.
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving Intermunicipal Agreement for Use of Recreational Facilities with Watertown City School District
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving Addendum to Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Watertown City School District for an Additional School Resource Officer
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving CDBG Grant Agreement With CARES of NY, INC for the July 2021 and January 2022 Point in Time Education and Outreach Program
- Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing a Grant Application to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program for the Thompson Park Performing Arts Center
- Resolution No. 11 - Authorizing Acceptance of Federal Emergency Management Agenda (FEMA) Firefighters Assistance Grant (AFG), Fire Department
- Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 - A Local Law Adopted Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing Retail Cannabis Dispensaries and On-site Cannabis Consumption Establishments Within the City of Watertown

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 June 21, 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 Michael Keck, Black River, commending the City's efforts on the changes to Thompson Park occurring in the last year. He did request additional signage for the cross-country ski trails.

Above communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Smith interrupted the regular course of business to recognize Police Officer Tyler J. Hill and Police Officer Wayne W. McConnell for going above and beyond to save the lives of two residents. Police Chief Charles Donoghue retold the events of both incidents, in which the Police Officers performed CPR to revive both residents. Police Officer Tyler J. Hill and Police Officer Wayne W. McConnell were both awarded with the Watertown Police Department Life Saving Medal.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Cathy Chipp, 27634 County Route 283, mentioned that she also resides at 409 Clay Street, and she is a recovering drug addict. She spoke to Council regarding the need to keep the Recovery Center open into the night hours when more drug activity is occurring. She also expressed concerns with abandoned houses being used by drug addicts and wants the City to address this issue. Stating she wanted to bring light to the drug problem within the City, she asked Council to assist in bringing more resources to the community that will help with mental health and drug addiction.

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, mentioned there are many drug users in her building, some resulting in overdose. She thanked Council for their decision to opt out of the dispensaries of marijuana and indicated that many people are smoking marijuana on the benches along downtown during the day while children and patrons of businesses are around. Lastly, she spoke of the need to lengthen the timing of pedestrian crosswalk lights and intersections that she feels are unsafe and need a traffic light installed.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, spoke about the excessive use of alcohol and said that it takes lives. He read from a CDC article, listing statistics regarding the effects of alcohol. He also discussed the benefits of medical marijuana and CBD oils and his opinion on opting out of marijuana dispensaries.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, noted that medical marijuana does benefit many conditions. He said that if Watertown opts out then it will be sold by other communities, and those areas will receive the benefit of the tax revenue, which is money that Watertown could use. He discussed the condition of many streets within the City, mentioning potholes on Vanduzee Street, South Hycliff Drive and Arsenal Street.

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, addressed Council again to clarify that she is not against medical marijuana.

Kevin Miller, 306 North Rutland Street, said he used to live at 213 South Pleasant Street but moved due to the drug activity at that location. He also reported a sidewalk with damage on State Street.

Mike Chiappone, 411 West Ten Eyck Street, advised Council that he supports the amphitheater, but he does not support it being located in Thompson Park.

Brian Ashley, 263 Thompson Boulevard, stated he was speaking on behalf of the Friends of Thompson Park and that they endorse the amphitheater in Thompson Park. He explained that the Friends of Thompson Park have had an amphitheater in their plans for the Park and would like to participate in the process.

Marty Robinson, stated that he is conducting a petition regarding Council's decision to opt out of marijuana dispensaries and on-site consumption establishments. He said that he had spoken to the City Manager and the City Clerk and is waiting for an opinion from the City Attorney.

Mayor Smith indicated that there are specific rules that need to be followed for submitting this type of petition and noted that the City Attorney does not give legal advice to City residents.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields, Watertown Pop Warner Football Association

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and operates numerous athletic fields throughout the City, and

WHEREAS the Pop Warner Football Association has expressed their desire to enter into an Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields for practice events, and

WHEREAS City Council of the City of Watertown desires to promote recreational activities at these community recreational facilities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Agreement for Flat Fee Use of Athletic Fields between the City of Watertown and the Pop Warner Football Association, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

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

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

Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for CDBG Grant Street Sidewalk Repair Project, Upstate Construction Services, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for CDBG Grant Street Sidewalk Repair Project, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to BidNet and (49) contractors with two (2) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

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

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department reviewed the bids received with City Engineering, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Upstate Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$251,380.25, and

WHEREAS the City is financing this project using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement funding, and

WHEREAS to avoid committing a choice-limiting action prior to the completion of an environmental review for a CDBG-funded project, the City cannot enter into a binding agreement with a contractor until after receiving a Release of Funds for the project from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Upstate Construction Services, Inc. in the amount of \$251,380.25 for CDBG Grant Street Sidewalk Repair Project as the lowest qualified bidder meeting our specifications, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of a Release of Funds from HUD and not before receiving said Release of Funds, the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Upstate Construction Services, Inc.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith pointed out that every project that will be voted on tonight came under budget.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for Flower Memorial Library Ceiling Replacement Project, Construction, Design and Management, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for FML Ceiling 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, June 25, 2021, at 1:00 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 Construction, Design and Management, Inc., and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Construction, Design and Management, Inc. in the amount of \$90,360 for FML Ceiling 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 Construction, Design and Management, Inc. **Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Municipal Arena Boiler Replacement Project, Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for Municipal Arena Boiler 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, June 25, 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 Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc., and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc. in the amount of \$177,900 for Municipal Arena Boiler 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 Ontario HVAC Solutions, Inc. **Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Bid for Thompson Park Discovery Center Roof Replacement Project, Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for Thompson Park Discovery Center Roof Replacement 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 Friday, June 25, 2021, at 3:00 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 Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc., and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc. in the amount of \$62,868 for Thompson Park Discovery Center Roof 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 Lawman Heating & Cooling, Inc.
Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 6 - Approving Intermunicipal Agreement for Use of Recreational Facilities with Watertown City School District

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Watertown City School District ("District") owns and maintains its school buildings and related sports and recreational facilities (hereinafter "School Facilities"), and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown ("City") owns and maintains certain municipal buildings, baseball and soccer fields, and other outdoor facilities (hereinafter "City Facilities") which are utilized by residents and organizations of the City of Watertown for recreational purposes, and

WHEREAS the City is desirous of utilizing the School Facilities for certain Parks and Recreation programs and events, and

WHEREAS the School District is desirous of utilizing the City Facilities for games and/or practices for its school teams, as well as certain other school programs and events, and

WHEREAS the City is willing to allow the School District to utilize the City Facilities, and the School District is willing to allow the City to utilize the School Facilities for the benefit of the residents of the City and School District respectively, upon the terms and conditions contained in the Intermunicipal Agreement, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 5-G, §119-O of the General Municipal Law the Parties are authorized to enter into inter-municipal cooperative agreements,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Intermunicipal Agreement, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith noted that this agreement allows the City to operate the playground program at the North Elementary School grounds, which is a benefit for the City.

Council Member Ruggiero added that she did not realize that the School District wanted \$2,000 from the City for the use of the facility, so this mutual agreement is good for both parties.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Approving Addendum to Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Watertown City School District for an Additional School Resource Officer

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS at the July 15, 2019 meeting, City Council approved a three-year Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown City School District for a School Resource Officer (SRO), and

WHEREAS the Watertown City School District has included in its 2021-2022 Budget funding for an additional SRO, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown also included an additional SRO in its 2021-22 Budget, and

WHEREAS it is the desire of the City of Watertown and the Watertown City School District to provide a second SRO to be assigned to Case Middle School and Wiley Intermediate School,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Addendum to the Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown City School District for an additional School Resource Officer, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith explained that this agreement is for the addition of a second School Resource Officer to serve at Case Middle School and Wiley Intermediate School.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County (CAPC) was incorporated and designated in 1967 as the official anti-poverty agency for Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS since that time, CAPC has received funds from local governments as the local share required to leverage State and Federal program service dollars, and

WHEREAS the services provided by the CAPC promotes a public purpose, and

WHEREAS the services promote the education, charity, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Public Benefit Services between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc., a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

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

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

Resolution No. 9 - Approving CDBG Grant Agreement With CARES of NY, INC for the July 2021 and January 2022 Point in Time Education and Outreach Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for program year 2021 includes funding in support of the Point in Time Outreach and Education Initiative, and

WHEREAS the Action Plan identifies the Point in Time Outreach and Education Initiative to be \$10,000 in funding to develop marketing an outreach program to promote numerous "Homeless No More" events, and

WHEREAS the recipient of funds for the Point in Time Outreach and Education Program will be CARES of NY, Inc. on behalf of the Points North Housing Coalition, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and CARES of NY, INC. for the CDBG funds has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Grant Agreement with CARES of NY, INC, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey M. Smith, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Grant Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to CARES of NY, INC for the 2021 Point in Time Education and Outreach Program.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing a Grant Application to the Defense Community Infrastructure Program for the Thompson Park Performing Arts Center

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the United States Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, has recently announced a funding opportunity to address deficiencies in community infrastructure supportive of military installations under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program, and

WHEREAS eligible infrastructure projects include community support facilities that enhance military value and family quality of life, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to pursue funding for the construction a Performing Arts Center in Thompson Park to be utilized for events, such as the July 4th Concert in the Park, various performing arts, other concerts and events to strengthen the quality of life in our area for the military population and all residents of Watertown,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves and endorses the City's application for \$7,750,000 in grant funding to the United States Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation, under the Defense Community Infrastructure Program for a project known as the Thompson Park Performing Arts Center, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council agrees to pay for all soft planning costs required for the planning, design and execution of the project if the grant funding is awarded, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to file a grant proposal and application for funding for the project and upon approval of said request, to enter into and execute a grant agreement with the Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Spaziani said he has a lot of questions about this and wondered if this will fall under Parks and Recreation or whether another department will need to be created to manage the events. He asked if the City could legally stop people from using Thompson Park when a DPAO concert is being held.

Attorney Slye assured Council that having a pavilion or arts center would not violate the covenant in the deed for the Park. He added that the City will have an agreement with DPAO for the use of the facility, similar to what is done for the use of the facilities at the fairgrounds. He agreed that the City cannot stop people from using the Park during a DPAO concert but the area could be roped off, preventing people from accessing the seats. He further explained the agreement with the DPAO, noting that this organization provides a service to the public which the City is allowed to provide through a public

service agreement, therefore the DPAO is allowed to make money from a concert in order to provide those services.

Mayor Smith clarified that a new department would not be created to manage the events held here. He stated that DPAO, not the City, would provide the staff and resources to conduct a concert and any cost to the City would be covered by the facility rental fees.

Council Member Spaziani said he is hesitant to support this without more information and answers to the City's cost, which was estimated to be approximately \$1,000,000.

City Manager Mix replied to Council Member Ruggiero's questions, stating there would be restroom facilities included in the project and additional parking. He noted that the lower parking lot would be mainly for the event organizers and handle parking for smaller events, but for larger events, parking would be on the grass in the upper area, similar to what is done for the July 4th Concert. He confirmed that this resolution only authorizes staff to apply for the grant and that there is a commitment from the City for the soft costs of the project.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis provided details of the soft costs, which were approximated at \$1,000,000.

Council Member Spaziani asked if it was normal for this to be presented to Council last minute.

Mr. Mix said this was fast-tracked to meet the deadline of the grant, which is next Monday. He assured Council that if this grant was to be approved and the project to move forward, it would go through the normal design process to work out the details of the project, such as water and sewer lines.

Mr. Lumbis advised Council that the project would also enhance trails and parking within the Park, which will make the grant application more attractive.

Mr. Mix explained that the improvements would be in a path, including additional lighting, heading out the Gotham Street entrance to the Park, which would assist people walking to the Park from that direction for events. He also reviewed the conceptual plans for the project, which was in a packet distributed to Council (on file in the City Clerk's Office). He noted that there would be an emphasis on making the aesthetics of the facility match the overall look of the Park and its stonework.

Noting this grant falls under the Department of Defense, Mayor Smith remarked that Fort Drum is very supportive of the project and the grant application.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson added that if the City is awarded the grant, then for every \$1 the City pays towards the project, it will receive \$7 in federal funding towards it.

Council Member Spaziani expressed his concern with spending this much when cuts were just made to departments during the budget process because there were not any extra funds.

Council Member Pierce said she is supportive of this project because it will enhance the City's quality of life and bring people to the area. She said she had been contacted by many people that were also supportive of it.

Council Member Ruggiero commented that she is in favor of applying for the grant but understands Council Member Spaziani's concerns. She noted that the City can apply and if it is awarded, further discussion can take place to work out the details.

Mayor Smith said that one of the aspects of improving the community and looking for people to come spend dollars in the area is the DPAO concerts. He pointed out that the DPAO can track where people are coming from for their events and how they support the community with their spending. He added that an additional benefit to this project is that it will be a year-round facility and can be used for winter events, such as Snowtown USA.

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

Resolution No. 11 - Authorizing Acceptance of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Firefighters Assistance Grant (AFG), Fire Department

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS on February 1, 2021, City Council authorized the City of Watertown Fire Department to prepare an application that meets the intended purpose of the Federal Emergency Agency (FEMA) grant, which will allow the Department to cover overtime and backfill costs related to training personnel to mitigate hazardous materials incidents, and

WHEREAS this grant application was for funding in the amount of \$210,950 with a required City match of \$21,095, and

WHEREAS the grant has awarded \$210,942.55 and must be accepted by July 11, 2021,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the acceptance of the grant award for the amount of \$210,942.55 with a required City match of \$21,095 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Firefighters Assistance Grant (AFG).

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

LOCAL LAW

Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021 - A Local Law Adopted Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 Opting Out of Licensing and Establishing Retail Cannabis Dispensaries and On-site Cannabis Consumption Establishments Within the City of Watertown

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

A Local Law adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 opting out of licensing and establishing retail cannabis dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the City of Watertown.

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to opt the City of Watertown out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and on-site cannabis consumption establishments within its boundaries.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131, which expressly authorizes cities and villages to opt-out of allowing retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments to locate and operate within their boundaries.

Section 3. Local Cannabis Retail Dispensary and On-Site Consumption Opt-Out

The City Council of the City of Watertown, County of Jefferson, hereby opts-out of licensing and establishing cannabis retail dispensaries and cannabis on-site consumption establishments within its boundaries.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, 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.

Section 5. Effective date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. Pursuant to Cannabis Law § 131, this local law is subject to a permissive referendum and thus may not be filed with the Secretary of State until the applicable time period has elapsed to file a petition or a referendum has been conducted approving this local law.

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 local law for Monday, July 19, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing motion, Council Member Ruggiero noted the public hearing will give the public the opportunity to express their opinion about this. She said she has had several people ask her about the petition process. Regarding opting out of the licensing of dispensaries and on-site consumption establishments, she stated that it gives the City an opportunity to see how other communities are affected by this first, noting that currently there are a lot of unknowns.

Council Member Spaziani agreed with Council Member Ruggiero and said Council should err on the side of caution because the laws and processes for dispensaries and on-site consumption establishments have not all been worked out. He pointed out that once the City opts in, it cannot opt out at a later date.

Mayor Smith warned that anyone submitting a petition needs to make sure they are following the correct process because it is a very detailed process to follow. He stated that there are a lot of misconceptions regarding who can run a dispensary and how it will be done and financed. He advised that the licensing will be highly regulated and very expensive, noting that a loan cannot be obtained from a federally

regulated bank. Lastly, he mentioned that in other communities, such as Colorado, the revenue gained from this was offset by the additional expenses due to the problems caused by it.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing motion for a public hearing and carried with all voting yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Climate Change

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned that he and Council Member Ruggiero had recently had a conversation about climate change and asked Council Member Ruggiero to explain further.

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that she was contacted by Dr. Kimball regarding the creation of a committee to start evaluating the effects of climate change and working toward possible solutions. She said that Dr. Kimball is willing to serve on the committee. She suggested EV chargers for cars installed within the City as a topic of discussion.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson added that he would like to see the carbon offset market reviewed by this committee as well.

July 4th Concert in the Park

Council Member Pierce remarked that this was a great event, which was well attended. She thanked all of the people that worked to put this event together.

Council Member Ruggiero and Mayor Smith agreed and added their appreciation to the people that organized the event.

Small Business Emergency Relief Program

In response to Council Member Pierce's inquiry on the status of applications, Mr. Lumbis explained that 20 applications had been received by the end of last week. He said they plan to schedule a meeting soon to start reviewing them.

Electronic Speed Warning Signs

Council Member Ruggiero reported that she saw the signs installed on Ten Eyck Street, as requested by a resident and wondered if the signs should be rotated into other areas of the City in which residents have expressed concerns with speeding.

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Water and Sewer Projects

Council Member Ruggiero asked if there is a list of water and sewer projects that this money is being put towards.

Mr. Mix said staff will be finalizing the list in the upcoming weeks and it will be presented to Council.

Walking Police Patrols Downtown

Council Member Spaziani mentioned that part-time Police foot patrols might address some of the concerns and issues in the downtown area that were brought up during Privilege of the Floor.

Potholes on Arsenal Street

Referring to comments during Privilege of the Floor, Mayor Smith pointed out that Arsenal Street and the Arsenal Street Bridge are maintained by the NYS Department of Transportation, not the City.

Roundabout on Route 11

Referring to comments during Privilege of the Floor, Mayor Smith noted that the proposed roundabout is outside to the City and is a NYS Department of Transportation project.

Timing of Crosswalk Signals

Referring to comments during Privilege of the Floor, Mayor Smith asked that the timing and length of crosswalk signals downtown be reviewed.

Mr. Mix replied that a study of this is being conducted by an outside company. He said he will have staff look at the labels on the signal buttons.

Picnic Tables Downtown

Mayor Smith mentioned that the picnic tables distributed in the downtown areas are for residents and customers of the businesses to use, but they are being used as “drug stations” and needles are being left behind. He asked for the Police to patrol this area more often.

National Grid Lights Downtown and in Thompson Park

Noting that he had mentioned some of the lights were not working, Mayor Smith said he does not want staff to lose sight of addressing this with National Grid.

Watertown Golf Club

Mayor Smith mentioned that paving was done at the Watertown Golf Club’s parking lot, which was one of the requirements of the agreement with them.

July Work Session

Mayor Smith noted that the changing of the guard ceremony at Fort Drum is scheduled for next Monday, July 12 and suggested moving the work session to July 26 so that Council Members could attend the ceremony.

Council agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:35 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