

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
April 6, 2026  
7:00 p.m.**

**Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce Presiding**

**Present:** Council Member Shane A. Garrabrant  
Council Member Robert O. Kimball  
Council Member Douglas E. Osborne, Jr.  
Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen  
Mayor Sarah V.C. Pierce

**Also Present:** Eric F. Wagenaar, City Manager  
Joseph V. Frateschi, Harrison Beach Murtha, City Attorney

**City staff present:** Erica Anderson, James Mills, Thomas Compo, Aaron Harvill, James St. Croix, Brandi Smith, Angel French

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for Primary Grit Collector Replacement – Pollution Control Facility (PCF) Blue Heron Construction Company LLC
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the Waiver of Fees for the PGA Hope Golf Program
- Resolution No. 3 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budget – Establish Transportation Planner Position and Transfer Appropriations Within the Bus Department
- Resolution No. 4 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees
- Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing the Dissolution of the Transportation Commission and the Creation of the Transit Committee
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$2,700,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of Improvements to the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities, In and for Said City
- Proposed Local Law of 2026 - A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – February 2026
- Sales Tax Revenue – February 2026
- Public Hearings for 2026-27 Operating Budgets and 2026-27 through 2030-31 Capital Budget

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and Mayor Pierce asked that it be in remembrance of former City Court Judge James Harberson and community member Benjamin Coe.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 16, 2026 and budget session of March 30, 2026, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Robert O. Kimball, seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

No Communications.

## **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Pierce interrupted the regular course of business to proclaim the month of April, 2026 as “Fair Housing Month” in Watertown, New York, to establish Watertown as an inclusive community committed to fair housing and to promote appropriate activities by private and public entities intended to provide or advocate for equal housing opportunities for all residents and prospective residents of the City of Watertown.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Frank Battista**, Palmer Street, expressed his concerns with the proposed tax increase and stressed that Council will need to make staffing cuts. He recommended a hiring freeze and implementing an austerity budget. He also blamed this Council and previous Council Members for the City’s current financial situation.

**Lance Evans**, 1370 Loomus Drive, told Council that he has lived in the City for 40 years and appreciates the City’s refuse program. He said that if it is eliminated, it would cost him more to use a private hauler and he urged Council to keep this service.

**Adam Ruppe**, Butterfield Avenue, expressed his concerns regarding the possible elimination of the City’s refuse program. He also discussed Resolution No. 5 and the dissolution of the Transportation Commission, hoping that it would only be reformed and not dissolved.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, expressed his opposition to eliminating the City’s refuse program and expressed his frustration with City bus delays on the Arsenal Street route.

**D.J. Marconi**, owner of DJ’s at the Park located at the Thompson Park Golf Course, indicated that he submitted an unsolicited proposal to keep the golf course open and remove the operational burden of it from the City. Stating he believes the golf course is a community asset that needs to be preserved, he said he wants to be a part of the solution.

**Kyle Zimmerman**, 328 Butterfield Avenue, addressed the chair concerning his opposition to eliminating the City’s refuse program. He also mentioned his disagreement with Council’s comments in the media regarding the proposed housing development on Butterfield Avenue and the loss of the grant funding for infrastructure upgrades.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for Primary Grit Collector Replacement – Pollution Control Facility (PCF) Blue Heron Construction Company LLC**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

WHEREAS the City desires to contract with a qualified vendor for the demolition, removal of the current collector, purchase, delivery, installation, and startup of a Rex C&B Grit Collector or equivalent, per departmental specifications for use at the City’s Pollution Control Facility (PCF) located at 700 William T. Field Drive, Watertown, NY 13601, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received two (2) sealed bids for the Primary Grit Collector Replacement – Pollution Control Facility (PCF), and

WHEREAS on March 12, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Water Superintendent and Chief Operator, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted by Blue Heron Construction Company LLC,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the base bid received from Blue Heron Construction Company LLC in the amount of \$1,429,611.00, and

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

**Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the Waiver of Fees for the PGA Hope Golf Program**

**Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

WHEREAS the City Code states that Parks & Recreation charges fees to utilize the Thompson Park Golf Course, including the driving range, and

WHEREAS the City Council has received a request from PGA Hope, requesting that fees be waived for this national program, and

WHEREAS this program is designed to introduce and teach the game of golf to Veterans and Active-Duty Military with the goal of enhancing their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being, and,

WHEREAS the proposed program would consist of three six-week sessions, each held on Wednesday evenings for just over one hour, and,

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to waive the fee, which is estimated at approximately \$300 per session, and

WHEREAS the City Code authorizes the City Council to charge a fee other than what is contained in the City Code,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager, or their designee, and City Staff are hereby authorized to waive vendor fees for the PGA Hope program.

**Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 3 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budget – Establish Transportation Planner Position and Transfer Appropriations Within the Bus Department**

**Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

WHEREAS on June 2, 2025 the City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS the adopted budget included within the Bus Department an appropriation for mobility management, and

WHEREAS the current mobility management contract expired March 31, 2026, and the City has evaluated the delivery of these services and identified an opportunity to enhance service coordination, oversight, and responsiveness through a City-administered program, and

WHEREAS the City desires to create the position of Transportation Planner to perform the duties of mobility management, allowing for improved integration with City operations, strengthened compliance with Federal and State program requirements, and more consistent, customer-focused service delivery to residents, including seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and low-income populations, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budget to add a Transportation Planner position, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2025-26 General Fund Budget to re-appropriate the funds for contracted mobility management to the appropriate personal service and fringe benefit line items with the following adjustments:

<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
A.5630.0130	Bus – Salaries	\$ 9,925
A.5630.0430	Bus – Contracted Services	\$ (16,400)
A.5630.0810	Bus – Retirement	\$ 775
A.5630.0830	Bus – Social Security	\$ 1,275
A.5630.0850	Bus – Health Insurance	\$ 4,425
	Total	<u>\$ -</u>

**Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, City Manager Wagenaar explained the rationale for adding this position, especially amidst discussion of staff reductions. He stressed that this work is currently being contracted out to the Volunteer Transportation Center (VTC) and the cost would be the same to bring it in-house. He added that this expense is covered by 90% through State and Federal funding. He also reviewed the extensive duties and responsibilities this position would handle in regard to the FTA requirements and reporting. In response to Council Member Garrabrant’s inquiry, he explained that the current work done by VTC is also 90% covered but the funds come into the City and are forwarded to VTC. Noting this funding is very stable, he said that if the funding was to go away, then the position would be eliminated as well.

Council Member Osborne stated he sees the need for this position, but the timing of this request is poor. He asked if the funding would cover the salary and benefits of the position.

City Comptroller James Mills explained that this is budget neutral and only moves the work from being contracted out to in-house. He added that the FTA funding is adequate to cover this cost and that benefits are reimbursable.

Mayor Pierce asked if adding the position could be considered after the budget process is completed.

Mr. Wagenaar said it could, but reminded Council that it may take 60-90 days to fill the position. Noting that the FTA reporting requirements take a tremendous amount of time and work, he explained the individual who performed this function at VTC left that position to become the City's new Transit Director, so there is no one to fulfill this role at this point.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea, except for Council Member Douglas E. Osborne, Jr. and Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 4 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2025-26 Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees**

**Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

WHEREAS on June 2, 2025, City Council adopted the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees, and

WHEREAS the City Council established the new position of Transportation Planner earlier in tonight's agenda, and

WHEREAS the City Council establishes that the Transportation position be a Grade 21 position,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees chart that is attached and made part of this resolution to add the position of Transportation Planner at a Grade 21, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to start individual employees at the step he/she determines to be appropriate at the time of hire.

**Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and was carried with all voting yea, except for Council Member Douglas E. Osborne, Jr. and Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing the Dissolution of the Transportation Commission and the Creation of the Transit Committee**

**Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Watertown is responsible for establishing policies and structures that best support the efficient and effective operation of City government, and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1974, the City established a Transportation Commission to provide input and recommendations on transportation-related matters, and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 1997, the City combined the Paratransit Committee into the Transportation Commission to serve in an advisory role, and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Commission has recently sought expanded authority and increased involvement of City staff and resources, which exceeds the advisory role originally contemplated by the City Council, and

WHEREAS, following the appointment of a new Transit Director, the City conducted a review of the structure, scope, and operational demands of the Transportation Commission to ensure alignment with current City priorities and staffing resources, and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to move toward a more streamlined and nimble advisory structure that complements existing efforts, including the work of the Transit Director and the Complete Streets Committee, and

WHEREAS, the City responded to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 by developing a complementary paratransit plan, and the establishment of the City Transportation Planner will satisfy all applicable requirements related to paratransit planning and oversight, thereby eliminating the need for a separate Paratransit Committee, and

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to continue to receive focused, timely, and practical advisory input on transit-related matters in a manner that is efficient and aligned with current City priorities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby directs:

1. Dissolution of Transportation Commission:  
The Transportation Commission of the City of Watertown is hereby dissolved, effective immediately.
2. Creation of the Transit Committee:  
There is hereby established a Transit Committee, which shall serve in an advisory capacity only.
3. Purpose and Role:  
The purpose of the Transit Committee shall be to support the Transit Director and the Complete Streets Committee by providing advisory input on transit-related matters as directed.
4. Duties and Responsibilities:  
The Transit Committee may be tasked with the following responsibilities when directed by the City Council, the City Manager, the Transit Director, or the Complete Streets Committee:
  - Reviewing specific transportation or transit-related issues assigned to it;

- Evaluating policies, plans, or initiatives related to transit services and infrastructure;
  - Providing written findings, recommendations, or reports to the City Council, Transit Director, or Complete Streets Committee; and
  - Offering advisory input on implementation of adopted transportation and transit plans.
5. The Transit Committee shall have no authority to make policy decisions, direct staff, expend funds, or act on behalf of the City.
6. Membership and Appointments:  
The Transit Committee shall consist of five (5) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the City Council.
7. Terms of Appointment:  
Members shall serve three-year terms, and may be reappointed at the discretion of the City Council.
8. Organization and Procedures:  
As an advisory body only, the Transit Committee:
- Shall not be required to elect a chairperson;
  - Shall meet only as needed at the direction of City staff or committees; and
  - Shall function solely in a consultative capacity without independent authority.
9. Paratransit Committee:  
Any prior requirement or authorization for a Paratransit Committee is hereby deemed satisfied and no longer necessary, as the City has fulfilled all related obligations and will continue to do so with the Transit Director and Transportation Planner, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council expresses its appreciation to the members of the former Transportation Commission for their time, service, and contributions to transportation planning and policy discussions within the City of Watertown, and that any matters previously under review by the Transportation Commission may, at the discretion of the City Manager or Transit Director, be referred to the Transit Committee or other appropriate City body, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Pierce explained that Council was given a revised resolution changing the appointing authority of this committee from the City Manager to the City Council.

**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 \$2,700,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of Improvements to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities, In and for Said City**

**Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

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 (the "City"), as follows:

Section 1. For the class of objects or purposes of paying the cost of improvements to the City's wastewater treatment plant facilities, including replacement of the primary grit system and installation of a screen on the Influent B line, and incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$2,700,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the maximum estimated cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is \$2,700,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$2,700,000 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 class of objects or purposes is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision four 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 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 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 the City Comptroller shall deem best for

the interests of the City; provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, the City Comptroller 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. 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 9. 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 10. 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 11. This ordinance, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in full in summary in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper of the City, 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 Shoen**

**Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Robert O. Kimball, seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

Mr. Mills responded to Council Member Garrabrant's questions about the amount of this bond. He noted the amount for the primary grit system replacement portion of the project was decreased from \$3

million to \$1.5 million because the bid came in much lower. In regard to the influent B screen portion of the project, it was explained that requests for proposals (RFPs) are currently being sought. Mr. Mills explained the timing for putting the bond forward for approval and ensured that the full borrowing amount will not be made until the total cost of the project is known.

Council Member Shoen mentioned that he does not like to put the amount of the bond out to the public prior to receiving the RFPs and he wished that this process would change.

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

## **LOCAL LAW**

### **Proposed Local Law of 2026 - A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit Established by New York General Municipal Law §3-c**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Robert O. Kimball**

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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027 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, and

WHEREAS a public hearing on this was held on April 20, 2026, 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 2026-2027 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 Benjamin P. Shoen**

**Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing local law for Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – February 2026**

A report was available for Council to review.

### **Sales Tax Revenue – February 2026**

A report was available for Council to review.

### **Public Hearings for 2026-27 Operating Budgets and 2026-27 through 2030-31 Capital Budget**

A memo from staff was presented to Council recommending that Council set a public hearing regarding the proposed budget on April 20, 2026. In addition, staff recommended that, at the conclusion of the April 20, 2026 public hearing, the hearing be adjourned to May 4, 2026 to provide the public with a second opportunity to speak on this topic.

**Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to schedule a Public Hearing to seek public input regarding the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Operating Budgets and Fiscal Year 2026-27 through 2030- 31 Capital Budget for Monday, April 20, 2026 at 7:15 P.M.**

Mayor Pierce pointed out that the April 20 public hearing would be adjourned until May 4 to allow additional time for public input.

**Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tax Cap Override / Budget Discussion**

Council Member Garrabrant explained that the vote taken tonight was only to set a public hearing and that he is unsure how he will actually vote on overriding the tax cap. He discussed the use of fund balance appropriation to bridge the budget gap and mentioned that the tax increase might need to be slightly higher than the tax cap.

### **City Refuse**

Council Member Garrabrant mentioned there have been a lot of comments regarding eliminating the City's refuse service and he said he would like to have more information before making a decision. He asked what the root cause was creating the deficit from the prior surplus and he wondered if competitors

were having the same issue. He also wondered if there were any recommendations from staff which would allow the service to break even, and he questioned whether the City could offer a customer referral program or implement a customer feedback program.

**eBikes**

Council Member Garrabrant said there has been staff discussion about the use of eBikes and safety concerns, and he wondered if Council could get more information.

**Budget Discussion**

Council Member Garrabrant requested the public continue to reach out with their input.

**Hydro Revenue and Sales Tax Revenue**

Council Member Kimball noted that hydro revenue was down \$1 million from last year but sales tax revenue had increased approximately \$1 million. He attributed this to the increased cost of gas.

**City Refuse (continued)**

Council Member Kimball said he was the one who originally asked if there could be a savings with the elimination of this service. He indicated that he would like to see the numbers before making any further decisions. He said that most of the people who have expressed concerns are ones that put out a small amount of trash and the City needs to determine if eliminating the service would cost the residents more.

**Golf Course**

Council Member Kimball said that he has received a lot of feedback regarding the golf course and that most people seem to want to eliminate its cost to the City. He said he would like to see the City consider a lease option.

**City Refuse (continued)**

Council Member Osborne said he does not want the City trash service to go away, and he sees it as an essential service. He said he would like to see the City update the way it accounts for stickers and inventory. He also requested a resolution on the floor to modify the trash policy, and he would like to allow loose bags with stickers along with totes. He also suggested limiting the hours that bags could be put out so that it decreases the potential of animals getting into the bags.

**Budget Discussion (continued)**

Council Member Osborne said that he has received a lot of input from the public as well.

**Tax Cap Override / Budget Discussion (continued)**

Council Member Shoen noted that he seconded the motion to set the public hearing, which he said he did not have a problem doing, but that he would not be in support of the local law overriding the tax cap. He reminded Council that Mr. Mills had recommended any cuts to the budget be put back into the fund balance versus changing the levy, and he stressed that the City needs to stop spending as well as cut spending. He said he has also received several ideas from the public and he listed them as the following: cuts to staffing, changing response to medical calls, changing City bus runs, closing fire stations, changing recycling back to every other week instead of every week, keeping the refuse system, and opening the golf course earlier to obtain more customers.

Mayor Pierce addressed comments made by Mr. Battista during Privilege of the Floor and she said she disagrees with what he said about her spending habits. She noted that during her time on Council she has been against spending. She also stressed that the budget process is in its early stages and Council is listening to department heads before deciding on cuts. She agreed that it is important to hear from the public, though.

**Golf Course (continued)**

Mayor Pierce said she is glad that there was interest in running the golf course, but that it needs to be done through an RFP. She agreed that the cost of running the golf course needs to be eliminated for the City.

**Police Academy**

Mayor Pierce said she recently attended the graduation of the police academy and that it was a nice event. She congratulated all the officers and thanked them for wanting to serve the community.

**City Refuse (continued)**

In regard to the suggestion of recycling returning to every other week versus weekly, Mayor Pierce mentioned that, during the budget session, it was pointed out that weekly recycling is more efficient for staff.

Mr. Wagenaar explained that, due to the volume of recycling that is being picked up, there were delays and staff could not get to the transfer site at the end of the day prior to its closing.

**School Groups Field Trips to City Hall**

Mayor Pierce mentioned that she recently did a tour of City Hall for a student group and she offered this service to any other school group that would like a field trip to City Hall to contact her.

**Motion was made by Council Member Robert O. Kimball to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof and to discuss collective bargaining.**

**Motion was seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:42 p.m. by motion of Council Member Robert O. Kimball, seconded by Council Member Benjamin P. Shoen and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

*Ann M. Saunders*  
City Clerk