

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
August 2, 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: Michael Lumbis

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment – Library
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing Abate of Vacant Property Registration and Inspection Fees, 808 Cooper Street
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving the Grant Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant Program Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Rounds 1 & 3 Grant Funding
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Watertown Urban Mission for CDBG CARES Act Funding for The Pantry to You Project
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County for the Second Round of CDBG CARES Act Funding for Food Pantry Assistance
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Salvation Army for the Second Round of CDBG CARES Act Funding for Food Pantry Assistance
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the United Way of Northern NY for the Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program for the Second Round of CDBG CARES Act Funding
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Watertown Minor Hockey Association
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Figure Skating Club of Watertown
- Resolution No. 10 - Changes to Annual City Fees and Charges Schedule
- Resolution No. 11 - Accepting Change Order No. 1 for Flower Memorial Library Ceiling Replacement Project, Construction, Design and Management Inc.
- Tabled - Resolution Authorizing Granting of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Hospice of Jefferson County

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 July 19, 2021, and work session of July 26, 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 claim was received from Laurie and Alfred Gentile, Baldwinsville, seeking reimbursement for damages due to a rock from a Watertown Wastewater Treatment truck striking their vehicle windshield while driving on Route 81 on June 25, 2021.

Above claim has been referred to the Board of Audit.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, made an emotional plea to Council requesting housing for the homeless. She suggested a \$200 match program with the City matching public donations.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, addressed Council regarding his ideas for improving the bus system, the bus map and bus stops. He informed Council about the bus system in Syracuse and suggested that the City live up to their example to be the “City of the 21st Century.” He also suggested adding more bicycle lanes to City streets.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, suggested extending the City Bus hours to cover the times when movies let out at Salmon Run Mall. He also offered his support of Hospice and the funds they requested from the City at the last City Council meeting. Additionally, he asked that Council instruct the Police Department to address the issue of pedestrians crossing in areas other than the crosswalks in Public Square.

Kevin Miller, 306 N. Rutland St., informed Council of the presence of Giant Hogweed in some areas in the City. He also offered thanks for the cleanup done on properties in his neighborhood.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment – Library

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has 49 cartons of USG frost basic acoustical panels, and

WHEREAS this equipment may have some value best determined by online auction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by online auction, of the 49 cartons of USG frost basic acoustical panels, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final acceptance of such bid 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. 2 - Authorizing Abate of Vacant Property Registration and Inspection Fees, 808 Cooper Street

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Vacant Registration and Inspection Fees on 808 Cooper Street has gone unpaid, and

WHEREAS, the amount of such fee was re-levied onto the July City tax bill, and

WHEREAS this property owner was in the process of foreclosure before New York State placed a moratorium on foreclosure proceedings, and

WHEREAS the property owner has kept all taxes current and the property has been properly maintained, and

WHEREAS it is City Council's desire to relieve the property owner of the hardship caused by this increased City tax bill,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that 2021-2022 City property tax amount due for 808 Cooper Street, Parcel No. 2-09-129.000, be reduced by \$800 for the re-levied Vacant Property Registration and Inspection Fees, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the above amount is hereby abated and the City Comptroller is hereby authorized to mark his books and records accordingly.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith asked City Manager Ken Mix to explain how this property was missed.

Mr. Mix explained that all the notices had been sent to the previous property owner and so the current owner had not been properly notified. He added that the property had been maintained in an acceptable manner so the decision was made to offer abatement.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Approving the Grant Agreement for the Community Development Block Grant Program Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Rounds 1 & 3 Grant Funding

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has completed a second amendment to its Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program to include \$822,582 in funding provided to the City through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Rounds 1 and 3, and

WHEREAS the City has submitted the amendment to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and

WHEREAS HUD has approved the City's Amendment to the Annual Action Plan and has prepared a Grant Agreement for the grant funding,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Grant Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the CDBG Program CARES Act Grant Funding, 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 Agreement on behalf of the City Council.

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

Resolution No. 4 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Watertown Urban Mission for CDBG CARES Act Funding for The Pantry to You Project

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment that was adopted by the City Council on June 21, 2021, included \$71,500 in CARES Act funds to pay for food, associated supplies and a delivery service in support of the Watertown Urban Mission Pantry to You Project, and

WHEREAS the food will be delivered to low- and moderate-income families living in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Urban Mission for the CDBG CARES Act 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 the Watertown Urban Mission, 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 on behalf of the City Council for the 2020 CDBG CARES Act Watertown Urban Mission Pantry to You.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County for the Second Round of CDBG CARES Act Funding for Food Pantry Assistance

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment that was adopted by the City Council on June 21, 2021, included \$32,500 in CARES Act funds to pay for food and associated supplies in support of the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County food pantry, and

WHEREAS the food will be made available to low- and moderate-income families living in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council for the CDBG CARES Act 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 the Community Action Planning Council, 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 on behalf of the City Council for the 2021 CDBG CARES Act Community Action Planning Council Food Pantry Assistance.

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

Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Salvation Army for the Second Round of CDBG CARES Act Funding for Food Pantry Assistance

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment that was adopted by the City Council on June 21, 2021, included \$32,500 in CARES Act funds to pay for food and associated supplies in support of the Salvation Army food pantry, and

WHEREAS the food will be made available to low- and moderate-income families living in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Salvation Army for the CDBG CARES Act 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 the Salvation Army, 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 on behalf of the City Council for the 2021 CDBG CARES Act Salvation Army Food Pantry Assistance.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the United Way of Northern NY for the Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program for the Second Round of CDBG CARES Act Funding

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment that was adopted by the City Council on June 21, 2021, included

\$32,500 in CARES Act funds to pay for food and associated supplies in support of the Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program, and

WHEREAS the food will be made available to low- and moderate-income families in the Watertown City School District, and

WHEREAS the recipient of funds for the Food 4 Families Program will be the United Way of Northern New York, Inc., and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the United Way of Northern New York for the CDBG CARES Act 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 the United Way of Northern New York, 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 on behalf of the City Council for the 2021 CDBG CARES Act Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Watertown Minor Hockey Association

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and operates a Municipal Arena, and

WHEREAS City Council of the City of Watertown desires to promote recreational activities at this community recreational facility,

WHEREAS the Watertown Minor Hockey Association expressed their desire to enter into a three-year Agreement for ice time at the Municipal Arena to support their programs, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena between the City of Watertown and the Watertown Minor Hockey Association, 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 said Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Approving Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena, Figure Skating Club of Watertown

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and operates a Municipal Arena, and

WHEREAS City Council of the City of Watertown desires to promote recreational activities at this community recreational facility,

WHEREAS the Figure Skating Club of Watertown expressed their desire to enter into a three-year Agreement for ice time at the Municipal Arena to support their programs, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Agreement for Rental of Ice Time at the Watertown Municipal Arena between the City of Watertown and the Figure Skating Club of Watertown, 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 said Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Changes to 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 the FY 2021-2022 City Fees and Charges Schedule was adopted by City Council on May 24, 2021 when the FY 2021-2022 Budget was adopted, and

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Department has proposed changes to this schedule to include the following:

	City Resident	Non City Resident	
Arena - Ice Time for Groups			
Minor Hockey & Figure Skating / Student Groups	-	\$85.00	per hour
Adult and Non City Groups	-	\$125.00	per hour
Events Where Admission / Donation is Charged	\$160.00	\$200.00	per hour
School Ice Skating	\$3 per student to cover cost of skating and rentals		
Arena - Rental of Space	City Resident	Non City Resident	
Office Rental - Monthly	\$85.00	\$105.00	per month
Miscellaneous Parks and Recreation Fees	City Resident	Non City Resident	
Event Fee	\$500.00	\$625.00	per day

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby authorizes the above changes to the City Fees and Charges Schedule.

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

Resolution No. 11 - Accepting Change Order No. 1 for Flower Memorial Library Ceiling Replacement Project, Construction, Design and Management Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown accepted the bid from Construction, Design and Management Inc. (CDM) in the amount of \$90,360 for the Flower Memorial Ceiling Replacement Project on July 6, 2021, and

WHEREAS additional work and materials were needed to the scope of work on the project, and

WHEREAS CDM has now submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$353 for this additional work,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it accepts Change Order No. 1 from Construction, Design and Management Inc. (CDM) in the amount of \$353 bringing the total project to \$90,713,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth A. Mix is hereby authorized and directed to sign all documents necessary to accept Change Order No. 1 on behalf of the City.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Tabled - Resolution Authorizing Granting of American Rescue Plan Act Funds to Hospice of Jefferson County. *(Introduced on 7/19/2021; tabled; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 6-8 of the 7/19/2021 minutes).*

Remained tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

Street Islands

Council Member Pierce suggested Council look at the creation of an “Adopt an Island” program where citizens could sponsor one of the islands located at the intersections of City streets. She mentioned the island at the intersection of Massey, Holcomb and Clinton streets which is maintained by Allison Gorham and offered to take the lead on this potential program. She requested the City Manager prepare a list of these street islands.

Mr. Mix noted that this should not be a problem.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson suggested that the City Manager also provide a list of things that would not be allowed on these islands.

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned the roundabout on Gaffney Drive advising that it should be included in that list of islands.

In response to Mayor Smith’s question as to whether there were any legal restrictions to this, City Attorney Robert J. Slye said there would be no legal issues and no waivers required to plant flowers or rake grass.

Mowing on Rutland Street

Council Member Ruggiero thanked staff for attending to the mowing issues at vacant properties that was done after the last meeting.

Flower Ave East Sidewalks

Council Member Spaziani informed Council that, in response to some complaints from Ann Street, 207 Flower Avenue East, he had walked the sidewalks near her residence. He noted a few cracks but no upheaval of blocks. He mentioned that the only cause for concern which he could see was in the handicapped ramp at the corner.

City Manager Mix said staff had reported superficial cracks along the sidewalk but no structural issues. He noted that he understood Ms. Street was upset about the condition of the sidewalk, but there were no defects found.

Council Member Ruggiero wondered about, perhaps, a skim coat to make the sidewalks more visually appealing.

Mr. Mix stated that would not work and noted again that, structurally, the sidewalks are sound.

Concert in the Park

Mayor Smith thanked City staff and crews for all their hard work on last month's Concert in the Park. He mentioned that discussions with the Rotary were ongoing for future concerts and the City would be looking to partner with an organization that can do the necessary fundraising.

Bus Maps and Signage

Council Member Ruggiero remarked that she recalled new signage being available for the bus stops and wondered if they had been installed yet.

Mr. Mix indicated he would check with the Department of Public Works.

Mayor Smith mentioned that he believed the bus map available on the City's website had not been fully updated.

Mr. Mix advised that he would look into that as well.

Hydro Committee Meeting

Mayor Smith informed Council that the Hydro Committee had met several times and toured the hydro plant. He explained that they were at a point where they would need professional assistance to move forward.

Mr. Mix stated the City would need to consult with the experts in the electricity market since the City had no prior experience in trying to sell its electricity. He mentioned that there would need to be discussions to educate staff on how it works and all the various ways to sell excess electricity.

City Court Meeting with Judge Murphy

Mayor Smith informed Council that he had a meeting with Judge Murphy and other Court staff to tour the court and discuss ADA compliance issues and the need to secure City Hall in general. He noted that he had informed Judge Murphy that any changes to the building would have to be affordable and done in phases and the Judge had seemed to understand. Mayor Smith said that staff would be meeting to discuss potential security measures.

Single Stream Recycling

Mayor Smith noted that the price for recyclables had gone up and that the City could be making money right now if they were in the recycling business.

Mr. Mix indicated that it was a very small amount and that would be consumed by startup and transport costs, but the outlook is currently a lot better than it was a year ago.

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's question as to whether those fees are guaranteed, Mr. Mix explained that it would fluctuate with the market but, at this moment, the market has somewhat stabilized.

Council Member Ruggiero noted that, although she was no mathematician, by her calculations it would be 23 years before the City would break even on the costs to get single stream recycling up and running.

Mayor Smith noted that private companies would state that reimbursement will happen much faster.

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that Kingston, New York, has dual stream recycling and suggested the City could investigate that as well.

Mr. Mix inquired as to what the two streams were.

Council Member Ruggiero said they were paper and cardboard in one and glass and plastic in the other.

Mr. Mix noted that the price of plastic was doing acceptably well but that glass was a negative return.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson noted that he had seen an article about dual stream recycling in Florida where glass was the second stream because of the difficulties in separating out glass.

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 7:46 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:50 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.

Lisa M. Carr
Deputy City Clerk