

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
September 20, 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  
Christina Stone, City Attorney

**City staff present:** Michael Lumbis

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing Fundraising Through the Northern New York Community Foundation to Support Implementation and Ongoing Maintenance of COVID-19 Memorial Monument Located in Thompson Park
- Resolution No. 2 - Appointment to the Board of Assessment Review, Laurel K. Zarnosky
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for WWTP Trickling Filter Domes Reconditioning Project, Upstate Restoration of NY, Inc.
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Thatcher Company of New York, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.
- Resolution No. 6 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 7 - Readopting Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget and Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 8 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 111 and 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Numbers 10-07-110.000 and 10-07-112.000 from Limited Business to Downtown and Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a two-story 14,000 Square Foot Building at 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Number 10-07-110.000 Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a Two-Story 14,000 Square Foot Building at 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Number 10-07-110.000
- Resolution No. 10 - Readopting Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget and Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget, Emergency Repair
- Resolution No. 11 - Authorizing the Parking Lot Lease Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency
- Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)
- Public Hearing - Ordinance Changing the Approved Zoning Classification Of 111 and 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Numbers 10-07-110.000 and 10-07-112.000 from Limited Business to Downtown
- Sales Tax Revenue – August 2021

- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – August 2021
- UMR and ProAct Performance Reports for FY 2020-2021

**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 September 7, 2021, and work session of September 13, 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**

No Communications

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**S.G. Gates**, 157 Dorsey Street, addressed the chair regarding his support for Thompson Park Pool, noting that the last time he was there it was at full capacity. He also expressed his support for Hospice's request for ARPA funding and asked Council to consider supporting his efforts for a dog park in Thompson Park.

**Jason Traynor**, 142 Mechanic Street, spoke to Council about his concerns of cockroaches and bedbugs in Midtown Towers, operated by the Watertown Housing Authority. He said the City should set living standards for apartment complexes and asked how often Code Enforcement inspects the building.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, asked Council to consider extending the bus hours and expressed safety concerns for the intersection of Mill Street and East and West Hoard Street. He said that there have been several accidents at that intersection and many people drive over the speed limit on Mill Street.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)**

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:15 p.m.**

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis read from his staff report, providing an overview of the purpose for this public hearing. He also listed the City's accomplishments for Program Year 2020 and offered an update on the CARES Act Small Business Relief Program.

No one from the public spoke.

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:19 p.m.**

**At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning changing the approved Zoning Classification of 111 and 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Numbers 10-07-110.000 and 10-07-112.000 from Limited Business to Downtown**

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:20 p.m.**

No one spoke

**Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:21 p.m.**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 1 - Authorizing Fundraising Through the Northern New York Community Foundation to Support Implementation and Ongoing Maintenance of COVID-19 Memorial Monument Located in Thompson Park**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS Allison Gorham has offered to raise funds for the implementation and maintenance of the COVID-19 Memorial Monument located in Thompson Park in the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Northern New York Community Foundation was previously designated to serve as a vehicle through which individuals, organizations, and businesses can make charitable contributions in support of City programs, projects and initiatives, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown believes that it is in the best interest of the citizens of the City to authorize fundraising for the implementation and ongoing maintenance of the COVID-19 Memorial Monument in Thompson Park,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown authorizes fundraising through the Northern New York Community Foundation for the purpose of providing resources to support implementation and maintenance of the COVID-19 Memorial Monument in Thompson Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Watertown is willing to accept the donated funds from the Northern New York Community Foundation for said purpose.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Spaziani expressed concern with the monument being located in Thompson Park and wondered who would be responsible for maintaining it. He also stated that it may be premature to put up a memorial for COVID-19 victims when the pandemic is still occurring.

Council Member Ruggiero questioned the Master Plan for the Park, mentioning that it was last reviewed in 1985, and said that now is the time to update the plan.

City Manager Ken Mix agreed that the Master Plan should be updated, noting that he has slowly worked on it over the years, but thinks it would be better to hire a consulting firm to put the document together. He indicated that GIS has been working on mapping out the trail system and locating where the clearing of brush work should be done.

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that the City does not have a policy for creating a monument and should set the criteria for the purpose of one. She clarified that the City is not paying for this and that it would be funded through private donations. She agreed with Council Member Spaziani about the maintenance responsibility.

In response to Council Member Spaziani's inquiry about the installation of the foundation, Mr. Mix explained that Ms. Gorham originally asked the City to do the foundation work, but it was not agreed upon, and Ms. Gorham has since withdrawn that request.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson agreed that the Master Plan for the Park should be worked on.

Mr. Mix advised that if Council is interested in moving forward with updating the Master Plan, then staff can work to put an RFP together.

In response to Mayor Smith's inquiry if the donation had to be attached to the memorial being located in the Park, City Attorney Stone advised that the resolution could be amended to accept the funds with the location to be determined at a later time.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson stated that he does not have a problem with it being located in Thompson Park.

Council Member Pierce added that she is not sure where else it would be put in the City.

Council Member Ruggiero advised that she would like to see this project happen but does not have a preference as to where it is located.

Other locations were discussed briefly, and Ms. Gorham responded to questions showing her support for the memorial being at the proposed location within Thompson Park.

**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. 2 - Appointment to the Board of Assessment Review, Laurel K. Zarnosky**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

RESOLVED that the following individual is reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review for a five-year term, such term expiring on September 30, 2026:

Laurel K. Zarnosky  
447 Flower Avenue East  
Watertown, New York 13601

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

**Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Bid for WWTP Trickling Filter Domes Reconditioning Project, Upstate Restoration of NY, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department has advertised and received sealed bids for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Trickling Filter Domes Reconditioning Project, as per City specifications, and

WHEREAS bid invitations were also issued to twelve (12) contractors with five (5) sealed bids submitted to the Purchasing Department, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 2:00 p.m., the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS the City Purchasing Department reviewed the bids received with the Chief Operator of WWTP, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bid submitted by Upstate Restoration of NY, Inc. in the amount of \$129,900,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bid of Upstate Restoration of NY, Inc. in the amount of \$129,900 for WWTP Trickling Filter Domes Reconditioning 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 Upstate Restoration of NY, Inc.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith noted that all the bids came in under budget and questioned why this bid was significantly lower.

Mr. Mix explained that when the budget was prepared it was unknown whether the project would be a refurbishment or complete reconstruction, and it has since been decided that a refurbishment could be done. He added that the lowest bidder has been contacted and has assured the City that he is confident he can do the work for this amount.

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

**Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Bid for Chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant, Thatcher Company of New York, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

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

WHEREAS invitations to bid were also issued to twenty-six (26) prospective bidders with a total of three (3) bids received, and

WHEREAS on September 2, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. in the City Purchasing Department, the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS City Purchasing reviewed the bids received with Chief Plant Operator Aaron Harvill of the Water Treatment Plant, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the bids from Thatcher Company of New York, Inc. as detailed below:

Chemical	UOM	Vendor Name	2021-2022
			Unit Price
Aluminum Sulfate	Dry - 330 Ton	Thatcher Company	\$359.00

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown accepts the bids submitted by Thatcher Company of New York, Inc. as detailed above, being the lowest qualifying bidder meeting City specifications, for the purchase of Aluminum Sulfate for use at the City’s Water Treatment Plant, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all contracts associated with implementing the award to Thatcher Company of New York, Inc. **Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 5 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the Lessor, City of Watertown, owns the facility known as Thompson Park, located in the City of Watertown, County of Jefferson, State of New York, and

WHEREAS the Lessor has entered into an Agreement with the Tenant, Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc., to lease certain premises located at the Park for the operation of the “Thompson Park Zoo”, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has provided both financial and in-kind services in support of the Thompson Park Conservancy, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the taxpayers of the City of Watertown to provide direct support to the Thompson Park Conservancy to assist with operations as detailed in the attached Agreement,

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 Thompson Park Conservancy, 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**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that she appreciates receiving the additional information regarding what these funds will be used for and noted that the City Comptroller indicated that the City receives a complete accounting the use of the funds.

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

**Resolution No. 6 - Readopting Fiscal Year 2021-22 General Fund Budget**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021, the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, of which \$46,539,384 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS the City was awarded \$22,265,728 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and

WHEREAS urban tree canopy programs which aid in stormwater management are an allowable use of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted General Fund Budget:

GENERAL FUND

Revenues:

A.0000.4960 Federal Aid – American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 \$ 50,000

Expenditures:

A.5010.0430 DPW Municipal Maintenance - Contracted Services \$ 50,000

Total Expenditures \$ - 0 -

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

**Resolution No. 7 - Readopting Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget and Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget, and

WHEREAS the City was awarded \$22,265,728 in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, and

WHEREAS City Council wishes to add the Seward Street and Burlington Street reconstruction projects to its Capital Budget, and

WHEREAS City Council on September 7, 2021, added the Barben Avenue/Holcomb Street/Bugbee Drive water main reconstruction project to the Fiscal Year 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby amends the Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget to include in the FY 2021-22 Capital Budget the following projects:

Seward Street	\$ 850,000
Burlington Street	\$ 1,231,000

and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget to provide the funding for the sanitary sewer portions of the Seward Street and Burlington Street reconstruction projects and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted Sewer Fund Budget:

SEWER FUND

Appropriated Fund Balance:		
G.0000.0900	Fund Balance	<u>\$ 366,000</u>

Expenditures:		
G.9950.0900	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund (Seward St)	\$ 200,000
G.9950.0900	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund (Burlington St)	<u>\$ 166,000</u>
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ 366,000</u>

and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget to provide the funding to connect sanitary sewer to certain parcels as part of the Barben Avenue water main replacement project and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted Sewer Fund Budget:

SEWER FUND

Appropriated Fund Balance:		
G.0000.0900	Fund Balance	<u>\$ 75,000</u>

Expenditures:		
G.9950.0900	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund (Barben Ave/Holcomb St./Bugbee Dr.)	\$ 75,000
Total Expenditures		<u>\$ 75,000</u>

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**



Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Spaziani asked if this includes the work to be done for the sewer on Barben Avenue.

Mr. Mix advised that it does. He added that he has recently been advised of the history of a previous Council considering installing this sewer line and noted there was some controversy so the Council at the time did not move forward. He further explained that this involves three properties, and at the time, one of the homeowners did not want to discontinue the use of their septic system and connect to the sewer line. He warned that the State code requires homeowners to hook into the public sewer system if it is available.

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

**Resolution No. 8 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 111 and 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Numbers 10-07-110.000 and 10-07-112.000 from Limited Business to Downtown and Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a two-story 14,000 Square Foot Building at 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Number 10-07-110.000 Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, has before it an Ordinance for the zone change application submitted by Lundy Construction, LLC to change the approved zoning classification of 111 and 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Numbers 10-07-110.000 and 10-07-112.000 from Limited Business to Downtown, and

WHEREAS the City Council also has before it an application for Site Plan Approval, submitted by Patrick J. Scordo, P.E. of GYMO, DPC and Lundy Construction, LLC, on behalf of Watertown Savings Bank for the construction of a two-story 14,000 square foot building and associated site improvements on the same parcels, and

WHEREAS the City Council must evaluate all proposed actions submitted for its consideration in light of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA), and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, and

WHEREAS approving the Zone Change from Limited Business to Downtown and approving the Site Plan for the proposed professional office building and associated site improvements would constitute such an "Action," and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that changing the approved zoning classification of these parcels and constructing a professional office building and associated site improvements would constitute an Unlisted Action as that term is defined by 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (al), and

WHEREAS there are no other involved agencies for SEQRA review as that term is defined in 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (t), and

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed zone change and site plan will have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental

Assessment Form has been prepared by Lundy Construction, LLC, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution,

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

1. Based upon its examination of the Short Environmental Assessment Form and comparing the proposed action with the criteria set forth in 6NYCRR Section 617.7, no significant impact is known and the adoption of the zone change and the construction of a two-story 14,000 square foot building and associated site improvements will not have a significant impact on the environment.
2. The Mayor of the City of Watertown is authorized to execute the Environmental Assessment Form to the effect that the City Council is issuing a Negative Declaration under SEQRA.
3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

**Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

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

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

**Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a Two-Story 14,000 Square Foot Building at 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Number 10-07-110.000**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS Patrick J. Scordo, P.E. of GYMO, DPC and Lundy Construction, LLC, on behalf of Watertown Savings Bank has submitted an application for Site Plan Approval for the construction of a two-story 14,000 square foot building and associated site improvements at 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Number 10-07-110.000, and

WHEREAS City of Watertown Planning Staff referred the application to the Jefferson County Planning Board, pursuant to Section 239-m of New York State General Municipal Law, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board was unable to establish a quorum for its August 31, 2021, meeting and will not reconvene within the next thirty (30) days, thus freeing the local board to make its final decision, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Planning Board reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on September 7, 2021, and voted to recommend that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the site plan with the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall eliminate the accessible parking spaces directly across from the access drive to eliminate the conflict with vehicle backing movements from those spaces with vehicles entering the site.
2. The applicant shall provide a tree protection detail on the plans and extra care should be taken by the contractor to ensure that the tree protection is installed and maintained throughout the duration of construction to limit the impact to the ground surface in the area surrounding the 24” tree proposed to be saved.
3. The applicant must complete and submit a final Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to be reviewed and approved by the City Engineer prior to construction.
4. The applicant must obtain the following permits, minimally, prior to construction: Demolition Permit, Building Permit, Sanitary Sewer Connection Permit, Water Supply Permit, General City Permit, Sidewalk Permit, and a Zoning Compliance Certificate.

And,

WHEREAS the City Council has previously determined by resolution dated September 20, 2021 that the proposal construction and site plan is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is an express condition of this Site Plan Approval that the applicant provide the City Engineer with a copy of any change in stamped plans forming the basis for this approval at the same time such plans are provided to the contractor. If plans are not provided as required by this condition of site plan approval, the City Code Enforcement Officer shall direct that work on the project site shall immediately cease until such time as the City Engineer is provided with the revised stamped plans. Additionally, any change in the approved plan, which, in the opinion of the City Engineer, would require Amended Site Plan Approval, will result in immediate cessation of the affected portion of the project work until such time as the amended site plan is approved. The City Code Enforcement Officer is directed to periodically review on-site plans to determine whether the City Engineer has been provided with plans as required by this approval, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that Site Plan Approval is hereby granted to Patrick J. Scordo, P.E. of GYMO, DPC and Lundy Construction, LLC, on behalf of Watertown Savings Bank for the construction of a two-story 14,000 square foot building and associated site improvements at 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Number 10-07-110.000, as depicted on the site plan submitted to the City Planning and Community Development Department on August 17, 2021, contingent upon the applicant meeting the conditions listed above. **Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 10 - Readopting Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget and Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget, Emergency Repair**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS on May 24, 2021, the City Council adopted the Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget and the Sewer Fund Budget, and

WHEREAS a portion of the sanitary sewer main in Central Street needs an emergency replacement, and

WHEREAS City Council wishes to add the Central Street sanitary sewer replacement project to its Capital Budget,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby amends the Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26 Capital Budget to include in the FY 2021-22 Capital Budget the following project:

Central Street sanitary sewer	\$ 250,000
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and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Sewer Fund Budget to provide the funding for the Central Street sanitary sewer replacement project and makes the following adjustments in the re-adopted Sewer Fund Budget:

SEWER FUND

Appropriated Fund Balance:

G.0000.0900	Fund Balance	\$ <u>250,000</u>
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Expenditures:

G.9950.0900	Transfer to Capital Projects Fund	\$ <u>250,000</u>
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Total Expenditures		\$ <u>250,000</u>
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**Secinded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 11 - Authorizing the Parking Lot Lease Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency**

**Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson**

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns and maintains certain parking facilities within the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the City has determined that a valid public purpose is served by leasing a certain portion of these parking facilities to the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency to be used as a construction staging area, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency desire to enter into an Agreement for the lease of said parking facilities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Parking Lot Lease Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency, a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey M. Smith, is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Lease on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Ordinance Changing the Approved Zoning Classification Of 111 and 145 Clinton Street, Parcel Numbers 10-07-110.000 and 10-07-112.000 from Limited Business to Downtown.** *(Introduced on August 16, 2021; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2021 Minutes Book on page 13-14 of the 8/16/2021 minutes).*

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

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **Sales Tax Revenue – August 2021**

A report was available for Council to review.

#### **Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – August 2021**

A report was available for Council to review.

#### **UMR and ProAct Performance Reports for FY 2020-2021**

Mayor Smith explained that the reports are available for Council to review and if anyone has any further questions, the representatives could be asked to give a presentation to Council.

Mr. Mix added that any questions can also be forwarded to staff.

#### **Petition for Referendum on Licensing and Establishing Retail Cannabis Dispensaries and On-Site Cannabis Consumption Establishments Pursuant to MHRL §24**

Mrs. Saunders first apologized for this report being added on the agenda so late, explaining that she and her staff were working on it into the late afternoon in order to present it publicly tonight since this meeting is the last meeting scheduled before the 30-day deadline to review expired. She explained that 736 signatures were on the petition and that the requirement for valid signatures were 593, which is 10% of the total number of votes cast in the City during the last Governor's election. She further explained that valid signatures must be qualified voters, which means they need to be currently registered to vote and also registered to vote during the previous general election on November 3, 2020. Referring to the Certificate of the Petition, submitted to Council by the City Clerk, she informed Council that 245 of the 793 signatures were invalid and listed the various reasons (Not Registered Voter in Last General Election – 18, Not Current Registered Voter – 162, Not Resident of City of Watertown – 49, Invalid Witnessed Signatures – 12, Duplicate Signature – 1, Printed Name Illegible – 3) for the public's knowledge. She summarized that left 491 valid signatures, which was insufficient and did not comply with all the requirements of the law to send this to a referendum. She added that she will be filing the Local Law No. 1 of 2021 with NYS Department on State in the next few days.

Mayor Smith stressed that the rules were set by the State of New York and the City was not looking to invalidate signatures, but just to follow that State's rules. He pointed out that the main reason this did

not pass is because 162 people were not registered to vote and stressed the importance of registering to vote.

Attorney Stone explained the petitioners can challenge the City Clerk's non-certification of the petition in State Supreme Court.

Mrs. Saunders added that she and her staff tried to be generous and upon consultation with Attorney Slye, allowed some leniency with some of the questionable signatures.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **North Country Family Health Center Request for ARPA funds**

Mayor Smith informed Council that he received a letter from the North County Family Health Center requesting a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He said that he distributed a copy of the letter to each of the Council Members and asked the City Manager to respond to it with a copy of the resolution passed by Council.

### **Recent Fort Drum Solder Suicides**

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned the suicides of Fort Drum solders that occurred over the weekend and provided the phone numbers for National Suicide Hotline and Veteran's Crisis Hotline. He urged anyone contemplating thoughts of suicide reach out for help and he offered his condolences to the solder's families.

Mayor Smith said he spoke to General Beagle and offered his condolences.

### **Electric Vehicles**

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned that the State is looking to prohibit the sale of gasoline powered passenger vehicles by 2035 and light duty trucks in 2045 and wondered if the City should start transitioning fully to electric vehicles. He acknowledged that the Police Department has started moving towards hybrid vehicles but asked if all the departments should start putting a plan in place for this transition.

Mr. Mix stated that he has already had a discussion with the Purchasing Manager in regard to this.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked if the City would get a price break if the whole fleet was replaced at once.

Discussion turned to EV chargers and whether they should be installed in various locations throughout the City. Mayor Smith noted that the City would have to charge for the electricity and explained how it works by setting up an account.

### **Dog Park**

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson reviewed the history of prior dog park discussions and said that, in the past, he did not have an issue building a dog park in Thompson Park. He explained that he has since become interested in trees and saving them, and now he does not want to see the number of trees come down that would have to at the proposed site. He suggested reviewing alternative sites, such as the City-owned property on Thompson Street.

Council Member Spaziani noted that if the City can put a memorial within Thompson Park then it should not have an issue putting a dog park there. He suggested that all the trees should not have to come down because the dogs should have areas of shade.

Council Member Ruggiero agreed that this topic should be opened back up for discussion.

In response to Council Member Henry-Wilkinson's question of whether the dog park needed to be designed by a licensed engineer, Mr. Mix stated that a licensed engineer needs to stamp the plan so that it can go to bid.

Council Member Ruggiero provided more details of the last resolution that was passed in 2018, noting that the deadline for raising private funds was December of 2019.

Council Member Spaziani advised that he supports the idea of a dog park, but it needs further discussion.

### **LL Bean Boot Sale**

Council Member Pierce announced that the LL Bean Boot Sale will be coming back to the City. She reminded staff that last year the feedback from other downtown businesses was that they wanted to know when it was scheduled so they could adjust their hours to be open as well.

### **9/11 Ceremony**

Council Member Ruggiero thanked the American Legion for holding a wonderful event.

### **Overdose Awareness Day**

Council Member Ruggiero stated this event took place last week and was well attended and a good event.

### **October Work Session**

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's question, Mr. Mix advised that the MPO discussion can be scheduled for the October Work Session.

### **Speeding on Mill Street – Privilege of the Floor**

Council Member Ruggiero asked if the digital speed signs can be placed on Mill Street to monitor and discourage speeding.

Mayor Smith agreed that this was a good suggestion.

### **Watertown Housing Authority/Midtown Tower Complaints– Privilege of the Floor**

Council Member Ruggiero noted that she spoke with Mr. Robare, Executive Director of Watertown Housing Authority to discuss the issues brought up at recent Council Meetings. She said it was relayed that due to the eviction moratorium they have been unable to evict tenants that are causing disturbances and damages to the building. She pointed out that Mr. Traynor's apartment has been sprayed for bugs for a third time, but part of the problem is that other tenants will not let anyone in to do the insect treatments.

Mayor Smith stated that Mr. Robare does a great job for the Watertown Housing Authority. He also suggested that if individuals are not happy with their housing, they have the option to move.

**Cameras on Stoplights**

Council Member Spaziani stated that a constituent asked if cameras could be installed on stoplights.

Council Member Ruggiero explained that she has asked that question before and Police Chief Donoghue indicated that they can only be installed in cities with a larger population.

**Marijuana Dispensaries**

Council Member Spaziani noted that most of the people who spoke in support of dispensaries in the City wanted it for medical purposes and wondered how a medical marijuana dispensary could be located here.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson commented that he is not sure if the City could get a medical marijuana dispensary. He mentioned that the medical marijuana law was set to expire so the recreational marijuana law was to supersede that.

**Thompson Park Trails**

Mayor Smith stated that staff has done a good job clearing the trails within Thompson Park.

**Historic Street Lighting**

Mayor Smith suggested that with the complete street reconstruction of Grant and Tilden Streets, the City should budget to install historic street lighting as well on these streets. He indicated that the neighbors are in favor of it.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:30 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