

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
February 3, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

Present: Council Member Sarah V. Compo
Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson
Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

Also Present: Kenneth A. Mix, City Manager
Robert J. Slye, City Attorney

City staff present: James Mills, Michael Lumbis, Michael Delaney, Fire Chief Dale Herman, Police Chief Charles Donoghue, Matthew Roy

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Supporting Fort Drum Expansion
- Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Watertown to Execute the Section 211 Waiver for City Manager Kenneth A. Mix
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Participation in State Opioid Response Grant
- Resolution No. 4 - Re-Adopt Fiscal Year 2019-20 General Fund Budget
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Agreement Between the City of Watertown and State of New York, Unified Court System
- Resolution No. 6 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 231, 237, and 241 Goodale St., Parcel Numbers 11-01-109.000, 11-01-108.000, and 11-01-107.000 from Commercial to Downtown and 201 and 209 Sterling St., Parcel Numbers 11-01-106.000 and 11-01-105.000 from Residence C to Downtown and the Construction of a Proposed Parking Lot at the Same Location Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving Assessment Charge for Sidewalk Improvement Special Assessment Program, District No. 14
- Resolution No. 8 - Retaining the Professional Services of John C. Krol to Assist in the Recruitment of Viable Candidates for the Position of Watertown City Manager
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$300,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Costs of the Construction or Reconstruction of Sidewalks in Special Assessment District No. 14 Within the City
- Public Hearing - Ordinance Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 231, 237, and 241 Goodale Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-109.000, 11-01-108.000, 11-01-107.000 from Commercial to Downtown and 201 and 209 Sterling Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-106.000 and 11-01-105.000 from Residence C to Downtown
- Tabled Resolution - Approving Assessment Charge for Sidewalk Improvement Special Assessment Program, District No. 14
- Grant Funding Opportunity
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing
- Year-end Financial Report

- Request for Abate – 634-636 Lansing Street

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 January 21, 2020 and adjourned meeting of January 24, 2020, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from the Jefferson County Board of Elections thanking Council for the opportunity to suggest changes to the Watertown Nonpartisan Primaries and Election Act and detailing their recommendations.

Above communication was placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

A notice of subrogation claim was received from Progressive Insurance, on behalf of Justin Creedon, seeking reimbursement of \$4,669.44 for damages to his vehicle due to an accident with a City Fire Truck on November 23, 2019.

Above claim has been referred to the Board of Audit.

PRESENTATION

Independent Auditors' Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019 - Liz Bush, CPA, Bowers & Company CPAs PLLC

Ms. Bush began the presentation by pointing out the Independent Auditors' Report and the Opinion found on page 2, which shows a clean unmodified opinion of the financial statements. She pointed out the Required Supplemental Information, which is included in the financial statements and on page 3 the Other Information paragraph, which is the schedule of expenditures of Federal Awards or more commonly known as the Single Audit. She reported that a clean unmodified opinion was also issued on the Single Audit of Federal Awards.

She referred Council to the Management's Discussion and Analysis (page 4 - 20), which is prepared by management and provides valuable information for the financial statements and notes, and she encouraged Council to read through it.

Ms. Bush reviewed in detail the various Audited Financial Statements, which start on page 24, and she pointed out that this includes all the capital assets, long-term debt and several significant estimates. She explained the estimates are for the City's proportionate share in the NYS pension system and other post-employment benefit payables, which she said is for health insurance for retirees. She indicated this is the most significant estimate on the statement at about \$133 million, but reminded Council that it is "pay-as-you-go" in NYS so this is an actuarial determination.

On the Balance Sheet for the Governmental Funds on page 26, she noted the total fund balance was \$16,890,085 and reviewed the restricted portions for reserves and the amounts assigned, which leaves an unassigned fund balance amount of \$10,282,898. She mentioned this is slightly higher than last year by about 1% and overall the unassigned fund balance represents about 23% of the General Fund expenditures and about 22% of the General Fund budgeted. She said the fund balance has grown but reminded Council that there are forecasted deficits starting in 2023-2024 of the multi-year financial plan. She also said that the fund balance is used to start the fiscal year out because some of the significant revenues are received later in the fiscal year.

On page 28, Ms. Bush drew Council's attention to the Statement of Revenue, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance for Governmental Funds and reviewed it in detail. She pointed out and offered explanations for any of the significant changes in revenues and expenditures from the previous year, as well as summarized the net change in the fund balance from the end of the last year.

Ms. Bush reviewed the financial statements for the Proprietary Funds, which begin on page 31 and said they represent the Water and Sewer Fund. She pointed out significant changes in amounts from last year and summarized that the year ended with approximately \$25 million in the total new position for the business-type activities.

Regarding the Notes to the Financial Statement starting on page 36, Ms. Bush said that she will only point out some of the significant notes. She referred Council to page 50 for the Cash and Cash Equivalent Note which states that all the City's cash is either collateralized or insured by the FDIC, so there was no uncollateralized cash. She advised that page 51 through 53 provides more detail of the capital assets and depreciation expense of the Governmental Funds and Water and Sewer Funds. She turned to the debt disclosures and discussed in detail the Short Term Debt Note on page 56 and the Long Term Debt Note beginning on page 57. She summarized the Retirement Benefit Note beginning on page 61 and highlighted the employer contributions and the employee contributions on page 65. Reviewing the Fund Balance Note on page 77, she explained it discloses what the reserves are and pointed out that on page 78, it reveals that there were no funds that had a deficit fund balance.

Ms. Bush drew Council's attention to page 89, which shows the Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund. She noted the budgeted and actual amount, and offered explanations as to why some of the items had variances.

Page 91 begins the Federal Awards Program information section of the audit and the Independent Auditor's Report on Government Auditing Standards, which is required if there is Federal Awards expended. Ms. Bush reported there were no deficiencies or material weakness. The Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance and Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance is on page 95, and she stated the audit on the Federal Awards Programs received a clean unmodified opinion on page 96. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is on page 98, and she stated the major programs audited were the CDBG Entitlement Grant and the Federal Transit Grant. She reviewed the Summary of the Audit Results listed under Note A on page 101, stating it summarizes all of the different opinions and whether there were any significant deficiencies or material weakness. She reviewed the list and stressed that the City is a low-risk auditee because there have not been any findings in the last two years and all reports are filed in a timely manner. In addition, she reviewed the

State Transportation Assistance Programs beginning on page 103, which also showed an unmodified clean opinion.

Lastly, Ms. Bush reviewed the findings listed in the management letter and the communication report.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Donnie Lee Barrigar, 134 Union Street, stated that he is recording this for his Flat Earth YouTube Channel. He invited Council to come to Thompson Park and he would show them that there is no curvature to the earth by looking at the horizon through his telescope. Noting that the Mayor suggested he contact State and Federal representatives about this issue, Mr. Barrigar said he believes this is a City issue and that Council should contact the higher levels of government on his behalf.

Jason Traynor, 142 Mechanic Street, mentioned a recent article in the Watertown Daily Times regarding the transportation system in St. Lawrence County and how its model could be applied to Watertown. He stated the City needs to invest in the City's bus system to expand it and he stressed that it would benefit individuals without their own means of transportation. He said his main goal is to expand the Arsenal Street bus route until 9:30 p.m.

S.G. Gates, 157 Dorsey Street, donated a statue of an owl to the City and suggested that it could be used to scare the crows away. Stating that he treats each Council as its own entity and hopes for no hard feelings from the past, he reviewed for the new Council the history of his desire to bring a dog park to Thompson Park since 2007. He also suggested other ideas for improving Thompson Park.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, addressed the chair stating that lower Arsenal Street traffic is getting better but there are still delays. He also expressed his concerns about tow hitches on the back of parked cars, noise from car radios driving by his house and homes being demolished instead of rehabilitated. Lastly, he discussed the need to expand the Citibus system and suggested the City investigate the use of diesel fuel as a cost saving measure.

Bart Bonner, no address given, addressed the chair regarding the Downtown Business Association's (DBA) proposal to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) in the downtown area and listed the reasons why he is opposed to this concept.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning changing the approved Zoning Classification of 231, 237, and 241 Goodale Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-109.000, 11-01-108.000, 11-01-107.000 from Commercial to Downtown and 201 and 209 Sterling Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-106.000 and 11-01-105.000 from Residence C to Downtown.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:30 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:31 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Supporting Fort Drum Expansion

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Fort Drum benefits from the unique relationship with surrounding communities that provide housing, education, healthcare, and infrastructure support to the installation, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has been a vital partner with the U. S. Army for 30 years by providing water and wastewater infrastructure for the base and housing for soldiers, and

WHEREAS there presently is an effort to make Fort Drum the home of the Army's new Corps Headquarters, and

WHEREAS a Corps Headquarters oversees several Divisions in the Army and is made up of senior leadership, including a three-star general and would also bring with it 600-700 soldiers,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown supports Fort Drum, New York, and supports and encourages this major designation.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V. Compo

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Compo stated that location of a 4th Army Corps Headquarters would be a great thing for Watertown and the North Country as a whole, so she fully supports this.

Council Member Ruggiero advised that the FDRLO is soliciting signatures on a petition showing support by the community and she would encourage everyone to sign it.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson agreed that this would be a good thing for the future of the community.

Council Member Compo offered to draft a cover letter to the Secretary of the Army listing everything that this area has to offer, which could be sent with a copy of the resolution.

Council Member Roshia noted this could bring approximately 600 soldiers and their families to the area, which could have a large economic impact.

Mentioning the partnership that the City and the surrounding Counties have with Fort Drum, Mayor Smith added that Fort Drum does a tremendous job in terms of defending the nation and is probably the most deployed unit in the military. He said this expansion would enhance the community as well as the defense of the nation.

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

Resolution No. 2 - Authorizing the Mayor of the City of Watertown to Execute the Section 211 Waiver for City Manager Kenneth A. Mix

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS City Council has appointed Kenneth A. Mix to serve as the City Manager until a permanent replacement is found, and

WHEREAS As a retiree under the NYS Retirement System, Kenneth A. Mix is limited in the income he can receive while working for the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS A waiver of the income limits can be authorized upon request by a retired employee's appointing authority to the State Civil Service Commission under sec. 211 of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Law, and

WHEREAS The City Council has reviewed Note 3 of the waiver request and attests to the information provided,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown authorizes Mayor Jeffery M. Smith to sign the Section 211 waiver request to allow Kenneth A. Mix to exceed the income limits which otherwise apply to his service as City Manager on an interim basis.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Approving Participation in State Opioid Response Grant

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., dba Pivot (the "Alliance"), has been awarded \$125,000 in grant funding from the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Statewide Opioid Response Initiative to support expanding the reach of substance use prevention coalitions in high priority areas, and

WHEREAS these high priority areas have been identified by the Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative (ESPRI), and

WHEREAS the Alliance will utilize the funding to implement three environmental strategy facets: policy, enforcement and media, and

WHEREAS the Alliance is requesting to work with the City of Watertown Police Department to establish foot patrols in high rates of poverty for the funding period July 2019 through September 2020, and

WHEREAS a budget of \$33,280 has been set aside from this grant specifically for the foot patrol and to direct additional funding toward the law enforcement line item to either extend foot patrols beyond the September 2020 grant period or to intensify foot patrols so as to access all funding through the end of September 29, 2020,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves participation in grant funding for the Alcohol and Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., dba Pivot, from the Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)-funded Statewide Opioid Response Initiative, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, is hereby authorized and directed to execute any other certifications or documents required to accept the grant and administer the program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, and Police Chief, Charles P. Donoghue, are hereby authorized and directed to work with the Alliance on behalf of the City Council to assist in facilitating community-specific foot patrols and use of the allotted grant funding.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith said this is a great opportunity and explained that this grant would return the idea of foot patrol to neighborhoods in the community, which is beneficial and provides positive community involvement.

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

Resolution No. 4 - Re-Adopt Fiscal Year 2019-20 General Fund Budget

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS on May 29, 2019 the City Council passed a resolution adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20, of which \$44,148,031 was appropriated for the General Fund, and

WHEREAS on February 3, 2020 City Council accepted a grant in the amount of \$33,280 from the Alliance for Better Communities to fund additional police patrols in certain areas of the City,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby re-adopts the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-20 to increase the revenue and expenditure estimates related to accepting the Alliance for Better Communities grant in the amount of \$33,280 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the following adjustments be included in the re-adopted General Fund Budget:

<u>Revenues</u>		
A.0000.3389	State Aid, Public Safety	<u>\$ 33,280</u>
	Total Revenues	<u>\$ 33,280</u>
<u>Expenditures</u>		
A.3120.0150	Police – Overtime	\$ 25,165
A.3120.0820	Police – Retirement	\$ 6,190
A.3120.0830	Police – Social Security	<u>\$ 1,925</u>
	Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 33,280</u>

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

Resolution No. 5 - Approving Agreement Between the City of Watertown and State of New York, Unified Court System

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown is required by law to furnish and maintain adequate court facilities for use by Trial Courts of the State of New York, and

WHEREAS Chapter 686 of the Laws of 1996 was enacted to invest the State of New York with the fiscal responsibility of managing the interior cleaning of court facilities and performance of minor repairs therein, and with the ability to cover the cost thereof, and

WHEREAS Chapter 686 of the Laws of 1996 requires the State of New York to contract with political subdivisions of the State for the cleaning of court facilities, as well as minor emergency repairs thereof, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown is responsible for furnishing and maintaining the City Court facility,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute this Agreement and the budget incorporated as Appendix B on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Resolution No. 6 - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 231, 237, and 241 Goodale St., Parcel Numbers 11-01-109.000, 11-01-108.000, and 11-01-107.000 from Commercial to Downtown and 201 and 209 Sterling St., Parcel Numbers 11-01-106.000 and 11-01-105.000 from Residence C to Downtown and the Construction of a Proposed Parking Lot at the Same Location 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 City Staff to change the approved zoning classification of 231, 237, and 241 Goodale Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-109.000, 11-01-108.000, 11-01-107.000 from Commercial to Downtown and 201 and 209 Sterling Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-106.000 and 11-01-105.000 from Residence C to Downtown, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York is also considering the construction of a parking lot on the subject parcels as an expansion to the parking lot at City Hall, 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 the approval of the zone change and the construction of the parking lot expansion would both constitute such an "Action," and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that changing the zoning classification of this property and the proposed parking lot expansion constitute an Unlisted Action as that term is defined by 6NYCRR Section 617.2 (ak), and

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

WHEREAS to aid the City Council in its determination as to whether the proposed zone change and parking lot expansion will have a significant impact on the environment, Part 1 of a Short Environmental Assessment Form has been prepared by Staff, 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 the parking lot expansion 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 Sarah V. Compo

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered 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. 7 - Approving Assessment Charge for Sidewalk Improvement Special Assessment Program, District No. 14

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS a public hearing was held in accordance with Section 93 of the City Charter on January 21, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. to hear public comment concerning whether all or a portion of the cost for proposed sidewalk improvements to the properties identified in the attached report, which constitutes Special Assessment District 14, shall be a charge or expense upon the abutting properties, and

WHEREAS the Special Assessment District program will only apply to the sidewalk blocks cited by the City Engineering Department, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that it shall fix the charge to be paid by the abutting property owner at 50/50% ratio of the accepted square foot bid price for the City-cited sidewalk blocks

(excluding taxes) for ~~properties classified as _____~~, ***properties classified as 210 – Single Family Residential and 220 – Two Family Residential, as well as 230 – Three Family Residential if the owner of the property provides proof of domicile in the three-family residence, and**

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that creating a maximum charge “cap” of \$3,000 (excluding taxes) will prevent undue hardship on a property owner within that property types,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, pursuant to Section 93 of the City Charter, hereby fixes the charge to be paid for by the abutting property owner’s of Special Assessment District 14 at 50/50% ratio of the accepted square foot bid price for the City cited sidewalk blocks (excluding taxes), with the maximum charge “cap” of \$3,000 per property for ~~properties classified as _____~~, ***properties classified as 210 – Single Family Residential and 220 – Two Family Residential, as well as 230 – Three Family Residential if the owner of the property provides proof of domicile in the three-family residence,**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all remaining property types will be responsible for 100% of the accepted square foot bid price for the City-cited sidewalk blocks ***and are entitled to the City financing program.**

Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Mayor Smith pointed out that the original intent of the program was for residential homes and owner-occupied duplexes to be covered by the 50/50 split with the cap. He indicated that outside of those classifications, the property owner would incur the full expense.

City Engineer Michael Delaney explained that the attached spreadsheet is broken out by property classification code so he needs direction as to whether all of the 200 classifications will be included or only the 210 – Single Family Residential.

Mayor Smith said that it should apply to the 210 – Single Family Residential and the 220 – Two Family Residential because that would be an owner-occupied duplex.

Mr. Delaney said that it would be difficult to determine if the property is owner-occupied because there is not a registry of that information. He noted that a 230 – Three Family Residential could be owner-occupied as well.

Mayor Smith commented that in this case there are still two units rented, which he feels makes it a business. He added that a duplex could be considered a business if the owner does not live in it but he thinks that it is closer a single family. He recommended that he would apply the cost share benefit to 210 – Single Family Residential and 220 – Two Family Residential only. He said anything else would be a business so the cost could be written off as an expense to the business.

Council Member Compo said she agrees with Mayor Smith.

Council Member Roshia commented that there is no easy way to determine whether a property is owner-occupied.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson suggested the properties in question of whether they are owner-occupied could be charged the full rate until they present documentation that it is their permanent residence.

City Manager Mix noted that there is no guarantee that a 210 – Single Family Residential is owner-occupied because in some neighborhoods there are a high percentage of rentals.

Council Member Roshia said the 230 – Three Family Residential properties need to be treated the same way because you could have an owner-occupied with two rental units, which would be the same as a 220 – Two Family Residential that is not owner-occupied. He summarized that two units are business-like in both of those scenarios.

Mayor Smith mentioned the other property owners are entitled to use the benefit of the City financing over time and the interest rate is very low.

City Comptroller James Mills explained that the bond ordinance does not exclude one property type over another type.

Council Member Roshia proposed that the 230 – Three Family Residential properties should be able to submit proof that they live there and then qualify for the cost share benefit.

Further discussion occurred over the documentation that could be submitted as proof that an owner lived within the property. It was agreed that properties in question would be charged the full amount up front and the burden of proof would be on the owner.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to amend the end of the third and fifth paragraph of the foregoing resolution to add the words “properties classified as 210 – Single Family Residential and 220 – Two Family Residential, as well as 230 – Three Family Residential if the owner of the property provides proof of domicile in the three-family residence” and to amend the sixth paragraph to add the words “and are entitled to the City financing program” at the end of the paragraph.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Retaining the Professional Services of John C. Krol to Assist in the Recruitment of Viable Candidates for the Position of Watertown City Manager

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown is the appointing authority for the position of City Manager and desires to expeditiously commence a search for a person to serve as City Manager on a full-time basis pursuant to contract, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown desires to retain the professional services of a person qualified to assist the City Council in its recruitment efforts,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the City shall retain the services of John C. Krol of Waddington, New York, to facilitate the recruitment of City Manager candidates, all in accordance with the Proposal to Facilitate the Recruitment of a City Manager attached to, and made a part of, this Resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor shall, on behalf of the City, direct Mr. Krol to commence his recruiting efforts as soon as practicable.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$300,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Costs of the Construction or Reconstruction of Sidewalks in Special Assessment District No. 14 Within the City

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the class of objects or 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 issuance of bonds of said City to finance costs of said class of objects or purposes; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the class of objects or purposes of paying costs of the construction or reconstruction of sidewalks in Special Assessment District No. 14 within the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$300,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is \$300,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of \$300,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance; provided, however, that the amount of bonds ultimately to be issued will be reduced by the amount of any State or Federal aid or any other revenue received by the City from other sources for such class of objects or purposes.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is ten years, pursuant to subdivision 24 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 of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, 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. There shall annually be levied upon property in Special Assessment District No. 14 determined to be specially benefitted by such construction or reconstruction of sidewalks a special assessment to pay such portion of the principal of and interest on such obligations, as the same become due and payable, as shall be established in proceedings under Title XII of the City Charter and, to the extent such assessments are insufficient, there shall annually be levied a tax to pay principal and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 6. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form and shall be signed in the name of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, 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 he shall deem best for the interests of the City, provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, he 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 the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, 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 Lisa A. Ruggiero

Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ordinance - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 231, 237, and 241 Goodale Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-109.000, 11-01-108.000, 11-01-107.000 from Commercial to Downtown and 201 and 209 Sterling Street, Respective Parcel Numbers 11-01-106.000 and 11-01-105.000 from Residence C to Downtown. *(Introduced on 1/21/2020; public hearing held this evening; appears in its entirety in the 2020 Minutes Book on page 9-10 of the 1/21/2020 minutes).*

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

Resolution - Approving Assessment Charge for Sidewalk Improvement Special Assessment Program, District No. 14. *(Introduced on 12/2/2019; tabled; appears in its entirety in the 2019 Minutes Book on page 6 of the 12/2/2019 minutes).*

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to remove the foregoing resolution from the table. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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

STAFF REPORTS

Grant Funding Opportunity

Mr. Mix stated that the Fire Department has applied for this grant opportunity in the past. He indicated that the department will do an inventory of what equipment, such as hose and nozzle replacements, are needed.

Fire Chief Herman explained that he received notice of this grant last week and that it was applied for last year but was not awarded.

Mayor Smith asked if more information on the grant could be provided at the work session next week. He specifically asked for the amount of the grant, the City's match and the need for equipment.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Public Hearing

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis explained that his staff is starting to work on the 2020 Annual Action Plan but the first step is to set a public hearing to solicit public input.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing to obtain input from citizens, involved agencies and interested persons regarding the development of funding priorities and projects for the City's 2020 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program for Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Year-end Financial Report

Mr. Mills stated that the report provided more details to the financial statements for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Mayor Smith noted that there is a lot of information which should be reviewed, and if any Council Member had any questions, they should speak directly to Mr. Mills or the City Manager.

Request for Abate – 634-636 Lansing Street

A report was available for Council's review.

NEW BUSINESS

Crow Dispersal Program

Stating the crows continue to be a problem for the downtown area, Council Member Compo said the City needs to look into additional efforts to deal with this issue.

Mayor Smith stressed that there needs to be more done about the crows because they are destroying the downtown area. He suggested the use of more lethal means to combat the crows.

Watertown Little League

Council Member Compo stated she was contacted by representatives of the Watertown Little League and they are interested in continuing discussions about utilizing field space in the City for practices. She said they are hoping to speak to the new City Manager.

Chili Cook-off

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson mentioned that Council participated in the Chili Cook-off and it was a lot of fun, even though they did not make the podium. He said he hopes to do this again next year.

Council Member Ruggiero agreed that this was a fun event and advised that the Chili Cook-off is a benefit for the Volunteer Transportation Center.

Downtown Signage

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson said that he met with members of the community and staff from the Planning Department to discuss downtown signage. He thanked everyone for their hard work and said they will continue to work on this.

Public Service Announcement Regarding Tax Scams

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked if the Police Department could issue a Public Service Announcement warning citizens of possible scams around tax season.

Expansion of Bus Service

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked if Council could receive a cost breakdown by hour of expanding the bus service.

Condolences to the Branski Family

Offering condolences to the Branski Family, Council Member Roshia mentioned the passing of Matthew Branski and stated he was a coaching icon who was very instrumental in Watertown School Athletics for the past half century. Noting he coached for over 30 years, he said it is a great loss for Watertown School District and lacrosse community, and he acknowledged that Coach Branski did a lot of positive work for the youth in the community.

Mayor Smith echoed his colleagues comments, stating Coach Branski was an icon for his positive influence on children and his passion for lacrosse and youth sports. Mayor Smith said he will be greatly missed.

Empire State Game Winter Games Torch Pass

Council Member Roshia stated that he, along with other Council Members, attended the torch pass ceremony at the Watertown Arena and he congratulated the nine skaters from Watertown that won medals at the competition in Lake Placid.

Council Member Ruggiero pointed out that this was the first time the torch had travelled through and was passed in Watertown, which is an honor for the City.

Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) Transition Ceremony

Council Member Ruggiero stated that she attended the transition ceremony at Fort Drum in which F. Anthony Keating was honored for his many years of service as the Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) and former Mayor Butler was appointed to this position.

Neighborhood Watch Information Meeting

Council Member Ruggiero commented that the meeting held on January 28 was very well attended and informative. She indicated a second meeting will be held on February 25 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Library and it will have more information from three different speakers.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular individuals, proposed, pending or current litigation and 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 8:34 p.m.

Council reconvened at 9:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:50 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders
City Clerk