

**CITY COUNCIL ADJOURNED MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
May 26, 2020
6:00 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

City staff present: James Mills

This meeting was conducted in accordance with Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 202.1 that restricts in-person access to meetings. The public was able to view or listen to the meeting live at: <https://livestream.com/swp/wcc>.

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Access Agreement With National Grid
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving Joint Service Arrangement With Central New York Regional Transportation Authority

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Mayor Smith opened the adjourned meeting from May 18, 2020.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 4 - Approving Access Agreement With National Grid

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City is the owner of that certain real property commonly known as 337 Engine Street in the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, State of New York, being Tax Parcel 7-16-112, and

WHEREAS National Grid is the owner of that certain real property commonly known as 327 Engine Street in the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, State of New York, being Tax Parcel 7-16-113.100 and desires to perform certain remedial actions including but not limited to the excavation of the City property and installation of a soil mix wall around the perimeter of the City DPW building, and

WHEREAS in order to provide National Grid and its representatives the necessary space to commence and complete the Approved Activities, National Grid has requested that the City grant to National Grid and its representatives a right of access over that portion of the City Premises for the purposes of accessing the Work Areas and completing the Approved Activities, and

WHEREAS in order to provide the City and its representatives the necessary space to park employee vehicles and the City owned vehicles and equipment during the National Grid Work, the City

has requested that National Grid grant to the City and its representatives a right of access over that portion of the National Grid Premises for the purposes of a temporary parking area,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Access Agreement, attached and made part of this resolution,

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

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Rules waived by Motion of 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 resolution and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Approving Joint Service Arrangement With Central New York Regional Transportation Authority

Introduced by Council Member Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown is in need of an additional bus, and

WHEREAS the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) has agreed to loan a vehicle to the City of Watertown to transport individuals in, to and from locations in Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS an agreement between CENTRO in Jefferson County through this Joint Service Arrangement pursuant to NYS Pub. Auth. L., § 1299-hh and § 1326(15) to put this into effect has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Joint Service Arrangement, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Rules waived by Motion of Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith stated this is a backup bus at no cost to the City. He asked if it would be stored at the City.

Mr. Mix confirmed that it would be for easy access.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT
Fiscal Year 2020-21 Operating Budgets

Debbie Dermady, 118 Seymour Street, stated she was disappointed in Council's decision to close the Alteri pool, especially during a time when the public has limited access to the Council meetings. She said that she supports having three pools within the City and wants Council to postpone this decision for one year in order to determine the full economic impact of the pandemic.

Bill Dermady, 118 Seymour Street, indicated that he is Debbie Dermady's husband and he reiterated his wife's disappointment in Council's decision to close Alteri pool. He also stated he did not agree with the decision to lay off employees, especially the four positions in the Police Department because there is an increase in crime. Lastly, he said that he is upset the unions are not willing to take a pay cut in order to save jobs and suggested department heads should take a pay cut.

Mayor Smith pointed out that department heads are taking a 2% pay cut and Council will be taking a 15% pay cut. Regarding the unions, he indicated that one of the unions indicated that they are not able to reopen negotiations of an existing contract per their bylaws.

Mr. Mix added that the Fire union is not interested in this option and that he has not heard from the Police union.

Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, thanked Council for getting the budget under the tax cap. In regard to the closing of Alteri pool and the City having three pools, he suggested asking businesses and large corporations within the City for donations to help with the maintenance costs. He mentioned both the Samaritan Medical Center (SMC) and the NY Airbrake. He said he supports having three pools within the City and thinks the public would be willing to help financially with the cost.

Mayor Smith advised that it is illegal for the City, Council or an employee to solicit businesses for donation or sponsorships. He pointed out that a business can donate to the City on their own but the City cannot ask for it. Regarding Samaritan Medical Center (SMC), he stated the hospital has taken a significant financial hit due to the pandemic and that they recently laid off employees because of it, so he did not think that they would be able to contribute.

Council Member Ruggiero commented that there was an effort to raise funds privately, but the individuals were concerned about moving forward thinking Mayor Smith would stop the project once he took office.

Council Member Compo mentioned that benches and tables were in the budget for Thompson Park pool but she thought there had been talk of those being donated.

Mayor Smith noted that they have had five months to organize because a decision was made in January to move forward with the pool project and changing the funding to bond for a portion of it.

Maxwell French, CSEA Union President, said that on behalf of the union members he would like to thank Council and staff for their efforts to save CSEA positions. He explained that there was a meeting today with representatives of the union and the City and that the members are willing to take the cut but their hands are tied because the bylaws do not allow them to reopen an existing contract for negotiations.

Brittani Lajuet, 663 Grant Street, addressed Council stating that it was her position at the library that was eliminated in the proposed budget. She said that she is against cutting positions and funding of resources for the library. She discussed the benefits that the library offers the community and her concerns with cutting service hours.

Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, readdressed Council advising that he is willing to organize a group to reach out to private business in order to establish a fund for maintaining all three pools.

NEW BUSINESS

Budgetary Impact of the Library Position

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked the City Comptroller to prepare the budgetary impact of the library position being returned to the proposed budget.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 6:34 p.m. until June 1, 2020 at 6:30 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