

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
July 6, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

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

Not Present: Council Member Sarah V. Compo

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

City staff present: James Mills, Michael Delaney, Scott Weller

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. 1 - Establishing Standard Work Day And Reporting For NYS Retirement, Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith
- Resolution No. 2 - Establishing Standard Work Day And Reporting For NYS Retirement, Council Member Sarah V. Compo
- Resolution No. 3 - Establishing Standard Work Day And Reporting For NYS Retirement, Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving the 2020 Youth and Young Adult Employment Training Program Contract Between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson-Lewis Local Workforce Development Area
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Funding Approval/Agreement for the Program Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program
- Resolution No. 7 - Professional Services Agreement Supplement #2 for ROW Incidentals and Acquisition Services for the Massey Street, Coffeen Street, Court Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, PIN 775362, Fisher Associates
- Resolution No. 8 - Accepting Donation for Seating Area From Dr. Jeffrey and Susan Aronowitz
- Resolution No. 9 - Requesting the City Police Department to Issue a Permit for Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Areas of Whitewater Park
- Resolution No. 10 - Approving Whitewater park Public Access Limited Use Agreement With Hole Brothers Holdings, LLC
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated June 4, 2018, as Amended July 15, 2019, Authorizing the Issuance of \$525,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Design Cost of the Rehabilitation of Court Street Bridge and Massey Street and Coffeen Street Resurfacing, in and for Said City, to Expand the Purposes

Financed to Include Construction and Right-of-Way Acquisitions, to Increase the Period of Probable Usefulness to Fifteen Years, to Increase the Estimated Maximum Cost to \$7,650,000, and to Increase the Amount of Bonds Authorized to \$750,000 to Pay for a Portion of Such Cost

- Tabled Resolution - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 1348, 1352, and 1356 Washington St., Parcel Numbers 14-21-106.000, 14-21-107.000, and 14-21-108.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment
- Tabled Ordinance - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 1348, 1352 and 1356 Washington Street, Parcel Numbers 14-21-106.000, 14-21-107.000 and 14-21-108.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business
- Engineering Department Positions
- Sale of Shepard Purchase Parcels
- Pleasant Street North – Summary of Outreach
- Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding
- Tax Sale Properties
- Request for Waiver of Fees for Little League & Upstate Youth Baseball Association
- Summer Youth Baseball & Field Rentals

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Mayor Smith announced that Council Member Compo was not present because she needed to quarantine for two weeks due to a trip to Florida, and not because she is feeling ill.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 15, 2019, 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 Eileen Stafford, 105 Washington Street, requesting authorization to put a memorial wreath on the island in front of 105 Washington St in honor of Mary Denardo who passed away after being stuck by a vehicle on December 31, 2019.

A letter was received from Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, offering to be a Community Liaison to assist with the creation and adoption of Police reform plan mandated recently by Governor Cuomo.

A letter was received from Ann Marie Abbass, 933 Leray Street, reporting that she tripped on a sidewalk in front of 531 Washington Street and she requested that it be repaired.

Above communications were placed on file in the office of the City Clerk.

A verified petition was received from Gray Media Group, Inc for a judgment pursuant to Article 78 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules in response to a WWNY request for information under FOIL.

Above claim has been referred to the Board of Audit.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Establishing Standard Work Day And Reporting For NYS Retirement, Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Watertown hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the Clerk of this body.

Elected Officials

Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Employer Record of Time Worked (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)
Mayor	Jeffrey M. Smith	6 hours	1/01/20-12/31/23	N	18.28 days

On this 6th day of July 2020, I, Ann M. Saunders, Clerk of the governing board of the City of Watertown, of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 6th day of July 2020, on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and the same is a true copy thereof and whole of such original.

I further certify that the full board consists of 5 members and that 4 of such members were present at such meeting and that 4 of such members voted in favor of the above resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Watertown.

(Signature of Clerk)

Date enacted _____

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

Resolution No. 2 - Establishing Standard Work Day And Reporting For NYS Retirement, Council Member Sarah V. Compo

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Watertown hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the Clerk of this body.

Elected Officials

Employer Days/Month

Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Record of Time Worked (Y/N)	(based on Record of Activities)
Council Member	Sarah V. Compo	6 hours	01/01/20-12/31/23	N	2.51 days

On this 6th day of July 2020, I, Ann M. Saunders, Clerk of the governing board of the City of Watertown, of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 6th day of July 2020, on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and the same is a true copy thereof and whole of such original.

I further certify that the full board consists of 5 members and that 4 of such members were present at such meeting and that 4 of such members voted in favor of the above resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Watertown.

_____ Date enacted _____
 (Signature of Clerk)

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

Resolution No. 3 - Establishing Standard Work Day And Reporting For NYS Retirement, Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Watertown hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the Clerk of this body.

Elected Officials					
Title	Name	Standard Work Day (Hrs/day)	Term Begins/Ends	Employer Record of Time Worked (Y/N)	Days/Month (based on Record of Activities)
Council Member	Jesse C.P. Roshia	6 hours	01/01/20-12/31/23	N	3.25 days

On this 6th day of July 2020, I, Ann M. Saunders, Clerk of the governing board of the City of Watertown, of the State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution passed by such board, at a legally convened meeting held on the 6th day of July 2020, on file as part of the minutes of such meeting, and the same is a true copy thereof and whole of such original.

I further certify that the full board consists of 5 members and that 4 of such members were present at such meeting and that 4 of such members voted in favor of the above resolution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Watertown.

Date enacted _____

(Signature of Clerk)

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

Resolution No. 4 - Approving Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County (CAPC) was incorporated and designated in 1967 as the official anti-poverty agency for Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS since that time, CAPC has received funds from local governments as the local share required to leverage State and Federal program service dollars, and

WHEREAS the services provided by the CAPC promotes a public purpose, and

WHEREAS the services promote the education, charity, health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Watertown,

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 Community Action Planning Council of Jefferson County, 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 and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 5 - Approving the 2020 Youth and Young Adult Employment Training Program Contract Between the City of Watertown and the Jefferson-Lewis Local Workforce Development Area

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Department of Employment and Training and the Jefferson-Lewis Local Workforce Development Area would once again like to partner with the City of Watertown for the Summer Youth & Young Adult Employment Training Program, and

WHEREAS various departments of the City of Watertown may be able to provide training opportunities for young people of the community, and

WHEREAS the City and Jefferson County Department of Employment and Training have cooperated in past years with this same program,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the City's participation in the 2020 Summer Youth & Young Adult Employment Training Program, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Youth & Young Adult Employment Training Program Contract, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Funding Approval/Agreement for the Program Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has completed its Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program and submitted it to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and

WHEREAS HUD has approved the City's Annual Action Plan and has prepared a Funding Approval/Agreement for the grant funding,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Funding Approval/Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Program Year 2020 Community Development Block Grant Program, 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.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Professional Services Agreement Supplement #2 for ROW Incidentals and Acquisition Services for the Massey Street, Coffeen Street, Court Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project, PIN 775362, Fisher Associates

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS on June 4, 2018, City Council approved the Professional Services Agreement with Fisher Associates to provide design services for the Massey St., Coffeen St., and Court St. Bridge Rehabilitation Project, and

WHEREAS additional scope of work effort is necessary to complete the project,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Supplemental Agreement #2 with Fisher Associates in the amount not to exceed an additional \$200,000, a copy of which is attached hereto and made part of this resolution, bringing the total contract amount to \$703,000, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the approval of this Resolution is contingent upon the City Council approving a Bond Ordinance Amendment to cover the expenses associated with this project, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager Kenneth Mix is hereby authorized and directed to execute this agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero noted the cost of the project had increased and asked when the project would be starting.

City Engineer Michael Delaney said that the increased cost was for the consultant fee for determining the ROW. Regarding timing, he explained there is a process to establishing the value of the property for the ROW and settling on a price and agreement with the property owner and the City.

Mayor Smith stated the increase in cost was due to the increase in the scope of the project and that his understanding was that there would be funding coming from the MPO for this.

Mr. Delaney replied that is to be determined and he will look into it.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Accepting Donation for Seating Area From Dr. Jeffrey and Susan Aronowitz

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Dr. Jeffrey and Susan Aronowitz would like to donate money and materials to create a tranquil seating area for contemplation in memory of their son Jordan Aronowitz, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to accept this donation with the intent of using the funds and materials for the specific purpose of creating a seating area on the Black River at Alex Duffy Fairgrounds,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the financial and material donation from Dr. Jeffrey and Susan Aronowitz for a seating area to be created on the Black River at the Fairgrounds in memory of Jordan Aronowitz, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the seating area will be owned and maintained by the City of Watertown, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the seating area has to be altered or moved for any reason, the alteration or new site shall be approved by Dr. Jeffrey and Susan Aronowitz.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Requesting the City Police Department to Issue a Permit for Consumption of Alcohol in Designated Areas of Whitewater Park

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Chapter 75 of the Code of the City of Watertown governs the consumption of alcohol in public places and authorizes the Police Department to issue a permit to consume alcoholic beverages in public places, and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to support local business by increasing opportunities for outdoor dining within designated areas of Whitewater Park in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS the City Council has recently allowed for open containers in designated areas of Public Square and Thompson Park in order to allow for increased outdoor seating capacity, and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to allow for the consumption of alcohol within designated seating areas of Whitewater Park, specifically a 65' x 120' area located directed west of 500 Newell Street during the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. daily,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby requests that the Police Department issue a permit for the consumption of alcohol in Whitewater Park, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the alcohol to be consumed in Whitewater Park must be obtained from area restaurants as to-go alcohol only, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the consumption of alcohol in Whitewater Park shall be limited to the hours of 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily in the area designated by the City to include the an approximately 65' x 120' grassy area located west of 500 Newell Street and north of the public parking lot.

Secinded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith noted that the City should allow Garland City to use this area as well since this restaurant is a block away.

Mr. Mix replied the resolution and permit does not indicate that they would not be able to. In response to Council Member Roshia's inquiry of Maggie's understanding of this, Mr. Mix explained that Maggie's offered to provide the picnic tables but he will make sure they know the area is available to be used by other restaurants.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Approving Whitewater park Public Access Limited Use Agreement With Hole Brothers Holdings, LLC

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS an Agreement with Hole Brothers Holdings, LLC for the limited use of a portion of Whitewater Park has been drafted, and is attached and made part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS the City Council wishes to enter into said Agreement for the reasons recited in the Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, hereby approves the Whitewater Park Public Access Limited Use Agreement between the City of Watertown, New York, and Hole Brothers Holdings, LLC, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey M. Smith, is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Limited Use Agreement on behalf of the City Council.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated June 4, 2018, as Amended July 15, 2019, Authorizing the Issuance of \$525,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Design Cost of the Rehabilitation of Court Street Bridge and Massey Street and Coffeen Street Resurfacing, in and for Said City, to Expand the Purposes Financed to Include Construction and Right-of-Way Acquisitions, to Increase the Period of Probable Usefulness to Fifteen Years, to Increase the Estimated Maximum Cost to \$7,650,000, and to Increase the Amount of Bonds Authorized to \$750,000 to Pay for a Portion of Such Cost

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS, by ordinance dated June 4, 2018 as amended July 15, 2019 (the “Prior Bond Ordinances”), the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, authorized the issuance of \$525,000 bonds of said City to pay the design cost of the rehabilitation of Court Street Bridge and Massey Street and Coffeen Street resurfacing, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including, demolition, acquisition and installation of equipment, and surfacing, and including incidental expenses in connection therewith, a specific object or purpose, at an estimated maximum cost of \$525,000, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York; and

WHEREAS, no obligations have been issued under the Prior Bond Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to (i) expand the scope of the aforesaid specific object or purpose to include design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs for the rehabilitation of Court Street Bridge and the resurfacing of Massey Street and Coffeen Street, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including, demolition, acquisition and installation of equipment, and surfacing, and including incidental expenses in connection therewith, (ii) increase the period of probable usefulness of the class of objects or purposes described in the Prior Bond Ordinances to fifteen years pursuant to subdivision ninety-one of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, (iii) increase the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose to \$7,650,000, and (iv) authorize the issuance of bonds from \$525,000 to \$750,000, an increase of \$225,000 over that previously authorized, to pay for a portion of said estimated maximum cost; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section A. The title and Sections 1, 2 and 3 of the ordinance of this Council dated and duly adopted June 4, 2018, as amended July 15, 2019, authorizing the issuance of \$525,000 bonds to pay the design cost of the rehabilitation of Court Street Bridge and Massey Street and Coffeen Street resurfacing including incidental expenses in connection therewith, a specific object or purpose, at an estimated maximum cost of \$525,000, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby amended, in part, to read as follows:

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$750,000 BONDS OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY A PORTION OF THE \$7,650,000 ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF THE DESIGN, RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION, AND CONSTRUCTION COSTS FOR THE REHABILITATION OF COURT STREET BRIDGE AND THE RESURFACING OF MASSEY STREET AND COFFEEN STREET, IN AND FOR SAID CITY.”

....
“Section 1. For paying a portion of the estimated maximum cost of the design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction costs of the rehabilitation of Court Street Bridge and the resurfacing of Massey Street and Coffeen Street, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including, demolition, acquisition and installation of equipment, and surfacing, and including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$750,000 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 specific object or purpose is \$7,650,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$750,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, together with such bonds which may be authorized by the Council in future bond ordinances or funds available for such purpose; provided however, that the amount of bonds to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of any federal or State grant funds received therefor.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision ninety-one of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law, as each item has a period of probable usefulness of at least fifteen years, pursuant to subdivisions ten, twenty, or twenty-one of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.”

Section B. 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 C. Upon this ordinance taking effect, the same shall be published in summary 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.

Section D. This ordinance is effective immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Laid over under the rules.

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution - Finding That Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 1348, 1352, and 1356 Washington St., Parcel Numbers 14-21-106.000, 14-21-107.000, and 14-21-108.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business Will Not Have a Significant Impact on the Environment. *(Introduced on 6/1/2020; tabled; appears in its entirety in the 2020 Minutes Book on page 11-12 of the 6/1/2020 minutes).*

Remained tabled.

Ordinance - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 1348, 1352 and 1356 Washington Street, Parcel Numbers 14-21-106.000, 14-21-107.000 and 14-21-108.000 from Residence B to Neighborhood Business. *(Introduced on 5/18/2020; tabled; appears in its entirety in the 2020 Minutes Book on page 5-6 of the 5/18/2020 minutes).*

Remained tabled.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineering Department Positions

Mr. Delaney advised that a Civil Engineer I will be leaving the department and, due to the budget cuts, the Secretary position was not filled after a recent retirement so he would like to now hire a Secretary in place of filling the Civil Engineer I position. He explained the urgent need was to deal with the backlog of clerical work and noted that projects have decreased so there is less of a need for the supervision of projects done by the Civil Engineer. He indicated that the Secretary would be shared with the Planning Department and serve as a backup to the Code Enforcement Office.

Council concurred with Mr. Delaney's request.

Sale of Shepard Purchase Parcels

Mr. Mix explained that these are isolated parcels and access to them is a problem for anyone except an adjacent property owner. He explained there is an interest from two property owners to purchase the parcel adjacent to them for \$100 so he recommends selling these in a private sale. He noted that Mr. Albert Gault did not want to combine the parcel with his property immediately because he is trying to purchase another parcel adjacent to his property and would like to combine all three at one time.

Council agreed to go with the City Manager's recommendation.

Pleasant Street North – Summary of Outreach

Mr. Mix pointed out that Council was given a copy of an email that was received after the staff report was prepared and that it is from a resident expressing concern with narrowing the street.

Mayor Smith stated that he would like to see curb cuts done around the former Ogilvie site in preparation for future development of the property.

City Planner Geoffrey Urda agreed, stating the development of that site is in the Comprehensive Plan and he thought curb cuts would be possible.

Council agreed to move forward with the redesign.

Community Development Block Grant CARES Act Funding

Mayor Smith summarized the report stating the ideas were brought forward during a previous work session and Council's recommendation to fund the local food pantries at the Watertown Urban Mission, CAPC, Watertown City School District Food for Families Program and the Salvation Army.

Council Member Roshia commended staff for their work on putting this together, pointing out that \$100,000 will be given back to feed the community.

Request for Waiver of Fees for Little League & Upstate Youth Baseball Association

Mayor Smith noted that this is a tough year for everyone, but the City's position has been to not waive fees. He warned about setting a precedent because if Council does it for one group then it will have to do it for all groups. Noting that COVID-19 has had a financial impact on everyone, he advised that the City has lost a significant amount of revenue.

Council Member Roshia asked for clarification on the Little League's request and advised that Upstate Youth Baseball Association had revised the dates that were requested.

Assistant Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Scott Weller explained that both groups reduced the amount of time that they requested for field time and that the Little League waiver request equated to approximately \$250 and that the Upstate Youth Baseball Association waiver request was estimated at \$6,200.

Council Member Roshia said he agreed with the Mayor but did not have a problem with waiving \$250.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson stated Council needs to stick with the policy and it is hard to pick and choose between groups.

Council Member Ruggiero agreed.

Mayor Smith summarized that they are all good groups but the fees are not very high and he noted the fields are kept to high quality.

Tax Sale Properties

City Comptroller James Mills explained that the City does not have ownership of these properties yet and reviewed the process that takes place in regard to Code Enforcement evaluating the safety of the structures and prior owners vacating the premises. He made Council aware of two properties in which the owner may request to purchase the property back as well as a property that may have potential environmental issues.

Mayor Smith advised that the City should follow the process leading up to a public auction.

Summer Youth Baseball & Field Rentals

Mr. Weller reviewed the report regarding Council Member Roshia's request to evaluate the possibility of running a shortened session of 6U/8U baseball. He advised there is still time for the season, but funds for it were taken out of the budget. In response to Council Member Roshia's question of whether this

would put too much stress on staff to get up and running, Mr. Weller indicated that this is a fairly easy program to run and that it would cost approximately \$1,300.

Council agreed to go forward with this.

NEW BUSINESS

Intersection of Sherman Street and Iroquois Avenue

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson said he received a complaint from a constituent requesting an additional stop sign at this intersection. He also noted that the crosswalk needed to be painted and that the stop bar should be moved back.

Pride Day Committee

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson thanked the Pride Day Committee for the work that they did and hopes to have another successful event next year.

Digital Billboards/Signs

Council Member Roshia asked for a status update on the new zoning for this.

Mr. Mix explained that this was put on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic but staff is trying to get back to working on it again. He suggested adding this as a topic for a work session in August.

Police/Fire Response to July 4th Activities/Fireworks

Mentioning that many fireworks displays had to be cancelled, Council Member Roshia noted that there were many personal displays done and he thanked the Police and Fire Department's response to this.

Railroad Viaduct

Council Member Ruggiero thanked DPW crews for responding to the complaint that she received of there being litter and debris underneath the viaduct on West Main Street.

Thompson Park Pool Opening

Mentioning that the weather has been, and is predicted to continue to be, extremely hot, Council Member Ruggiero asked if there is a possibility of opening the Thompson Park Pool for a few weeks once it is completed.

Mayor Smith said that he has spoken to the City Manager regarding this.

Mr. Mix indicated the expected completion date is around August 8th but noted there may be an issue in obtaining lifeguards. He also explained that the green space around the pool was to be partly hydroseeded, since it was not going to be used, and partly sodded. It was noted that if the pool was opened then the whole area should be sodded to avoid the hydroseeding turning into mud and to allow more room for social distancing. This would result in additional cost to the City.

Mr. Weller provided an update regarding the preliminary calls to previous lifeguards for their availability. He discussed the need to have time for the hiring process and training before the pool could be operational. He said he also considered contacting the YMCA for possible use of their lifeguards that are currently not working due to the pandemic. In response to Council Member Ruggiero's question of

whether it would be quicker to open the Flynn Pool, he said that they took advantage of the pool not being in operation and are performing maintenance work on the plaster. Regarding the Thompson Park Pool, he indicated that the cost of running the pool from 12pm – 8pm for the time period that Council requested would be approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 and the additional sodding would cost approximately \$3,500 - \$4,000.

Council agreed to open the Thompson Park Pool upon completion, for an abbreviated day of 12 pm – 6pm, into September depending on weather and the availability of lifeguards.

Mr. Mix reminded Council that the funding for the pool was eliminated from the budget so Council will need to readopt the budget to amend it. He will have a resolution prepared for that.

There was discussion of fundraising done by the community and Patrick Hickey's willingness to lead this effort, as well as whether the funds could be used for operations. Further evaluation of this will be done and a resolution would need to be adopted by Council.

In regard to the additional sodding, Mr. Mix advised that Council would need to be willing to approve a change order for it.

Council agreed.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss 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 7:54 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:55 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