

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
December 7, 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:** Michael Lumbis, Michael Delaney, Scott Weller, Brian Phelps

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Donation to Police Department K9 Unit
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Online Auction Contract, Auctions International, Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property Known as Unimproved Portion of Brett Street
- Resolution No. 4 - Approving CDBG Grant Agreement With CARES of NY, INC for the 2020 Point in Time Education and Outreach Program
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of 624 and 960 Square Foot Building Additions and a 1,632 Square Foot Loading Dock at 981 Waterman Drive, Parcel Number 9-43-101.005
- Resolution No. 6 - Establishing 2021 County Tax Rate
- Resolution No. 7 - Appointment of Commissioner of Deeds
- Resolution No. 8 - Requesting that Governor Cuomo Approve Home Rule Legislation (S8302/A10514) Reducing the Number of City Court Judges in the City of Watertown
- YMCA Request for City-Owned Property
- Renaming and Designation of Streets in Thompson Park
- Board and Commission Appointments

**Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk**

Meeting opened with a moment of silence and Mayor Smith asked that it be in remembrance of Mabel Walker, wife of former Mayor Walker. He stated that she will always be remembered for her many years of philanthropy and contributions to the community and offered the City's condolences to the Walker family.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 16, 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 T. Urling Walker, 1170 Ives Street, thanking Council for the planting and dedication of a Patriot Elm tree in his name within Thompson Park on November 7.

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

A letter was received from Katrina Martin, stating there was a sewer backup within the cellar of the property she owns located at 1510 Ohio Street.

A claim was received from National Grid seeking damages to a gas service while doing a sewer repair at 307 South Pleasant Street.

**Above claims have been referred to the Board of Audit.**

## **PRESENTATION**

### **K9 Recognition Presentation**

Jefferson County Probation Department Supervisor Joe Wargo read from a prepared statement describing the local fundraising that has been done through the years to assist in the development of the K9 Units of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and the Watertown Police Department. He introduced and recognized the following people for their efforts in raising donations: Christina Curri, Probation Department employee Tracy Quinn, County Legislator Anthony Doldo, Darci Pitkin, General Brown School Student Geona Wood and Sackets Harbor Student Bryce Zeltwinger. He also announced that Watertown City Police K9 Nico (present) will be retiring and thanked him for his service. Lastly, he presented the City with this year's check for \$7,000 and indicated that it will be used for the purchase of the a new K9 Jochie, who will be attending the K9 Academy with Officer Mike Maney on December 21.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for their efforts in raising these funds, as well as everyone who donated for this cause.

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Jason Traynor**, 142 Mechanic Street, spoke of how he thinks his rights have been violated by the City.

**Joanne Stevens**, stated she lives on Gotham Street and Brett Street and has been trying to buy the unimproved portion of Brett Street for a few years. Noting there is an arrangement with another individual to buy the property from the City, she indicated that she is willing to pay full price for the property and the amount of the City's surveying costs.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, addressed the chair regarding his concerns with the City buses and how they handle the snow on the roads in the winter. He also demonstrated a "Guardian Angel Light" which he wears outside when it is dark to avoid getting hit by vehicles and suggested the City purchase them for the Police, Fire and DPW employees that work on the streets at night.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Donation to Police Department K9 Unit**

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

WHEREAS local individuals have collected \$7,000 and wish to donate the money to the City of Watertown Police Department K9 Unit, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown accepts this donation with the intent of using these funds for the specific purpose of funding the purchase and training of our next K9, Jochie,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the financial donation from several local individuals in the amount of \$7,000 for the Police Department K9 Unit.

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

**Resolution No. 2 - Approving Online Auction Contract, Auctions International, Inc.**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has successfully used the services of Auctions International, Inc. over the past several years for various City Departments, and

WHEREAS it is the City's desire to get the best price possible for vehicles and/or equipment it deems surplus or excess, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Manager, Dale Morrow, has contacted Auctions International, Inc., which conducts online auctions of vehicles and equipment, and

WHEREAS there is no cost to the City, as the buyer pays a fee charged by Auctions International, Inc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that it hereby approves the Online Auction Contract with Auctions International, Inc. a copy of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the highest bid does not meet the City's estimated scrap value, no sale will take place without prior approval of the City Council, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Contract and accept the highest offer at the time of sale above the City's estimated scrap values on behalf of the City.

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

**Resolution No. 3 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property Known as Unimproved Portion of Brett Street**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns a certain lot of land known as the unimproved portion of Brett Street, approximately 50' wide and 311' long, also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 11-16-128.000, and

WHEREAS on October 19, 2020 said real property was officially discontinued by the City Council for a public use, and

WHEREAS Anthony M. Augliano lives on an adjacent lot of land known as 332 Broadway Avenue West, also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 11-16-207.000, and

WHEREAS Anthony M. Augliano has agreed to pay \$5,500 for Parcel No 11-16-128.00,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 23, Subdivision (b) of the General City Law, Section 247 of the Charter of the City of Watertown as amended by Local Law No. 1, 1985, adopted December 3, 1984, effective January 17, 1985, and the ordinance, Municipal Code, Chapter 16 adopted by the Council on June 6, 1977, that the offer of \$5,500 submitted by Anthony M. Augliano for the purchase of Parcel No. 11-16-128.000, a description of which is attached and made part of this resolution, is a fair and reasonable offer therefore and the same is hereby accepted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, Jeffrey M. Smith, be and he hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver a Quit Claim Deed of said real property to Anthony M. Augliano upon receipt of the above mentioned sum of money in cash only by the City Comptroller.

**Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia**

Stating he wanted to reply to Ms. Stevens's comments during Privilege of the Floor, Mayor Smith said the other person who wanted to purchase this parcel of land is an adjacent property owner to the parcel and added that it has been a longtime practice of the City to offer parcels to abutting property owners first prior to putting the parcel to a public auction. He explained that Anthony Augliano had requested to purchase the parcel, assuring Council that none of the other abutting property owners were interested in it, and that City Manager Mix had confirmed this with the other abutting property owners.

Ms. Stevens indicated that Mr. Augliano had "squatted" on this City-owned land for many years and had used it for trash, debris, and storage of a trailer. She also discussed issues that had occurred with this gentleman, which she felt was as a result of reporting him to the City for code violations. She offered to buy the property in question for the value of the land plus the cost of the survey and advised that Mr. Augliano should not be rewarded for "squatting" on the property for many years by buying the property for only the cost of the survey.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson commented that since another party is interested in the parcel, it should be sent to public auction.

In response to Council Member Roshia's inquiry, City Manager Mix verified the location of the parcel in relation to Mr. Augliano's property and Ms. Steven's property.

City Engineer Michael Delaney stated that Mr. Augliano's property abuts the parcel to be sold, stating he sent survey crews to the property to confirm this. He acknowledged that there have been code issues with the property.

Council Member Ruggiero noted that Ms. Stevens is willing to pay more for the parcel than Mr. Augliano.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and was defeated with Council Member Sarah V. Compo, Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia and Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting yea and Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero voting nay.**

Later in the meeting, prior to Staff Reports, Mayor Smith referred back to the decision on this resolution and explained that it did not pass because it required a four-fifths vote. He recommended that the parcel be put to auction as soon as possible.

City Manager Mix indicated that the City is working through the normal process of determining which other properties will go to auction for back taxes and noted that this could be completed in January.

**Resolution No. 4 - Approving CDBG Grant Agreement With CARES of NY, INC for the 2020 Point in Time Education and Outreach Program**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan for program year 2020 includes funding in support of the Point in Time Outreach and Education Initiative, and

WHEREAS the Action Plan identifies the Point in Time Outreach and Education Initiative to be \$8,500 in funding for the purchase of marketing and outreach education materials, and

WHEREAS the recipient of funds for the Point in Time Outreach and Education Program will be CARES of NY, Inc. on behalf of the Points North Housing Coalition, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and CARES of NY, INC. for the CDBG funds has been drafted,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it hereby approves the Grant Agreement with CARES of NY, INC, 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 sign the Grant Agreement and all contracts associated with implementing the award to CARES of NY, INC for the 2020 Point in Time Education and Outreach Program.

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

**Resolution No. 5 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of 624 and 960 Square Foot Building Additions and a 1,632 Square Foot Loading Dock at 981 Waterman Drive, Parcel Number 9-43-101.005**

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

WHEREAS Matthew Cervini, P.E. of GYMO, DPC on behalf of SHBP Realty Holdings, LLC, has submitted an application for Site Plan Approval for the construction of a 624 and 960 square foot building additions and a 1,632 square foot loading dock at 981 Waterman Drive, Parcel Number 9-43-101.005, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on December 1, 2020 and voted to recommend that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the site plan with the following conditions:

1. The applicant must ensure that the parking information in the Preliminary Engineering Report matches what is shown on the drawings and provided on site.
2. The applicant must submit a revised C-101 drawing showing the proposed additions in bold line type to differentiate between the existing features and to mesh the plans with the Preliminary Engineering Report.
3. The applicant must submit a standard photometric plan or similar evaluation of the existing lighting to ensure that the project site is adequately lit without any light spillage onto neighboring properties.
4. The applicant must obtain a Zoning Compliance Certificate and a Building Permit prior to construction of the project, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Short Environmental Assessment Form, responding to each of the questions contained in Part 2, and has determined that the project, as submitted, is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown declares that the proposed construction and site plan constitute an Unlisted Action for the purposes of SEQRA and hereby determines that the project, as proposed, will not have a significant impact on the environment, and

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 that this approval will supersede approvals previously received as the project no longer includes the additional parking area, access drive or the concrete and wood deck on either side of the entrance for patrons, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that Site Plan Approval is hereby granted to Matthew Cervini, P.E. of GYMO, DPC on behalf of SHBP Realty Holdings, LLC, for the construction of a 624 and 960 square foot building additions and a 1,632 square foot loading dock at 981 Waterman Drive, Parcel Number 9-43-101.005, as depicted on the site plan submitted to the Planning and Community Development Department on November 17, 2020, contingent upon the applicant meeting the conditions listed above.

**Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered the 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. 6 - Establishing 2021 County Tax Rate**

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

WHEREAS the Board of Legislators of the County of Jefferson, by resolution dated November 10, 2020, and in accordance with New York State Real Property Tax Law Article 9 Section 904 has certified to the City that the contribution of the City of Watertown to the taxes of the County of Jefferson for the Fiscal Year beginning January 1, 2021 is \$8,850,404.42,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Council shall and hereby does levy the said aggregate amount of taxes of \$8,850,404.42, so ascertained and directed and to be certified to the City and to be extended on the Assessment Rolls by the City Assessor, as provided by Section 115 of the City Charter, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City does hereby levy a total fee of \$8,850,404.42 to be collected at a rate of \$8.068229 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, of which County tax levy is \$8,834,204.26 and includes \$16,200.16 in omitted taxes.

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

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith mentioned the process used for the collection of the County tax and suggested there should be further discussion of the pros and cons of making the County whole at a future work session.

**At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except for Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith voting nay.**

**Resolution No. 7 - Appointment of Commissioner of Deeds**

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

WHEREAS Commissioner of Deeds in the cities of this state shall be appointed by the common councils of such cities, and

WHEREAS Commissioner of Deeds shall hold the term of two years, and

WHEREAS any person who resides in or maintains an office or other place of business in any such city and who resides in the county in which said city is situated shall be eligible to appointment,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following individuals are hereby appointed Commissioner of Deeds for the term expiring December 31, 2022.

**City Employee - Police Department**

Badalato, Jason J.	Beshures, Adam C.
Bickel, Charles L. III	Boyle, Sean P.
Bull, Jacob W.	Cooley, Kristopher W. E.
Cummings, George A.	Davis, Joshua W.
Dean, Joel S.	Decker, Tyler R.
Donoghue, Charles P.	Donoghue, Sr., Joseph R.
Durham, Alexandra M.	Duvall, Nicole M.
Finster, Michael G.	Foote, Jeremy D.
Freeman, Scott J.	Gatch, Ronald E.
Giaquinto, Joseph A.	Gibbs, Gregory P.
Gooshaw, Matthew C.	Horr, David W.
Jamieson, John D.	Kamide II, Christopher J.
Keefer, Jennifer L.	Kellogg, David M.
Kelly, Virginia R.	Lamica, Mark A.
Lewis, Elizabeth M.	Mackey, Amanda L.
Maney, Michael S.	March II, Frederick E.
McAadoo, Michael	McConnell, Wayne W.
McIntyre, Scott M.	McKeever, Nathan L.
McKoy, Omar P.	McLane, Eric J.
Miller, Ernest J.	Moran, Joshua
Neddo, Andrew T.	Noone, Kenny C.
O'Brien, Cristin N.	O'Brien, Dennis P.
O'Hearn, Joshua	Preedom, Matthew D.
Roll, Matthew T.	Ryan, Shane M.
Shawcross, Dustin C.	Sines, Robert L.
Spencer, Jr., James R.	Thomas, Christopher L.
Trapp, Vance J.	Trottier, Holly M.
White, Samuel R.	Workman, Travis K.
Yott, Darren K.	

**Non-City Employees**

Baker, Barbara A.	LeMay II, Lawrence Leo
McIntosh, Martha Ann	Rivera, Vilmarie
Ross, Jennifer Ann	

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

**Resolution No. 8 - Requesting that Governor Cuomo Approve Home Rule Legislation (S8302/A10514) Reducing the Number of City Court Judges in the City of Watertown**

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

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2020, the City of Watertown sought Home Rule legislation designed to reverse the financial impact to the City of across-the-board legislation which increased full-time City Court judgeships across the State and, specifically, increased Watertown's judgeships from 1-1/4 judges to 2 full-time judges; and

WHEREAS, the earlier legislation was based upon a report from the Office of Court Administration which claimed that the mayor of each affected city had been consulted with regard to the increase and that the City of Watertown had "adequate" facilities to accommodate an additional judgeship; and

WHEREAS, the Office Court Administration now seeks an expansion of, and improvements to, Watertown's City Court facilities estimated to cost in excess of \$3,000,000.00, which is clearly contrary to its earlier reports to the legislature; and

WHEREAS, one of the City of Watertown's existing City Court judges has been elected to a judgeship at the County level, such that the timing is appropriate to eliminate that elected position at the end of this calendar year; and

WHEREAS, budget constraints on the City of Watertown, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, make it even more difficult to accommodate Office of Court Administration's requirements for a second full-time City Court judge; and

WHEREAS, the City's Home Rule legislation passed unanimously in the State Senate, and passed with only two negative votes in the Assembly, indicating those bodies' understanding of the City's predicament created by the earlier legislation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Watertown that it respectfully petitions New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to approve the City's Home Rule legislation contained at S8302/A10514, which is designed to return the City of Watertown to 1-1/4 judgeships, to be filled in the same manner as existed prior to the 2014 amendment to the New York Uniform City Court Act and New York Judiciary Law.

**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 explained that on Friday, Council Member Compo informed him that the bill had been delivered to the Governor's Office for signature. He noted that the Governor has until the end of the year to sign it and mentioned that there had been overwhelming support for it in both the House and the Senate. He recounted the events leading to the decision requiring that the City of Watertown have two full-time judges, stressing that there was not local involvement in that process. He concluded by stating he has asked that the City revert back to

having one and one-quarter judges, which could save the taxpayers approximately \$3 million, and by noting that currently the two judges often serve at other courtroom, such as Family Court, within the district.

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

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **YMCA Request for City-Owned Property**

David Zembiec, Deputy CEO of JCIDA, addressed Council stating that expanding the former Convergys building allows the YMCA to hold larger swim meets, which would bring several people to the area.

Mayor Smith explained the staff memo, stating the JCIDA is requesting to lease a portion of City land which would allow for the building expansion.

Denise Young, Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA, explained that the YMCA is considering expanding the proposed pool from six lanes to eight lanes which would permit larger swim meets such as State competitions. She stressed they are currently exploring this option but before going further with this, they would like to know if there is support from Council to lease the additional land prior to investing money on the new plans.

Council Members offered congratulations to the YMCA on being awarded grant funds for this project and showed support for the request to lease the additional land.

Council Member Ruggiero noted that she is a board member of the JCIDA so if this comes to Council in the form of a resolution she will be abstaining from voting.

In response to Mayor Smith's inquiry, Attorney Slye offered clarification to Council Member Ruggiero's condition for abstaining. He also pointed out that any future lease agreement should contain a reversion clause in case the YMCA decides not to build an eight-lane pool.

### **Renaming and Designation of Streets in Thompson Park**

Mayor Smith stated that he had spoken to the members of Council regarding this and instead of the names listed in the report, Council would like to continue the tradition of naming new streets after former Mayors. He suggested North Entrance Drive be named after Jeffrey E. Graham, West Entrance Drive named after Joseph M. Butler, Jr. and Tower Entrance Drive named after T. Urling Walker. He also suggested holding a contest among eighth grade students for the naming of Tower Drive West and Tower Drive East. He indicated that other members of Council agreed with this idea.

City Assessor Brian Phelps explained that all the buildings and structures within Thompson Park share the same address of 1 Thompson Park so it would be better to have separate addressing of the structures for 911 purposes. He noted this came to light after the completion of the new pool and possible need for emergency response.

City Manager noted that the names chosen for the streets on the map attached to the staff report came from the original Olmsted drawings of the park.

Further discussion occurred regarding the Mayor's suggestion and the naming of streets after former Mayors.

### **Board and Commission Appointments**

Mayor Smith reviewed the appointments that were expiring and asked staff to see if the current individuals were interested in continuing to serve. In regard to the opening on the Board of Assessment Review, Mayor Smith asked Council to submit names of potential candidates.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Christmas Lights at City Hall**

Mayor Smith thanked City Manager Mix, City Clerk Saunders, Superintendent of Public Works Patrick Keenan and Electric Department Supervisor Chris Misercola for ensuring that the trees in front of City Hall and the light poles along Washington Street were decorated for holidays. He noted that it is little touches like that that have a big impact and he stated he has received many compliments about it.

Other members of Council agreed and noted they had received positive feedback as well.

### **Christmas Tree Lighting/Drive-by Christmas Parade**

Council Member Compo commented about both events and thanked staff for putting it together.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson noted how well attended the Drive-by Christmas Parade was and thanked all that were involved.

Council Member Roshia also thanked staff for both events and a job well done.

Council Member Ruggiero explained that the Christmas Tree Lighting was not publicized due to the restrictions of COVID-19 and public gatherings. She also commented on how well attended the Christmas Parade was.

### **CARES Funding Donation to the Backpack Program**

Council Member Compo said that she and Council Member Ruggiero represented the City in presenting the Backpack Program with the CARES funding donation. She said the Watertown City School District was very appreciative of the donation.

Council Member Ruggiero commented on how appreciative the representatives of the School District were for receiving the CARES funding.

Mayor Smith thanked Council Member Compo and Council Member Ruggiero for representing the City and thanked Council for the appropriation of additional funding to this program.

### **Veterans Access Services**

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson advised that as a result of a recent class action suit, many veterans that were previous denied benefits could be upgraded to an honorable discharge status, which would

make them eligible for more benefits. He wanted to make sure that local veterans were aware of this change.

**Essay Contest for the Thompson Park Street Naming**

In regard to Mayor Smith's suggestion, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson said an essay contest was a good idea and nice way to involve students.

**Passing of Mabel Walker**

Council Member Roshia extended his condolences to Mayor Walker and his family and spoke of the impact that Mrs. Walker made to the medical community, noting it will not be forgotten.

Council Member Ruggiero agreed.

**Mr. Philips Comments During Privilege of the Floor**

In response to Mr. Phillips' comments that Council does not know anything about firefighting, Council Member Ruggiero informed him that she is a volunteer firefighter and has training and experience in this field.

**December Work Session**

City Manager Mix announced that there will not be a work session this month.

**Flynn (North Side) Pool Repairs/Alteri (Fairgrounds) Pool Decommissioning**

Mr. Delaney reminded Council that the original plan was to decommission the Alteri Pool but staff has discovered a significant leak at the Flynn Pool. He advised that the preliminary estimates to repair the Flynn Pool would exceed the cost of decommissioning the Flynn Pool so he would like some time to fully evaluate both pools to determine which is the best option before proceeding. He pointed out that the estimate for the materials alone is \$30,000 - \$40,000.

Mayor Smith asked staff to take the next few months to do a comprehensive review of both pools and determine which one makes the most sense to be decommissioned. He asked for a presentation to Council prior to the budget build in March.

**Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property when publicity would affect the value thereof, the proposed, pending or current litigation, the employment history of a particular individual 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 8:28 p.m.

Council reconvened at 10:15 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 10:15 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