

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
December 21, 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

Present Through Video Conference: Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

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

City staff present: Michael Lumbis, Matthew Timerman

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Cary J. Parker
- Resolution No. 2 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Yvonne F. Reff
- Resolution No. 3 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Rande S. Richardson
- Resolution No. 4 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Arthur C. Stever III
- Resolution No. 5 - Reappointment of City Constable, Patrick T. Connell
- Resolution No. 6 - Reappointment of Deputy City Constable, Robert D. Connell
- Resolution No. 7 - Reappointment to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Maria Mesires
- Resolution No. 8 - Designation of Official Newspaper
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving Salary Structure and Annual Pay Increase for Watertown Housing Authority Employees
- Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment
- Resolution No. 11 - Amendment No. 125 to the Management And Management Confidential Pay Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-21
- Resolution No. 12 - Reducing the Level of Emergency Medical Service From the Watertown Fire Department
- Resolution No. 13 - Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Watertown and CNY Fair Housing to Administer a Fair Housing Education and Enforcement Program
- Amending the City of Watertown's 2018 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan
- Sales Tax Revenue – November 2020
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – November 2020

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence. Mayor Smith asked that it be in remembrance of longtime owner of Pla-Mor Lanes, Del Leween, and Corporal Hayden Harris, who was recently found deceased after being reported missing from Fort Drum.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 7, 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 TG Kolb, 169 Boon Street, in opposition of discontinuing the use of the Heavy Rescue Truck and explaining the importance of providing medical response to the citizens of Watertown. Stating he is a retired Fire Captain, he provided scenarios of medical responses in which he played a part while working with the City's Fire Department.

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

A claim was received from Carol Rainey, 1202 Superior Street, G-14, seeking reimbursement of \$500 for damages to her vehicle after driving over a road repair on October 24, 2020.

A claim was received from Jamie Danielson, 252 Paddock Street, seeking reimbursement for the cleanup of a sewer backup in her basement occurring November 29 through December 1, 2020.

Above claims have been referred to the Board of Audit.

Prior to Privilege of the Floor, Mayor Smith announced that he was attending the minutes virtually in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.1 because he recently travelled and is following the Governor's quarantine guidelines. He stated that he wanted to correct some misinformation that was circulating in the community suggesting he was keeping his travel a secret. He stated that it was not true and that his family and close friends knew where he was, but he did not publicize it in order to protect the fact that his house was empty and open to the possibility of criminal activity, especially since there was a recent burglary at his residence. He explained the COVID-19 testing process that he has undergone recently and travel reporting requirements he has complied with. Noting that in his position as a Physician Assistant, he has treated several patients with COVID-19 which puts him more at risk daily than he was during his time traveling. He stressed that people need to use precautions, but he also has been an advocate for the use of local businesses and restaurants.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Daniel Daugherty, 1341 Marra Drive, addressed the chair stating he is the President of the Watertown Professional Fire Fighters Association, Local 191, and that he is speaking against Resolution No. 12. He said he feels there needs to be more discussion and that this resolution is being brought up without a plan of how to handle it. He stated this is a direct result of the City losing a recent court case and an effort to get rid of minimal manning, which he said is not going to happen. He warned that this action will result in more litigation and feels that it is vindictive on Council's part.

Robert Schorr, 640 Leray Street, asked Council if any of them had attended Law and Order Night or the Fire Department's Awards Night in the past and seen the number awards that were given out to firefighters for their EMS response. He stated that Guilfoyle needs the Fire Department, noting that the Fire Department often arrives at the scene prior to Guilfoyle. Lastly, he cited national standards, in particular, one which states the minimal manning number should be 15, and he said he is afraid there will be more lawsuits if Council moves forward with Resolution No. 12.

Johnathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, spoke in support of the Fire Department and thanked them for their service to the community. He commented that the Fire Department should receive more respect from Council.

Patrick Hickey, 394 Pawling Street, stated he is a former EMT and was involved in setting up the County's 911 dispatch system. He explained the importance of a quick response, stressing the first four to six minutes is crucial to the patient's outcome. He said he fears that this action will affect the safety of the community and that the decision should be based on lives and not dollars and cents.

Bruce Wright, 309 Broadway Ave, spoke against Resolution No. 12 stating that the Fire Department is the first response for BLS calls. He explained the role that the Fire Department plays alongside Guilfoyle, as well as the types of calls that the Fire Department responds to and assists Guilfoyle with. He said he understands the financial burdens that the City faces but asked that the vote on Resolution No. 12 be postponed until a plan can be worked out on how to move forward under this change.

Tony Augliano, 232 Broadway Avenue, asked Council to reconsider and approve Resolution No. 3 from the last meeting which authorized the sale of the unimproved portion of Brett Street. He asked Council Member Ruggiero and Council Member Henry-Wilkinson for an explanation of why they voted against it. Mentioning that a neighbor spoke out against him and his offer to buy the property from the City, he stated that he has tried to resolve the issues directly with Ms. Stephens in the past. He informed Council of the improvements and cleanup of the area behind his property that he has done through the years, listing off several specific examples. He indicated that there have been water and drainage issues from this property which directly impacted his property and explained the amount of topsoil that he brought in to fix the problem. He also stated that he built a raspberry garden and installed a playground on the property for the neighborhood children to enjoy. Knowing he has cared for this property for several years, he said that he started parking his trailer on the property at the end of the dead-end of Brett Street. Lastly, he said that only one person has complained of his use of this property and she lives five houses away from it.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Cary J. Parker

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed to the Board of Ethics for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2021:

Cary J. Parker
212 North Orchard Street
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Resolution No. 2 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Yvonne F. Reff

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed to the Board of Ethics for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2021:

Yvonne F. Reff
621 Frontenac Street
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Resolution No. 3 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Rande S. Richardson

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed to the Board of Ethics for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2021:

Rande S. Richardson
269 Flower Avenue West
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Resolution No. 4 - Reappointment to Board of Ethics, Arthur C. Stever III

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed to the Board of Ethics for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2020:

Arthur C. Stever III
304 Paddock Street
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Resolution No. 5 - Reappointment of City Constable, Patrick T. Connell

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed as City Constable for the City of Watertown for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2021:

Patrick T. Connell
173 Bowers Avenue
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Resolution No. 6 - Reappointment of Deputy City Constable, Robert D. Connell

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed as Deputy City Constable for the City of Watertown for a one-year term expiring on December 31, 2021:

Robert D. Connell
115 Fairmont Avenue
Watertown, New York 13601

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

Resolution No. 7 - Reappointment to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees, Maria Mesires

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED that the following individual is hereby reappointed to the Roswell P. Flower Memorial Library Board of Trustees for an eleven-year term expiring on December 31, 2031:

Maria Mesires
231 Harewood Avenue
Watertown, NY 13601

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson thanked the individuals reappointed in Resolution No. 1 through Resolution No. 7 for continuing to serve in their roles.

Mayor Smith agreed and offered his appreciation to these individuals as well.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Designation of Official Newspaper

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that the *Watertown Daily Times* be and is hereby designated as the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, New York, for the year beginning January 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021.

Seconded by Council Member Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson thanked Newspaper Reporter Craig Fox and his team for everything they do for Council and the community.

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

Resolution No. 9 - Approving Salary Structure and Annual Pay Increase for Watertown Housing Authority Employees

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS in conformity with the requirements of the New York State Public Housing Law § Section 32, Sub Division 1, compensation for Watertown Housing Authority employees can be fixed only upon the approval of the local legislative body, which is the City Council of the City of Watertown, and

WHEREAS the Watertown Housing Authority has reported that it is the desire of the Watertown Housing Authority Board to authorize a one and one-half percent (1.5%) cost of living increase for all employees effective January 1, 2021, and

WHEREAS by resolution adopted on December 2, 2020, the Watertown Housing Authority Board approved a one and one-half percent (1.5%) cost of living increase for all employees, effective January 1, 2021, by modification to its existing salary structure,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the 2021 salary structure for all employees of the Watertown Housing Authority which contains a one and one-half percent (1.5%) cost of living increase, effective January 1, 2021, with salary structures attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of the resolution to the Watertown Housing Authority.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing the Sale of Various Surplus Equipment

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has various surplus equipment, the description of which is attached and made a part of this resolution, and

WHEREAS the various equipment may have some value best determined by on-line auction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by on-line auction, of the various surplus equipment as described in the attached listing, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that final acceptance of such bids shall constitute acceptance of the same by the City Council.

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

Resolution No. 11 - Amendment No. 125 to the Management And Management Confidential Pay Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-21

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 125 to the Management and Management Confidential Pay Plan in order to amend the annual compensation for the position listed below effective December 22, 2020.

Position

Superintendent of Parks and Recreation

Salary

\$78,000

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith commented that Scott Weller has done an excellent job filling in and that the employees of the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the City Manager, speak very highly of him.

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

Resolution No. 12 - Reducing the Level of Emergency Medical Service From the Watertown Fire Department

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS, the City of Watertown enjoys a full-time professional Fire Department, which, among its many duties, responds to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls providing basic life support (BLS) services on all work shifts; and

WHEREAS, Guilfoyle Ambulance Service provides advanced life support (ALS) services in the City, and holds the certificate of need (issued by New York State Department of Health) to transport individuals with medical conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Watertown Fire Department provides non-transporting BLS services in support of Guilfoyle Ambulance Service; and

~~WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that Guilfoyle Ambulance Service provides adequate EMS response for the City of Watertown and in most cases, response by the Fire Department's EMS is redundant; and~~

~~WHEREAS, there may be instances that Guilfoyle Ambulance Service needs assistance;~~

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Heavy Rescue Truck is hereby removed from service effective ~~*March 1, 2021~~ **December 28, 2020**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Watertown Fire Department shall ~~*no longer continue to be dispatched to EMS *calls effective March 1, 2021, except in cases where Guilfoyle Ambulance Service requests assistance~~ **via its existing fire stations**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is directed to make appropriate arrangements with the Jefferson County Director of Emergency Management to ensure that this Resolution is given full force and effect.

Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith explained that he has listened to the views of several people on this, and stressed it is not a new issue. He noted that changes to the use of the Heavy

Rescue Truck were discussed eight months ago and there was to be a meeting with the County Dispatch in an attempt to work out a plan with the Fire Department and the County, but the County backed out of the meeting. Mayor Smith proposed an amendment to the resolution as a compromise and suggested sitting down with the Fire Department, Jefferson County Dispatch and Mr. Wright at the January work session to develop a plan to move forward.

Motion was made by Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith to amend the foregoing resolution as indicated above. Motion was seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia.

Mayor Smith explained that the service cannot continue as is and that the service level has become out of control. He said that 80% of firefighters preach that the City must provide a high level of service for public safety but do not seem to need that same level for their own families since they do not live in the City. He also spoke of a recent meeting with representatives of the Fire Department in which the City's financial burden was discussed and the importance of cutting costs due to the upcoming expiration of the hydro contract and its impact on revenue, and the Fire Department's response was that the City will have to raise taxes or eliminate the Parks and Recreation Department. He stressed that this amendment is a compromise to cutting EMS service and that EMS response will continue by use of the fire engines located at each of the City's fire stations. Noting that compromise is a two-way street, he said now it is up to the Fire Department to meet the City with compromise as well. He clarified for Council Member Ruggiero that the amendment would remove the Heavy Rescue Truck from service on December 28 but that EMS service will continue by using the engine trucks that are located at each fire station.

Council Member Ruggiero stated that she feels more discussion needs to take place regarding this before passing a resolution. She said she is concerned of the ramifications to the firefighters EMS training if EMS services are discontinued and expressed concern that the owner of Guilfoyle is against this action because it would affect his business. She discussed issues of the City not providing EMS response and Guilfoyle being put in the first position for 911 calls, stressing that it will result in a bill from Guilfoyle to the patient. She said she feels that the taxpayers already pay for this service with their taxes. She referenced several correspondences and emails from individuals who were in support of keeping the EMS service with the Fire Department and said there is assurance in knowing that someone will be there in one to two minutes to assist during a medical emergency.

Council Member Roshia clarified that the Mayor's proposal within the amendment allows for the continuance of EMS service and thanked the Mayor for bringing this change to the resolution forward. Mentioning several of the comments that have been made, including ones during Privilege of the Floor, Council Member Roshia expressed disappointment in the use of harsh words towards Council, such as "vindictive." He stressed that this year there is a new body of Council which is not responsible for prior actions and decisions made in regard to the Fire Department. He said there was talk of starting over with a clean slate with the Fire Department and he is not interested in joining a lifelong battle with the department. He advised that there needs to be compromise on both sides and feels Council made a good faith effort by approving the recent Fire Contract with salary raises in an attempt to bring negotiations up to date to this year and start over. He pointed out that the Fire Department's portion of that agreement was to open discussions of minimal manning. Noting that more information and answers to questions are needed regarding the EMS service which will be accomplished at the January meeting, he said the City must make a decision now about the Heavy Rescue Truck due to the recent court decision and this is a good compromise. He indicated that he would support the resolution to decommission the Heavy Rescue Truck and let the fire engines respond to the EMS calls.

A detailed discussion took place about the cost of operating the Heavy Rescue Truck and the savings that would occur if it were to be decommissioned. Fire Chief Timerman responded to several questions regarding the cost of fuel, number of overdoses and administration of Narcan, the effect of the Fire Department's EMS certifications and ability to provide assistance if it was lost. It was noted that the Fire Department responded to an average of 153 overdose calls per year and they administered Narcan during 16 of the incidents this year. Mayor Smith reported that the Police have administered Narcan 107 times this year.

Discussion turned to the promotion of Fire Captains due to the court decision if the Heavy Rescue Truck was continued to be used and the cost increase of salary along with future contractual step increases.

Mayor Smith stressed that the long-term savings to the City is the cost of not having to promote four firefighters to Captains because the fire engines, which will now be responding to EMS calls, already have a Fire Captain assigned to them. He clarified that this resolution, with the amendment, will not eliminate EMS calls. He discussed the number of EMS calls that the Fire Department responds to and stated that the City needs to get control of the expenses for the long-term and short-term. He explained that it is not that the City does not want to help Guilfoyle, but the majority of the calls that the Fire Department responds to are not life and death calls, citing his experience of working as a paramedic. He summarized that the amendment to this resolution allows for the continuance of EMS service without the need to promote four Captains due to the discontinuance of the Heavy Rescue Truck, which will reduce expenses. He added that this also saves the cost of replacement of the Heavy Rescue Truck which is listed in the capital budget.

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's inquiry, Attorney Slye offered clarification to a provision of the Fire Union Contract and explained that there is no requirement to have the Heavy Rescue Truck. He said that the contract implies that if the Heavy Rescue Truck is to be used for non-firefighting duties, such as on display at a parade or the Jefferson County Fair, it is to be staffed with two people.

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned that the Fire Union could file a grievance over this which could be lengthy and have associated legal fees attached to it.

Council Member Compo expressed support for Mayor Smith's amendment and stressed that it does not mean that the Fire Department will stop going on EMS calls. She said that everyone needs to come to the table and make a compromise to make things happen.

Further debate ensued and Fire Chief Timerman requested that the Council allow him more time than the one-week deadline of December 28 to remove the Heavy Rescue Truck from service in order for him to change work schedules, update standard operating procedures (SOP's) and educate staff on the new process.

Attorney Slye explained the court order further, summarizing the City is left with the option of promoting four individuals to Captain or discontinuing the use of the Heavy Rescue Truck. He added that it was the union that brought forward the improper practice charge to the court so it would be up to the union to determine whether more time could be allowed.

In response to Council Member Roshia's question of whether the union would allow their Fire Chief the time that he has requested, Fire Union Local 191 President Daugherty indicated they would not. He suggested instead that the City promote four Captains for one year to make the transition.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing amendment to the resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero voting nay.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson commented that he agrees with his colleagues on this amendment. He added that he was prepared to vote no on the original resolution and the discontinuance of EMS service, but the amendment to the resolution offers a compromise and gives an opportunity for all parties to come together a develop a plan to move forward.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero voting nay.

Resolution No. 13 - Approving the Memorandum of Understanding Between the City of Watertown and CNY Fair Housing to Administer a Fair Housing Education and Enforcement Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown, as a recipient of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funding under the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, has certified that it will affirmatively further Fair Housing, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to work with CNY Fair Housing to provide professional services to educate tenants and housing providers within the City of Watertown regarding their respective Fair Housing rights and responsibilities, and

WHEREAS CNY Fair Housing is a qualified Fair Housing Enforcement Agency, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to refer any Fair Housing complaints received by the City to CNY Fair Housing for further investigation, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has allocated CDBG funding in its Program Year 2020 Annual Action Plan for a Fair Housing Education Project, and

WHEREAS CNY Fair Housing has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the MOU with CNY Fair Housing to establish and administer a Fair Housing education and enforcement program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City agrees to pay CNY Fair Housing a not-to-exceed sum of \$5,000 for actual expenses incurred, based on hours worked during the contract period, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, to execute the MOU on behalf of the City of Watertown.
Seconded by Council Member Jesse C. P. Roshia and carried with all voting yea.

STAFF REPORTS

Amending the City of Watertown's 2018 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan

Mayor Smith explained the staff report, stating that there is a surplus of \$38,120 after all the projects were completed and staff is recommending the Annual Action Plan be amended to reallocate the funds to the City's Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation program. Mayor Smith agreed with this suggestion and said it was a good idea.

City Manager Mix pointed out that Council would need to set a public hearing for the plan to be amended.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:15 p.m. to hear public comment on the proposed amendment to the City's 2018 CDBG Annual Action Plan. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Sales Tax Revenue – November 2020

A report was available for Council to review. Mayor Smith explained that sales tax has done better than expected but is flat in comparison to last year.

Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – November 2020

A report was available for Council to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Home Rule Legislation Reducing the Number of City Court Judges

Council Member Compo mentioned the Governor signed the Home Rule Legislation reducing the number of City Court Judges from two full-time to one full-time and one part-time, which will save the City from building a second courtroom costing approximately \$3 million. She thanked the Governor as well as the local State representatives for bringing this forward and helping to make it happen.

Council Member Ruggiero agreed with Council Member Compo and stated that it is a testament to the two local State representatives that are in the minority and were able to convince the majority to support this.

Mayor Smith thanked Senator Ritchie and Assemblyman Walczyk for supporting the legislation and the Governor for signing it. He also thanked Council for supporting him with this idea and helping to push it forward.

Closing of Watertown Correctional Facility

Council Member Compo advised that it was announced today that the State will be closing the Watertown Correctional Facility, which will affect 400 employees that live within the City and

surrounding area. She proposed bringing forward a resolution at the next Council meeting that is in support of keeping the facility open.

Mayor Smith said he will support this.

Sale of the Unimproved Portion of Brett

Referring to Mr. Augliano’s comments during Privilege of the Floor, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson stated he understands Mr. Augliano is upset about the decision that was made, but Ms. Stephens offered to pay more for the parcel, so he thought it was best to send it to auction. He added that he does not think Council should get in the middle of neighbor dispute.

Council Member Ruggiero said that her decision was not based on the neighbor’s dispute or the deficiencies of the property. She commented that it was based on the fact that Ms. Stephens offered to pay more for the property so it should go through the auction.

Mayor Smith indicated that, per Roberts Rules, someone from the majority would need to reintroduce the resolution in order to bring it back forward. He explained the majority was Council Member Henry-Wilkinson and Council Member Ruggiero.

Condolences to the Leween Family

Council Member Roshia offered his condolences to the Leween family for passing of Del Leween, stating the family has run the Pla-Mor Lanes for many years and was very supportive of him during his campaign.

Neighborhood Watch

Council Member Ruggiero stated there was a Neighborhood Watch meeting last week and they discussed whether some of the ESPRI funds could be used to purchase Neighborhood Watch signs. She also advised the role that the Ring Doorbell videos have played in helping to identify people stealing packages from properties and suggested that individuals invest in purchasing them for their properties.

Memorial Service for Corporal Hayden Harris

Mayor Smith announced that Reverend Jeffrey Smith is organizing a memorial service in honor of Corporal Harris on Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. at the Fort Drum monument in Thompson Park.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:52 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