

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
November 15, 2021
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

Present: Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson
Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero
Council Member Leonard G. Spaziani
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

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

City staff present: Matthew Roy, Christine Parks, Patrick Keenan, Michael Delaney, Michael Lumbis

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Approving Water Supply Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Town of Pamelaia
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving the Agreement for Professional Services for Arsenal/Arcade Traffic Signal Improvements Design
- Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Donation for Bench in Memory of Edna Donato
- Resolution No. 4 - Discontinuance of an Unimproved Portion of the City Street Known as Hancock Street and Authorizing Sale of Said Real Property to Fredrick A. McWayne
- Resolution No. 5 - Approving CDBG Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York for the 2021 Watertown City School District Food 4 Families Program
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving Administrative Services Agreement By and Between UMR and the City of Watertown Self-Funded Health Insurance Program
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving Pharmacy Services Agreement By and Between ProAct and the City of Watertown Self-Funded Health Insurance Program
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a 20,875 Square Foot, 61-Space Parking Area at 611 Main Street West, Parcel Number 1-14-125.000
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., d/b/a Pivot, for CDBG CARES Act Funding For the Frontline Employment Partnership Program
- Resolution No. 10 - Endorsing Zoo New York Master Plan
- Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Approved Plan for Planned Development District #24, Parcel Number 13-18-103.200
- Ordinance No. 2 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 116 and 112 Woodruff Street, Parcel Numbers 14-01-104.000 and 14-01-103.000 From Residence B to Health Services

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with Mayor Pro Tem Ryan Henry-Wilkinson announcing that Mayor Smith would be a bit late due to bad weather and then asking for a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 1, 2021, and work session of November 8, 2021, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Mayor Pro Tem Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson, seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

No Communications.

PRESENTATION

Jefferson County Coordinated Transportation Plan - Brandi Smith, Greater Watertown Mobility Manager

Brandi Smith presented the proposed Coordinated Transportation Plan (on file in the City Clerk's office) to Council. She noted that through the numerous work sessions held, involving many groups throughout the County, they had identified several transportation barriers. She went on to explain the goals and strategies of the plan to address these issues. She advised Council that her overall goal was to get this plan adopted by Council and then the County Board of Legislators so it could be submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Transit Administration.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson asked what the timeline was for getting the plan submitted.

Ms. Smith stated she would like to see a Resolution adopted by Council at the next regular meeting on December 6.

Mayor Smith arrived at 7:06 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patricia Whalen, 11 Public Square, addressed the chair regarding the need for a covered bus stop at the Walker Cancer Treatment Center, noting that sick people should not be left exposed to the weather.

She also mentioned she would be meeting with Max DelSignore of the Northern New York Community Foundation about finding a location for a homeless shelter in the City and challenged Council Members to match her startup donation of \$200.

Jonathan Phillips, 735 Mill Street, addressed Council regarding Resolution #8, urging Council to defeat the proposal as it would destroy people's homes to build a parking lot. He also indicated he sent Council Member Ruggiero a video showing people using the park in Public Square as a skate park. He volunteered to protect the fountain himself if the matter was not addressed.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Approving Water Supply Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Town of Pamela

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City owns and operates a water supply system for the purpose of supplying the City and its inhabitants with water, and

WHEREAS the City has capacity to produce and transport water in excess of its own needs, and

WHEREAS the Town of Pamela Consolidated Water District No. 1 has requested the right to draw water from the City system for use in the District as it currently exists and as it may be extended and expanded during the term of this Agreement, and

WHEREAS the City may, pursuant to General Municipal Law Sections 118 and 118(a), enter into an Agreement with the Town of Pamela Consolidated District No. 1 to sell water in bulk and the City may fix the prices by Ordinance/Local Law duly adopted by the City Council, so long as such action will not render the supply of water for the City or its inhabitants insufficient, and

WHEREAS the City and the Town of have negotiated an Agreement for the Sale of Water,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby approves the Water Supply Agreement Between the City of Watertown and the Town of Pamela, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith has been authorized and directed to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero asked how many users would be affected by this agreement, commenting that she had heard it was around 300 residences.

Mr. Mix explained that there were around 330 dwelling units and indicated John Condino, an engineer with Barton and Loguidice, was in attendance if there were other questions.

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson requested clarification that this agreement was not incentivizing development outside of the City of Watertown and was rather an attempt to be a good neighbor to the Town of Pamela.

Mayor Smith clarified that this agreement was a result of very cordial negotiations between the City and the Town and thanked Mr. Condino and Town Supervisor Scott Allen. He explained the rates for water that would go to DANC and the rates to the City of Watertown. Mayor Smith commented that it has always been his position that any water contract must offer a benefit to living and developing in the City. He also informed Council that any new users on the water line would have to be approved by Council.

Council Member Ruggiero thanked Mr. Condino for meeting with members of Council to discuss and explain this agreement.

Mayor Smith stated, for the record, that he received the proposed contract at the same time as all the other Council Members.

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

Resolution No. 2 - Approving the Agreement for Professional Services for Arsenal/Arcade Traffic Signal Improvements Design

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown wishes to improve the Arsenal/Arcade Streets traffic signal, and

WHEREAS Barton & Loguidice has submitted an Agreement for Professional Services for design in the amount of \$43,700,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council that it hereby approves the Agreement for Professional Services, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, submitted by Barton & Loguidice in the amount of \$43,700 for the Arsenal/Arcade Traffic Signal Improvements, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign the Agreement on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Spaziani informed Council that he did not agree with this plan and thought there should not be a light there and that traffic should run north to south on Arcade Street to allow Arsenal Street drivers access to the banks on Stone Street.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Accepting Donation for Bench in Memory of Edna Donato

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS friends of the Donato family would like to donate funds to place a bench at Flower Library in memory of Edna (Edie) Donato, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown accepts this donation with the intent of using the funds for the specific purpose of ordering, assembling and installing this bench in an area to be chosen at Flower Library,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the financial donation from the friends of the Donato Family in the amount of approximately \$450 for a bench to be placed at Flower Library in Memory of Edna (Edie) Donato, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Flower Library staff and family of Edna Donato have specifically earmarked the funds to be used for this item as mentioned above.

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

Resolution No. 4 - Discontinuance of an Unimproved Portion of the City Street Known as Hancock Street and Authorizing Sale of Said Real Property to Frederick A. McWayne

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns a certain lot of land known as Hancock Street, a portion of which is undeveloped as a street, and

WHEREAS Frederick A. McWayne owns an adjacent lot of land known as 414 Lincoln Street designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York, as Parcels No. 4-04-221.000 and 4-04-222.000, and

WHEREAS the City has received a purchase offer of \$3,000.00 for a portion of the undeveloped portion of Hancock Street measuring approximately 50' x 177' from Mr. McWayne, and

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown is authorized, pursuant to Section 20, Paragraph (7) of the New York General City Law, to discontinue streets, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the City to discontinue as a street, a portion of Hancock Street for the purpose of selling that portion to Mr. McWayne at his offered price, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires Mr. McWayne to merge his lots of land into one parcel,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown that the use of the portion of Hancock Street identified on the attached map, which is made part of this resolution, shall be discontinued as a street effective immediately, and

BE IT FURTHER 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 \$3,000 submitted by Frederick A. McWayne for the purchase of approximately 50' x 177' as depicted on the map, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, is a fair and reasonable offer therefore and the same is hereby accepted with the condition that Mr. McWayne shall provide a survey and metes and bounds description of the proposed parcel, 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 Frederick A. McWayne upon receipt of the above-mentioned sum of money in cash only by the City Comptroller, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the deed issued by the City shall contain a provision that if the property sold is not merged with the lot of land known as 414 Lincoln Street, parcels number 4-04-221.000 and 4-04-222.000, within three (3) months of the City's delivery of the deed to the buyer, the City shall have the right to seek reversion of title to the City.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Approving CDBG Grant Agreement with United Way of Northern New York for the 2021 Watertown City School District Food 4 Families 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 2021 includes the support for the Food 4 Families Program in the Watertown City School District, and

WHEREAS the Action Plan identifies the Food 4 Families activity to be \$6,500 in funding for food and associated supplies, and

WHEREAS the recipient of funds for the Food 4 Families Program will be the United Way of Northern New York, Inc., and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and United Way of Northern New York, 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 United Way of Northern New York, 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 United Way of Northern New York, Inc. for the 2021 Food 4 Families Program.

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

Resolution No. 6 - Approving Administrative Services Agreement By and Between UMR and the City of Watertown Self-Funded Health Insurance Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Health Insurance Committee unanimously recommends UMR as the City's Third-Party Administrator, and

WHEREAS the City and UMR have negotiated an extension to the Administrative Services Agreement, which was entered into effect on January 1, 2015 and extended on January 1, 2019, that describe the duties and responsibilities of the parties, and

WHEREAS the term of this Agreement is for three (3) years beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024, with an administrative fee of \$34.41 per enrollee per month beginning January 1, 2022, and

WHEREAS the Administrative service fees for the second year will be \$35.11 and \$35.81 for the third year,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Third Party Administrator between the City and UMR, 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 the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Approving Pharmacy Services Agreement By and Between ProAct and the City of Watertown Self-Funded Health Insurance Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the Health Insurance Committee unanimously recommends ProAct as the City's Pharmacy Benefits Manager, and

WHEREAS the City and ProAct have negotiated an extension to the Administrative Services Agreement, which was entered into effect on January 1, 2015 and extended on January 1, 2019, that describe the duties and responsibilities of the parties, as well as the discounts and dispensing fees charge, and

WHEREAS the term of this Agreement is for three (3) years beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2024,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Pharmacy Benefits Manager between the City and ProAct, 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 the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

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

Resolution No. 8 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a 20,875 Square Foot, 61-Space Parking Area at 611 Main Street West, Parcel Number 1-14-125.000

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS Matthew Morgia, P.E. of Aubertine & Currier and on behalf of Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc., has submitted an application for Site Plan Approval for the construction of a 20,875 square foot, 61-space parking area at 611 Main Street West, Parcel Number 1-14-125.000, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board reviewed the application at its October 26, 2021 meeting, pursuant to Section 239-m of New York State General Municipal Law, and adopted a motion that the project does not have any significant County-wide or intermunicipal issues and is of local concern only, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Planning Board reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on October 5, 2021 and voted to recommend that the City Council of the City of Watertown approve the site plan with the following conditions:

1. The applicant should coordinate with the Watertown Noon Rotary Club and T. Urling Walker on the removal of the Welcome to Watertown sign.
2. The applicant must obtain the following permits, minimally, prior to construction: Building Permit, General City Permit, Sidewalk Permit, and a Zoning Compliance Certificate.

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 by the City Council of the City of Watertown that Site Plan Approval is hereby granted to Matthew Morgia, P.E. of Aubertine & Currier and on behalf of Credo Community Center for the Treatment of Addictions, Inc., for the construction of a 20,875 square foot, 61-space parking area at 611 Main Street West, Parcel Number 1-14-25.000, as depicted on the site plan submitted to the City Planning and Community Development Department on September 16, 2021, contingent upon the applicant meeting the conditions listed above.

Seconded by Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson recused himself from voting, noting that Credo was his employer.

Council considered Part 2 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form.

Council Member Ruggiero requested clarification on what was located on the property in question and, in response to Mr. Phillips' Privilege of the Floor comments, whether people's homes were being razed.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis informed Council that the area is comprised of a parking lot and the former Production Unlimited, confirming no houses were being torn down.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing resolution and carried with all voting yea except Council Member Henry-Wilkinson who abstained.

Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Grant Agreement with the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., d/b/a Pivot, for CDBG CARES Act Funding For the Frontline Employment Partnership Program

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS the City of Watertown Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2020 Annual Action Plan Amendment that was adopted by the City Council on June 21, 2021, included \$56,476 in CARES Act funds to support the Frontline Employment Partnership Program sponsored by the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., d/b/a Pivot, and

WHEREAS the grant funds will be used to establish the Frontline Employment Partnership Program at the Anchor Recovery Center of NNY, and

WHEREAS the goal of the program is to support and assist recovering individuals in their quest to achieve and sustain employment by case managing clients and coordinating services among several organizations including the Anchor Recovery Center of NNY, The Workplace-Jefferson County and the Community Action Planning Council (CAPC) of Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS a Grant Agreement between the City of Watertown and the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., d/b/a Pivot, for the CDBG CARES Act 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 the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Council of Jefferson County, Inc., d/b/a Pivot, 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 Grant Agreement on behalf of the City Council for the 2020 CDBG CARES Act Frontline Employment Partnership Program.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Endorsing Zoo New York Master Plan

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

WHEREAS Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc. operates Zoo New York located within the John C. Thompson Park, and

WHEREAS the Conservancy has prepared a Master Plan for future development of the Zoo, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown owns Thompson Park, including the Zoo, and has approval authority over any changes made to the property, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Master Plan, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby endorses the Master Plan for the Zoo as a guide for its future development.

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

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - Amending the Approved Plan for Planned Development District #24, Parcel Number 13-18-103.200

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT ORDAINED where Diana Woodhouse, CEO of Hospice of Jefferson County, has made an application by petition filed with the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 83 of the New York General City Law to amend the approved plan for Planned Development District #24 located at 1398 Gotham Street, Parcel Number 13-18-103.200, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown considered the request at its November 2, 2021 meeting and adopted a motion recommending that City Council approve the amendment to the approved plan as requested, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board was scheduled to review the request at its November 30, 2021 meeting, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 239-m, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed amendment on December 6, 2021, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of Negative Findings of the impacts of the proposed amendment and site plan according to the requirements of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the amendment to Planned Development District #24,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the preliminary plan for Planned Development District #24, located at 1398 Gotham Street, Parcel Number 13-18-103.200, is hereby amended as shown on the plan submitted to the Planning and Community Development Department on October 19, 2021, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or otherwise printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, December 6, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ordinance No. 2 - Changing the Approved Zoning Classification of 116 and 112 Woodruff Street, Parcel Numbers 14-01-104.000 and 14-01-103.000 From Residence B to Health Services

Introduced by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson

BE IT ORDAINED where Matthew R. Morgia, P.E. of Aubertine and Currier, Architects, Engineers and Land Surveyors, PLLC on behalf of Samaritan Medical Center has made an application by petition filed with the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 83 of the New York General City Law to change the approved zoning classification of 116 Woodruff Street, Parcel Number 14-01-104.000 from Residence B to Health Services and

WHEREAS Planning Staff and the Planning Board are recommending that the City Council also include 112 Woodruff Street in the zone change request to avoid leaving one parcel on the block in a Residence B designation, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown considered the zone change request at its November 2, 2021, meeting and adopted a motion recommending that City Council change the approved zoning classification of both parcels, and

WHEREAS a public hearing was held on the proposed zone change on December 6, 2021, after due public notice, and

WHEREAS the City Council has made a declaration of Negative Findings of the impacts of the proposed zone change according to the requirements of SEQRA, and

WHEREAS the City Council deems it in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Watertown to approve the requested zone change,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that the approved zoning classification of 116 and 112 Woodruff Street, Parcel Numbers 14-01-104.000 and 14-01-103.000 shall be changed from Residence B to Health Services, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that the Zoning Map of the City of Watertown shall be amended to reflect the zone change, and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED this amendment to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Watertown shall take effect as soon as it is published once in the official newspaper of the City of Watertown, or otherwise printed as the City Manager directs.

Seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to schedule a Public Hearing on the foregoing ordinance for Monday, December 6, 2020 at 7:15 p.m. Motion was seconded by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

NEW BUSINESS

Fire Department and Flooding

Council Member Henry-Wilkinson thanked the Fire Department for their response in combatting recent heavy rainstorms and flooding in the City.

Homelessness

In response to Mrs. Whalen's comments during Privilege of the Floor, Council Member Henry-Wilkinson stated that the City of Watertown has a part to play in combatting the problem of homelessness and suggested soliciting input from the County and other organizations. He noted that the City could not operate such a facility but would be able to act as a partner in creating new programs.

Mayor Smith mentioned that there had been discussions with County Legislator Scott Gray on this topic and something was in the works. He indicated that the City and Council are interested in doing whatever they can.

Morrison Street Resident Complaints about Retention Pond

Council Member Pierce mentioned an email which included a video that all members of Council had received from Edward Scharf, 742 Morrison Street, complaining of flooding in a neighboring property.

Mr. Mix indicated that staff would take another look at this issue, adding the owner had previously put in pumps to alleviate the problem.

Mayor Smith added that he thought the owner was pumping the water out and suggested someone try to contact him.

Attorney Slye stated that the owner was Dennis Esch.

Veterans Day Celebrations

Council Member Ruggiero thanked the VFW for organizing Veterans Day celebrations both at their clubhouse and at the County building.

Fred Benedetto

Council Member Ruggiero noted the passing of longtime resident Frederick Benedetto, mentioning that he had a long involvement with City organizations including the Italian-American Club.

New Members of Council

Council Member Spaziani congratulated the newly elected members of Council on their success and wished them well.

Crow Management

Mayor Smith mentioned the crow infestation in the City Hall parking lot and next door at the Library and said he would be going on a ride-along with Loomacres Wildlife Management.

Mr. Mix added that Loomacres would be instructing staff on what they can do to combat this problem.

Motion was made by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson to move into Executive Session to discuss collective bargaining.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Council moved into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:26 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:26 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Ryan J. Henry-Wilkinson and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Lisa A. Carr
Deputy City Clerk