

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WATERTOWN
September 19, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith Presiding

Present: Council Member Patrick J. Hickey
Council Member Clifford G. Olney III
Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce
Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero
Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

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

City staff present: James Mills, Michael Lumbis, Vicky Murphy, Angel French

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for Thompson Park Pinnacle Masonry Restoration Project Heritage Masonry Restoration, Inc.
- Resolution No. 2 - Approving Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 - Public Square Traffic Signal Optimization and Coordination Project, (NYSDOT PIN 780720) Power & Construction Group, Inc.
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving the Funding Approval/Agreement for the Program Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program
- Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Change Order No. 01 for Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project at WTP, Ontario HVAC
- Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Change Order No. 02 for Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project at WTP, Ontario HVAC
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Agreement Between the City of Watertown and Loomacres Wildlife Management to Establish and Administer a Winter Crow Roost Dispersal Program
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving the Professional Service Agreement for Design of Fire Stations #1, #2 and #3 Renovations, C&S Companies
- Resolution No. 8 - Approving Professional Grant Writing Agreement with MSPEN Consulting
- Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a Drive-thru Internet Teller Machine, Interior Asphalt Loop, and Related Site Improvements at 1851 State Street, Parcel Number 5-21-122.200
- Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 526 Cooper Street to Dawn and Jose Castellano, 536 Cooper Street, Watertown, New York 13601
- Resolution No. 11 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 528 Cooper Street to Dawn and Jose Castellano, 536 Cooper Street, Watertown, New York 13601
- Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated August 5, 2019, as Amended January 4, 2021, Authorizing the Issuance of \$575,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of a Watertown Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, in and for Said City, To Increase the Maximum Cost Thereof and the Amount of the Bonds Authorized to \$685,000.
- Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Program Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report

- Restore NY Grant Application Public Hearing – 75-79 Public Square
- Restore NY Grant Application Public Hearing – 302 Court Street - Special Project
- Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – August 2022
- Sales Tax Revenue – August 2022

Complete Reports on file in the office of the City Clerk

Meeting opened with a moment of silence.

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 6, 2022 and work session of September 12, 2022, was dispensed and accepted as written by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

COMMUNICATIONS

A correspondence was received from State Farm Insurance concerning a subrogation claim for property damage, but the City has rejected the correspondence as a valid notice of claim, because it does not comply with the requirements of the N.Y. General Municipal Law.

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

PRESENTATION

Mayor Smith interrupted the regular course of business to present a certificate of appreciation to Movement Sports in recognition of their tenacious work ethic, and participation towards the betterment of our community. He spoke of the volunteer work done in the community by this organization and group of children.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jason Traynor, 424 Arsenal Street, spoke of his concerns with Council and the community, stating there is no voice on Council. He addressed the homeless issue, Watertown not being business friendly and the drug abuse issues, and he wants the Council to do more to fix these concerns. Mentioning Council Member Olney wants to build a skateboard park, he said the money should instead go towards cleaning up the streets and the City should talk with private investors to build the skateboard park.

Frank Battista, 201 Palmer Street, thanked the City for installing the speed signs on Wealtha Avenue and said it has slowed down the traffic. He mentioned that one of the streets coming out of Parkland apartments is missing a stop sign, and when he reported it to DPW, he was told that it was not a City street. He asked Council to address this, pointing out that there was a recent accident there in which a vehicle knocked down a tree.

After a brief interruption for the public hearing, Mr. Battista continued stating that the City should do something about the vacant, boarded up, run down properties throughout the various neighborhoods of the City. He said it is not fair to the neighbors because it affects their property values and suggested the

City reduce the surrounding neighbors' assessments. He acknowledged that some of these properties are tied up with Estate issues or with a bank, but remarked that the City should take over the properties and demolish them, possibly offering payment plans for the reimbursement of the cost.

Donnie Lee Barrigar, 14337 North Street, Adams Center, spoke about the homeless issue and the Bulter Pavilion. He mentioned that the City cleaned out the pavilion of the mattress and furniture, but the City also took personal items, such as a cot and sleeping bag, that were donated items. He also asked for the status of the opinion letter requested from Attorney Slye regarding the Adult Use regulation in relation to drag shows. Lastly, he stressed that the three minute rule at Privilege of the Floor needs to be enforced for everyone, suggesting that it has only been enforced with Jason Traynor and himself.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:15 p.m. Mayor Smith asked the City Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing concerning the City's Draft Program Year 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for the City's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing open at 7:15 p.m.

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis provided a summary of the purpose of the public hearing and highlighted the accomplishments of the Program Year 2021, which are listed in the report within the agenda.

No one else spoke.

Mayor Smith declared the hearing closed at 7:18 p.m.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for Thompson Park Pinnacle Masonry Restoration Project Heritage Masonry Restoration, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City desires to rehabilitate the Thompson Park Pinnacle Pavilion Area Stone Wall and Pavilion Roof, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received three (3) sealed bids for the Thompson Park Pinnacle Masonry Restoration Project, and

WHEREAS on Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Engineering Department and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted by Heritage Masonry Restoration, Inc., and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the bid received from Heritage Masonry Restoration, Inc. in the amount of \$191,500.00, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith mentioned the report states that staff does not recommend awarding the contract to the apparent low bidder because of unsatisfactory work on another project. He asked for more details.

City Manager Mix replied that the lowest bidder is doing work on the trickling dome project at the sewer treatment plant and the City is not satisfied with the work so staff does not recommend using them for this project.

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

Resolution No. 2 - Approving Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 - Public Square Traffic Signal Optimization and Coordination Project, (NYSDOT PIN 780720) Power & Construction Group, Inc.

Introduced by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

WHEREAS the City desires to reduce traffic congestion through the Public Square corridor, and

WHEREAS on June 21, 2021, the City Council accepted the bid of Power & Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$416,287.17 for installation of equipment for the Traffic Signal Optimization and Coordination project, and

WHEREAS the City Council entered into Agreement with Fisher Associates for the construction inspection and management of the Project, and

WHEREAS additional underground utility work is necessary at the intersections of Arsenal St. and Sherman St., and Arsenal and Public Square, and

WHEREAS Fisher Associates along with the City Engineering Department recommends the additional work, and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the no cost Change Order 1 for an increase in time, Change Order 2 for \$8,114.31 and Change Order 3 in the amount of \$2,061.83, and

WHEREAS the City is financing this project using Federal and State Aid,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Change Orders 1, 2 and 3 from Power & Construction Group in the amount of \$10,176.14, for a Contract total of \$426,463.31, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager of the City Watertown is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Change Orders on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Ruggiero stated that she will abstain from voting because Power & Construction Group, Inc leases space in her building for their field office.

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

Resolution No. 3 - Approving the Funding Approval/Agreement for the Program Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has completed its Program Year 2022 Annual Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program and submitted it to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Funding Approval/Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the Program Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant Program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this Resolution, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 4 - Accepting Change Order No. 01 for Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project at WTP, Ontario HVAC

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS, Ontario HVAC and the City of Watertown entered into an Agreement dated January 7, 2021 for the Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project for the total amount of \$142,900; and

WHEREAS Ontario HVAC submitted Change Order No. 01 to relocate the soda ash injection point, which necessitated additional piping, fittings, and accessories, an increase in the contract price of \$8,842.42; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts Change Order No. 01 in the amount of \$8,842.42 for the Water Filtration Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project, bringing the total Project amount to \$151,742.42; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all documents necessary to accept Change Order No. 01 on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith questioned that the report states Change Order No 1 increased due to the increase in wages of labor and materials.

Water Superintendent Vicky Murphy explained that there was a change needed to the design which is what caused the increase in labor and materials, confirming that it was not just due to wages and material cost going up.

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

Resolution No. 5 - Accepting Change Order No. 02 for Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project at WTP, Ontario HVAC

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS, Ontario HVAC and the City of Watertown entered into an Agreement dated January 7, 2021 for the Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project for the total amount of \$142,900; and

WHEREAS Ontario HVAC submitted Change Order No. 01 on August 8, 2022, to relocate the soda ash injection point, which necessitated additional piping, fittings, and accessories, an increase in the contract price of \$8,842.42; and

WHEREAS Ontario HVAC submitted Change Order No. 02 to adjust the final contract quantities, a decrease in the contract price of \$2,478.43

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts Change Order No. 02 in the amount of -\$2,478.43 for the Water Filtration Plant Soda Ash System Rehabilitation Project, bringing the total Project amount to \$149,263.99; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to sign all documents necessary to accept Change Order No. 02 on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 6 - Approving the Agreement Between the City of Watertown and Loomacres Wildlife Management to Establish and Administer a Winter Crow Roost Dispersal Program

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desires to work with Loomacres Wildlife Management regarding professional services to help alleviate the nuisance of crows within the City and to administer a crow roost dispersal program, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has an urban crow roost that is a threat to human health and safety, causes damage to buildings and cars, and results in associated clean up costs, and

WHEREAS Loomacres Wildlife Management uses multiple hazing methods including distress calls, pyrotechnics, remote controlled aircraft, and lasers with the objective of reducing winter crow roosts, and

WHEREAS Loomacres may also employ lethal methods on a limited basis to reinforce the non-lethal techniques, and

WHEREAS by using these strategies the crows should relocate to an alternative, more suitable roosting site, reducing local conflicts associated with an urban crow roost.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement prepared by Loomacres Wildlife Management to establish and administer a crow dispersal program, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City of Watertown.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney asked if the City has looked at hiring an environmental engineer to help move the crows.

Mayor Smith explained that Loomacres has provided this service for years, and before them, the City used USDA Wildlife Service. He further explained that the crows feed during the day and leave the City to do that, but then return to the City at night for warmth. He commented that the City could spend more money on an environmental engineer but it is already known how and why the crows move where they do.

Council Member Olney clarified that he was just wondering if the City is doing a thorough job in looking at what could be done to solve this problem.

Mr. Mix advised that Loomacres are experts in this field and added that the crows also come into the City at night for the lights and to avoid predators. In response to Council Member Olney's inquiry of whether there are any new techniques that could be used, Mr. Mix stated that he can ask Loomacres about it.

Mr. Lumbis confirmed for Council Member Hickey that Loomacres did employ some lethal action last year and referred to the annual report that had been distributed to Council at a previous meeting, which stated there were 106 lethal crow takes.

Council Member Hickey asked if any City staff assisted with the crows.

Mr. Lumbis indicated that two DPW workers were trained last year, and it did help supplement the work done by Loomacres.

Council Member Olney questioned if there was evidence that lethal methods work more than nonlethal methods and said he wanted to make sure everything has been explored to deal with this problem.

Mayor Smith said he encourages going after the crows aggressively early in the season. He also said that the most effective method is lethal, although he receives complaints from PETA, because crows are intelligent. He talked about the damages that have been done to the buildings and property in the downtown area.

Council Member Olney relayed that he has heard of some members of the community having concerns with the methods that are being used.

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

Resolution No. 7 - Approving the Professional Service Agreement for Design of Fire Stations #1, #2, and #3 Renovations, C&S Companies

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City of Watertown requested and received a proposal from C&S Companies regarding Design Services associated with the renovations to Fire Stations #1, #2, and #3, including the design for the flooring and bathroom work for Fire Station #1, and the portico work for Fire Stations #2 and #3,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Professional Service Agreement from C&S Companies in the amount of \$22,400.00 for professional services, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

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

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

Resolution No. 8 - Approving Professional Grant Writing Agreement with MSPEN Consulting

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS the City Council desires to hire the services of grant writer, and

WHEREAS MSPEN Consulting has submitted an agreement to provide grant writing services,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Agreement for Professional Grant Writing Services with MSPEN Consulting, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes and directs the City Manager, Kenneth A. Mix, to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City Council.

Seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Hickey said he would like assurance that any agreement done includes a monthly update of who Ms. Spencer has contacted, along with the potential revenue the City could get from a grant. He also asked that a review of her services be done at six months.

Council Member Olney agreed with a six-month review, stating it is a reasonable amount of time to look at what she has been working on.

Council Member Ruggiero asked if Council Member Hickey was suggesting a six-month contract instead of a one-year contract.

Council Member Hickey concurred, stating that if the volume of work is there after six months, then the City can look at extending it.

Council Member Ruggiero mentioned there were various water infrastructure projects within her list of accomplishments and pointed out that she recently did a small grant to provide meals for people that worked on the trails in Thompson Park this past weekend. Council Member Ruggiero said that when she reads through the list of grants that Ms. Spencer has obtained, she likes the look of it and Ms. Spencer seems aggressive. She added that staff has mentioned before that they do not have the means to pursue grants and administer them.

In response to Council Member Ruggiero's statement that Ms. Morgan will only be paid if she is working on a grant, Mr. Mix clarified that her list of services include conducting research, which is not necessarily applying for a grant.

Mentioning that Council Member Olney sent Council a list of grants that Ms. Spencer has worked on, Council Member Pierce advised that because of the nature of her job with Senator Ritchie's office, she is asked to do letters of support for these grants and noted some of the grants that Ms. Spencer has listed, Senator Ritchie's office was asked to do a letter by a firm other than Ms. Spencer's firm. She said that she is not clear in reading that list whether Ms. Spencer was working for a firm or if she actually obtained the grants.

Council Member Olney said that this is Ms. Spencer's firm.

Council Member Pierce noted that the Village of Mexico WIIA grant's letter of support was not written to MSPEN firm, but to another firm that was working on that grant. She wondered if Ms. Spencer might have been working for another firm.

Council Member Olney mentioned that Ms. Spencer worked at GYMO at one time and that he could not answer all of Council Member Pierce's questions. He said that he does not know all there is to know about grant writing so it would be good to have someone in the City working on these types of things. Council Member Olney suggested that Mr. Mix might be more familiar with Ms. Spencer.

Mr. Mix said that in the last three years, she has worked for GYMO and Bernier and Carr.

Council Member Pierce said the list appears as if Ms. Spencer was the one to solely have obtained the grants, so she would be curious to know what Ms. Spencer's involvement was in the process of obtaining the grants. She also asked if Ms. Spencer provided references.

Mayor Smith said he has a multitude of questions, wondering if this person is going to go out and get grants at their own will or at the direction of the City, and who will be overseeing the work that this

individual is doing. He said his other questions include following: Whether Council Members are asking Ms. Spencer to do this work for which the City will be charged for, whether there are any specific grants that the City is looking for, and whether the City has looked at any other firms. He pointed out that, in the past, the City worked with a firm that obtained the \$10 million DRI grant, and he asked if this and other firms have been solicited. He pointed out that he has asked for a CV and references for this individual. He said staff did not ask for this nor did Attorney Slye review the contract terms. He suggested that the fifth planner who was added to the budget could possibly act as a grant writer.

Council Member Ruggiero noted that Mr. Lumbis has indicated that the new planner would not be capable of grant writing because they will be new and will start off learning the work done in the office. She added that he has also said before that his office cannot apply for grants because they do not have the staff or time to administer them.

Mayor Smith reminded Council that generally the City would look for professional services from numerous firms in the area and make a recommendation based on the grant. He reiterated that he does not know this individual's qualifications or references and is not sure if staff has contacted references, so he wondered why this person is better than another firm and what specific grant the City is asking this person to apply for.

Council Member Olney replied that the City moved \$1.5 million away from the river trails into Thompson Park improvements and there are several grants available for river development along the City that he has discussed with Ms. Spencer. He said that they are also looking at the development of the hydro project, which is one of the main campaign issues he ran on, so he is hoping to bring someone in that would further understand the City's opportunity for selling electricity to the City residents. He pointed out that the Hydro Committee has not taken the next step in having that understanding or asking for an RFP. He indicated he has discussed with Ms. Spencer the possibility of her pursuing hydro grants for what the City needs for this development.

Mayor Smith warned that it sounds like these grants are being directed by individual Council Members, which calls into question who this person would be working for – City staff or City Council Members and which Council Member do they get to direct the grants towards.

Further debate occurred over the need for a grant writer, and the qualifications of this individual and firm and the role of Council Members in giving direction to the grant writer.

Motion was made by Council Member Patrick J. Hickey to table the foregoing resolution. Motion was seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof except Council Member Clifford G. Olney III voting nay.

Resolution No. 9 - Approving the Site Plan for the Construction of a Drive-thru Internet Teller Machine, Interior Asphalt loop, and Related Site Improvements at 1851 State Street, Parcel Number 5-21-122.200

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS, Kurt Hackwelder, RLA, of Otisco Design, on behalf of Northern Credit Union, has submitted an application for Site Plan Approval to construct a drive-thru Internet Teller Machine,

interior asphalt loop, and related site improvements at 1851 State Street, Parcel Number 5-21-122.200, and

WHEREAS the Jefferson County Planning Board reviewed the application at its August 30, 2022, meeting, pursuant to Section 239-m of New York State General Municipal Law, and determined the proposal was of local concern only, and

WHEREAS the Planning Board of the City of Watertown reviewed the site plan at its meeting held on August 18, 2022, 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 provide additional information regarding question #12(b) on the Short Environmental Assessment Form that indicates that the project site, or a portion of it is in or adjacent to an area designated as being sensitive for archaeological sites on the NY State Historic Preservation Office archaeological site inventory.
2. The applicant must obtain, the following permits, at minimum, prior to construction: Building Permit, Sidewalk Permit, Curb Cut Permit, Sign Permit, NYSDOT Highway Work Permit and 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, and

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 Kurt Hackwelder, RLA, of Otisco Design, on behalf of Northern Credit Union, for the construction of a drive-thru Internet Teller Machine, interior asphalt loop, and related site improvements at 1851 State Street, Parcel Number 5-21-122.200, as depicted on the site plan submitted to

the City Planning and Community Development Department on August 18, 2022, contingent upon the applicant meeting the conditions listed above.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council considered Part 2 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form.

Regarding question number 8 about whether the proposed action will impair the character or quality of important historic, archaeological, architectural or aesthetic resources, Council Member Hickey mentioned there had been concern.

Mr. Lumbis advised that the applicant obtained a letter from NY State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that the project would not have a negative impact.

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

Resolution No. 10 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 526 Cooper Street to Dawn and Jose Castellano, 536 Cooper Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS there has heretofore been bid in by the City of Watertown at a tax sale a certain lot of land known as 526 Cooper Street, approximately 22' x 200' in size, and also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 02-02-115.000, and

WHEREAS title to said lands have since been retained by the City of Watertown as acquired at said tax sale, which titles were retained by reason of the failure of anyone to redeem the same, and

WHEREAS said real properties have never been assigned by the Council for a public use, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to ensure that properties such as these properties be brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers,

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 \$500.00 submitted by Dawn and Jose Castellano, for the purchase of Parcel No. 02-02-115.000, 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 properties to Dawn and Jose Castellano 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 contain a provision that if the property sold is not brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers, the City shall have the right to seek and be entitled to receive reversion of title to the premises to the City.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mayor Smith asked if there were any right-of-way issues with this parcel.

Mr. Mix replied that staff had reviewed the maps and there were no concerns.

Stating this was unrelated to this resolution, Council Member Ruggiero mentioned there had been an offer to purchase the unused portion of Brett Street in the past and the resolution failed. She asked what the status of that was.

Mr. Mix advised that he and staff are waiting for further direction from Council on how to proceed.

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

Resolution No. 11 - Authorizing Sale of Real Property, Known as 528 Cooper Street to Dawn and Jose Castellano, 536 Cooper Street, Watertown, New York 13601

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS there has heretofore been bid in by the City of Watertown at a tax sale a certain lot of land known as 528 Cooper Street, approximately 22' x 200' in size, and also known and designated on the map of the Department of Assessment and Taxation of the City of Watertown, New York as Parcel No. 02-02-116.000, and

WHEREAS title to said lands have since been retained by the City of Watertown as acquired at said tax sale, which titles were retained by reason of the failure of anyone to redeem the same, and

WHEREAS said real properties have never been assigned by the Council for a public use, and

WHEREAS the City Council desires to ensure that properties such as these properties be brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers,

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 \$500.00 submitted by Dawn and Jose Castellano, for the purchase of Parcel No. 02-02-116.000, 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 properties to Dawn and Jose Castellano 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 contain a provision that if the property sold is not brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Construction Codes, as defined by Watertown City Code Chapter 120, and the Code of the City of Watertown within one (1) year from the date of delivery of the quit claim deed of their sale to subsequent buyers, the City shall have the right to seek and be entitled to receive reversion of title to the premises to the City.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.

ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 1 - An Ordinance Amending the Ordinance Dated August 5, 2019, as Amended January 4, 2021, Authorizing the Issuance of \$575,000 Bonds of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, to Pay the Cost of a Watertown Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, in and for Said City, To Increase the Maximum Cost Thereof and the Amount of the Bonds Authorized to \$685,000.

Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero

WHEREAS, by ordinance dated August 5, 2019, as amended January 4, 2021, the Council of the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, authorized the issuance of \$575,000 bonds of said City to pay the cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, all in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, a specific object or purpose, at an estimated maximum cost of \$575,000, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York; and

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to increase the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose from \$575,000 to \$685,000, an increase of \$110,000 over that previously authorized, and to authorize the issuance of bonds sufficient to pay said estimated maximum cost; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section A. The title and Sections 1 and 2 of the ordinance of this Council dated and duly adopted August 5, 2019, as amended January 4, 2021, authorizing the issuance of \$575,000 bonds to pay the cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, all in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, a specific object or purpose, at an estimated maximum cost of \$575,000, in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, are hereby amended, in part, to read as follows:

“AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$685,000 BONDS OF THE CITY OF WATERTOWN, JEFFERSON COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF A WATER TREATMENT PLANT SODA ASH DRY CHEMICAL SYSTEM, IN AND FOR SAID CITY.”

.....

“Section 1. For the specific object or purpose of paying the cost of a Water Treatment Plant Soda Ash Dry Chemical System, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, all in and for the City of Watertown, Jefferson County, New York, including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$685,000 bonds of said City pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is \$685,000 and that the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of the \$685,000 bonds of said City authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond ordinance, provided however, that the amount of bonds to be issued shall be reduced by the amount of any grant funds received therefor.”

Section B. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this ordinance are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- (3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section C. Upon this ordinance taking effect, the same shall be published in summary in the Watertown Daily Times, the official newspaper, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section D. This ordinance is effective immediately.

Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce

Motion for unanimous consent moved by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

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

STAFF REPORTS

Restore NY Grant Application Public Hearing – 75-79 Public Square

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:15 p.m to hear public comments, either for or against, the proposed project at 75-79 Public Square. Motion was seconded by Mayor Jeffrey M. Smith.

Council Member Pierce mentioned that she would abstain from voting because her brother-in-law is one of the applicants for this project.

At the call of the chair, a vote was taken on the foregoing motion and carried with all voting yeas except for Council Member Pierce abstaining.

Restore NY Grant Application Public Hearing – 302 Court Street- Special Project

Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, October 3, 2022 at 7:15 p.m to hear public comments, either for or against, the proposed project at 302 Court Street.

Motion was seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – August 2022 and Sales Tax Revenue – August 2022

Mayor Smith noted that hydro was down, and that sales tax is cooling off and coming back down to reality.

Council Member Olney asked City Comptroller James Mills to clarify what happened with sales tax and hydro in the report.

Mr. Mills summarized that with hydro, less water flowed down the river and with sales tax, people's spending changed.

Council Member Olney referred to a recent article combining sales tax of Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties and the overall thought was sales tax was down, but Jefferson County was still up. He asked Mr. Mills to read from his report that sales tax is up 6.34% from last year for the month of August and that year-to-date sales tax is up from the budget amount by 3.31%, totaling \$129,448.

Regarding hydro, Mr. Mix pointed out that work was done on the racks and the plant was shut down, but it would not have been running anyway due to the low water.

Mr. Mills added that, year-to-date, the City has spent \$48,000 to buy power because the City was not producing enough due to the low water.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Streetlight Repair

Council Member Hickey questioned whether the City has a contract with National Grid for streetlight repair and if so, how much is paid yearly.

Mr. Mix explained that National Grid is responsible for the streetlights because they own them and the City pays for the electricity that is used.

Council Member Hickey reported there are two streetlights out on North Ontario Drive, which the residents have reported about a month ago. He asked for staff to look into this because the two streetlights are next to each other causing the street to be really dark.

Addiction Panel Held at Jefferson Community College

Council Member Hickey reported that an Addiction Panel was held last Thursday, September 15 and that only he and one other person attended on behalf of the City, noting there was limited attendance in general. He stressed the importance of being trained to administer NARCAN and offered to help anyone that would like to get trained. He talked of the drug crisis in the City and surrounding area and reviewed the dispatch calls that came in last week, stressing all of the overdoses. He also reviewed statistics from the Jefferson County Medical Examiner on overdoses for the last 22 years, noting the lethal toxicology and location at which it occurred. He stressed that this is a crisis which needs to be addressed and noted that fentanyl is creating a deadly epidemic.

Upcoming Meeting and Events

Council Member Hickey announced the following meetings: Waterfront Advisory Committee on September 20, Friends of Thompson Park Zoo Master Plan on September 21, International Overdose Awareness on September 21, WARM virtual meeting on September 21, Watertown Local Development meeting on September 22, DANC virtual meeting on September 22, Overdose (OD) Map discussion on September 28 and Beaver/Black River Advisory Council virtual meeting on September 28.

Funding for Septic Repair Program

Council Member Hickey indicated that St. Lawrence County had received funding for their septic repair programs, noting that their existing system is within 250 feet of a body of water. He wondered if there are any homes along the Black River that need septic systems repaired and would qualify for funding.

Polio

Council Member Hickey mentioned that Polio is back and that NYS declared a State of Emergency concerning the positive cases in New York City, the counties of Orange, Sullivan and Nassau and in Long Island. He noted that wastewater sampling has begun downstate and suggested Watertown consider getting cost estimates and procedures in place for future budget processes.

Drug Captures

Council Member Hickey reminded Council that he spoke of drug captures at the last meeting and then reported that last week in the Town of Oswegatchie, an hour away, a woman was found to have \$63,000 worth of drugs in her possession, which included 2.5 oz of fentanyl, ½ oz of cocaine, 3.5 oz of crack cocaine and a pound of crystal methamphetamine.

Homelessness

Council Member Hickey mentioned that a Behavioral Health Urgent Care is planning to open at 650 State Street in the spring of 2023 and he expressed concern for the homeless population because the weather is going to get cooler in the coming months.

Free Bus Driver Training Program

Council Member Hickey announced that Jefferson Community College and ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence are offering a free bus driver training course for a Class B passenger endorsement commercial license. He added that ARC Jefferson-St. Lawrence is offering a sign-on bonus for anyone completing the course. He referred interested parties to contact www.sunyjefferson.edu/community for more information.

Grant Writer

Council Member Olney asked the purpose of the City of Watertown having a grant writer.

Mr. Mix said the simple answer is to obtain grants.

Council Member Olney asked if grant funds were not received, would the City then have to pay for projects using reserve funds or taxpayer money.

Mr. Mix clarified that the City had been involved with a lot of grants over the years and noted that many of the projects paid for with grant money would not have been done at all if the grant money had not been received. He said that grants do not necessarily replace City spending and that, often, grants are for matching funds so there is a cost for the City. He indicated that currently the City has so much more money than they have ever had that staff is buried in projects. Mr. Mix stated that he is not in a position to say that the City needs more money because the City is currently working hard to spend what they have already received and it would take time to complete those projects. He also explained that if there was a grant available that could help the City, staff would apply for those grants. He mentioned specifically the grants the City would be applying for from the Environmental Facilities Corporation and the Defense Community Initiative Program for the disinfection by-products project, noting the City would most likely use engineers the City has worked with before to apply for those grants.

Council Member Olney asked Mr. Mix if he would say the City was shorthanded.

Mr. Mix admitted that the City was short-staffed in some areas, particularly in departments handling ARPA funded projects.

Council Member Olney inquired whether the City was able to outsource to the private sector to work on projects, specifically mentioning river development and added that the City would certainly need to work with engineers to understand how to increase capacity to sell electricity.

Mr. Mix stated the City was already working with engineers for this purpose and added that, with something as specialized as the hydro plant, the City would want to work with companies they are familiar with.

Council Member Olney clarified that he was speaking of Black River development with things like fishing platforms, fishing ladders and kayak launches. He commented that a sizable amount of money was taken from river development to put into Thompson Park. He went on to say that the City does not always need to wait for a need for a project to search for a grant and that the City could be more proactive with grants.

District Attorney / Prosecution of Crime / Surveillance Cameras

Council Member Olney asked Attorney Slye who provides direction to law enforcement regarding making arrests and what the chain of command is for prosecuting crimes. He asked if the County's District Attorney was the person who would direct the police toward what types of crimes to focus on.

Attorney Slye indicated he could not answer that question and he said he does not know if that is the way the police do it. He noted he is not sure patrol officers are only concentrating on particular crimes, unless they have some advance notice that something is going to happen.

Council Member Olney asked if there was such a thing as a City District Attorney and could the City have their own District Attorney rather than relying on the County's District Attorney. He suggested a City District Attorney could focus on crimes specific to the City of Watertown, such as the destruction of rental property and drug crimes, because it does not seem to be high on the County District Attorney's priority list. He indicated that police officers have told him that they do not make arrests of that type because the crimes will not be prosecuted.

Council Member Olney suggested purchasing surveillance equipment for placing like the Butler Pavilion to watch for criminal activities going on and this would assist the Police Department since they are short-staffed. He said the camera could be used to gather evidence to prosecute people committing crimes in areas where the Police are unable to be stationed 24/7.

Council Member Olney said he is looking for a more comprehensive approach to solving the City issues, mentioning again the grant writer and his suggestion for dealing with criminal activity. He went on to say that the City should do what it can to solve its own problems without turning to the County.

Homelessness / Butler Pavilion

Council Member Olney noted that he feels the City should work with the County on the homeless problem and added that he agreed with the City's decision to clear out the Butler Pavilion as the situation there had become really bad.

Council's Inaction / Boarded Up Zombie Homes / Comments from Privilege of the Floor

Council Member Olney talked to the individuals who spoke at Privilege of the Floor, stating he understands their concerns because, prior to sitting on Council, he was in their position speaking at Privilege of the Floor and saw nothing that he asked to be considered ever done by Council.

Council Member Olney noted there has been a committee to address the zombie home situation for five years and mentioned he had served on that committee. He explained some of the funds the committee received were used to buy a software program to identify zombie houses but nothing was done about them.

Affordable Housing Developments - High Street and Franklin Street

Council Member Olney thanked Code Enforcement Supervisor Dana Aikins for working with the developer on a multi-family dwelling on High Street that will be open in two weeks. He briefly mentioned a pilot program that will be coming out soon by Department of Social Services (DSS). He also thanked Mr. Aikins for working with the developer of the multi-unit building on Factory Street, which could provide 50 additional housing units.

Pushback to Council Member Olney's Ideas and Priorities

Council Member Olney expressed his disapproval of what he perceives to be pushback and obstruction of any suggestions made to improve the way things are done in the City. He commented that he tried to put aside politics after the election.

Court Street Neighbor Dispute / Forwarding Email to Mr. Bradley / Possible Ethics Violation

Council Member Olney raised an issue regarding a trespassing incident and arrest involving a neighbor of Court Street property owner Steve Bradley. He said Mr. Bradley had made 11 calls to the Police for trespassing by his neighbor. He said he sent a letter to the City trying to address why this was being

done when there is a court order that stated this is a right-of-way. He added that he received a response that the individual is suing the City because he feels that he was falsely arrested since he was on his own easement. Council Member Olney challenged the authority of Mr. Bradley to have the alleged trespasser arrested and wondered if Mr. Bradley had more influence on the situation. He noted he had evidence that supported the false arrest which he sent to the City. Council Member Olney expressed displeasure with the City's lack of involvement on the issue and mentioned he sent a second letter with more evidence, which he forwarded via email to Mr. Bradley. He then indicated that Mayor Smith had forwarded to Mr. Bradley his original email asking for an investigation into the situation, which he characterized as harassment between two neighbors.

Council Member Olney then referred to an issue discussed at the previous City Council meeting which involved an email from City Clerk Saunders to Council, noting that Mayor Smith had challenged the ethics of forwarding an employee's email. He pointed out Mayor Smith had made the matter public after it was discussed in the privacy of Executive Session and suggested that the Mayor had violated these same ethics by forwarding Council Member Olney's email regarding the trespassing situation to Mr. Bradley. He suggested there was more to the situation than was immediately apparent, and that it was his opinion his emails should be further forwarded to the District Attorney's office since he feels that Mr. Bradley is using City resources to harass his neighbor. Council Member Olney again challenged Mayor Smith's ethics.

Suggestion of City District Attorney

Council Member Olney returned to the subject of the City potentially having its own District Attorney, asking Attorney Slye if it was possible and suggesting that the City has been unable to get the County District Attorney to elevate the problems he feels are most important to the City.

Climate Smart Community

Council Member Pierce reminded Council that there was discussion of a Climate Smart Community Committee and asked if anything further has occurred.

Mr. Mix said that it was mentioned by the Council but he did not receive direction as to whether Council wanted a committee formed.

Council Member Pierce mentioned that the Governor announced today that some new communities have been added, one in the North County Region. She said Council still has time to think about starting this.

Complaint Regarding Court Street Construction

Council Member Ruggiero said a business owner on Court Street contacted her about the construction not being secured at night. She said that the ditches are left open and not clearly marked so there are concerns of safety.

Patriot Day – 9/11 Ceremony

Council Member Ruggiero thanked the American Legion Post 61 for hosting a 9/11 Ceremony, stating it was a very nice event and she appreciates being asked to be involved with it.

John Barry Day Flag Raising

Council Member Ruggiero stated that last week there was the raising of the Navy flag for John Barry Day, adding that John Barry was considered "The Father of the Navy."

Stop Sign at Parkland Apartment Entrance - Comments from Privilege of the Floor

Addressing Mr. Battista's concerns about stop signs, Mayor Smith requested Mr. Mix look into that issue. He noted that Mr. Battista had done many improvements to the area including tree planting, which the City appreciates.

Boarded Up Houses - Comments from Privilege of the Floor

As to the issue of houses being boarded up, Mayor Smith noted that as long as they are following City Code, there is not much that can be done on private property. He indicated that if there are buildings that are violating the code, the Code Enforcement Office needs to be informed. He suggested Mr. Battista provide him with a list or send a list to Codes.

Grant Writer

In reference to the tabled grant writer resolution, Mayor Smith indicated that normal procedure is for the City to choose a project and then seek out a specific grant writer for that project, noting that many grant writers are highly specialized and work for engineering firms. He objected to the idea of a grant writer seeking grants for funds that the City may not need or be able to accomplish. He mentioned that, with all the extra money the City has right now, the City has had to hire multiple private firms to work on numerous projects. He noted that with all the money currently made available to other communities by the federal government, most private firms have their hands full with projects. He noted that it is not likely the City will be able to hire enough staff to perform any more projects than are currently under way.

Court Street Neighbor Dispute / Forwarding Email to Mr. Bradley – Response to Council Member Olney's Comments

In regard to Council Member Olney's question about the Mayor forwarding an email to Mr. Bradley, Mayor Smith said he did forward it and noted that this was not unethical since Council Member Olney is an elected public official and, as such, has no expectation of privacy on an email.

Zombie Committee

Referring to the issue of zombie houses, Mayor Smith pointed out that he does not know what was discussed or decided in the committee, but suggested that, since Council Member Olney was on the committee, he should know. He added that he believed Council Member Olney had been removed from the committee for ethical reasons.

Council Member Olney interrupted the Mayor to address the Mayor's characterization of his departure from that committee. He denied the claim and suggested Mayor Smith was bringing up old mayoral campaign issues for political gain.

Debate continued between the Mayor and Council Member Olney regarding ethical issues, and Mayor Smith asked Council Member Olney to refrain from interrupting him, noting he had let Council Member Olney speak without interruption when it was his turn.

Suggestion of City District Attorney

Referring to Council Member Olney's suggestion of having a City District Attorney in addition to the County District Attorney, Mayor Smith asked Attorney Slye if there is any need or precedent for such a move. He asked if criminal cases were prosecuted in City Court.

Attorney Slye indicated that lesser crimes are prosecuted in City Court by the County District Attorney's Office. He pointed out that the District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the County and noted he does not have much expertise in criminal matters by choice. He informed Council that he does not know for sure, but he is not aware of a situation in which a City created its own prosecutor office for State crimes.

661 Factory Street

Mayor Smith said the multi-unit dwelling on Factory Street, which was mentioned earlier in the meeting, had been operating under non-conforming use, and has now sat vacant long enough to have to conform to existing codes in order to reopen. He noted this means the basement apartments will need to be removed and the building will have to comply with other codes, including the installation of a fire suppression system.

Surveillance Cameras at the Butler Pavilion

Referring to the suggestion of surveillance cameras, Mayor Smith commented that the Police Chief had said it could be done but someone would need to monitor the cameras so there would be additional costs involved that would likely be quite high.

Comments About Council Not Wanting to be Innovative

Contradicting the earlier comments and suggestions that Council does not want to get things done or be innovative, Mayor Smith said Council has taken many proactive approaches and noted some of the accomplishments of Council since he had been Mayor.

Grant Writer

Referring back to the Resolution about hiring a grant writer, Mayor Smith noted that the current way grants are handled is to have staff seek out the most appropriate qualified grant writer for the specific project that is being planned. He disagreed with the need to have a grant writer on staff. He noted that if Council wanted to allot a position in the budget to a specific department for a grant writer to be employed by the City, then it should do that to add this position. He noted that simply entering into an agreement, which the City Attorney has not reviewed, with a grant writer would not be the preferred method. He said he does not think anyone is opposed to having a grant writer if it is needed for a specific project, but identify the project then direct staff to find the best grant writer for that project.

Council Member Ruggiero asked if other contracts that the City enters into are sent to Attorney Slye for review and, if so, why this grant writer contract was not sent to him.

Mr. Mix explained that was because this request was submitted directly to him by a Council Member who requested a resolution, rather than from staff as is usual. He noted that the City often enters into contracts with firms they have worked with before, adding those contracts do not go to Attorney Slye because the terms have already been worked out before, but with a new contractor, if there are questions about terms or wording, then the contract is reviewed by the Attorney. He added that he has some questions on this contract which he normally would not accept.

Council Member Olney stated to Mayor Smith that there is a pending project for the City and the project is called "Watertown" and everything that needs to be done here. He further stated this would be

someone getting money for all the things that they do not want to go back and ask the taxpayers for the money.

Items Taken From the Butler Pavilion

Mr. Mix informed Council that he had asked staff to check with everyone down there so they could claim ownership prior to removing the items. He stated that since no one claimed ownership, the mattress, couch and chair were disposed of, but the remaining personal items are still at the Arena for people to claim.

A D J O U R N M E N T

At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting in favor thereof.

Ann M. Saunders

City Clerk