

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
June 12, 2023  
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

**City staff present:** Michael Lumbis, James Mills, Patrick Keenan

**DISCUSSION**

**American Rescue Plan Appropriation**

Mayor Smith began the work session by explaining the need to review the list of ARPA expenditures due to a \$3.5 million over-expenditure. He indicated the red numbers on the list (on file in the City Clerk's office) are projects already begun and the black numbers are projects not yet started. He further explained that some of the black numbers are for projects that must be done as they have been bid out or they are to complete projects already begun. He listed Burlington Street, water project on Ohio Street and water project on Winslow Street as examples of these and indicated these must be kept in the budget.

Mr. Mix also made some suggestions on cuts that could be made and funds that would need to be left in to support ongoing projects.

Council reviewed the list of projects proposed to be funded by ARPA, discussing each item in detail and decided to remove the following projects:

Bus Relocation Design and DPW Facility Design, City Hall Second Floor Reconfiguration, Fire Driveway Apron, Black River Factory Square Park Trail, Golf Cart Storage, Zoo Phase 1, and the Sidewalk Program.

Council also opted to decrease funding for Black River Vegetation Management from \$100,000 to \$50,000 and Thompson Park Renovation funding from \$3,636,000 to \$636,000.

Council asked for some more information on the necessity of the following items: Arena Event Lights and the Arena and Football Sound Systems.

Mr. Mills advised that he would make the changes and get back to Council with the new proposed budget for ARPA funding.

**Potential Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Projects**

Planning and Community Development Director Michael Lumbis informed Council that this is the time of year when the City must prepare grant applications. He presented Council with a list of potential CFA projects (on file in the City Clerk's office), prepared by his office in conjunction with LaBella Associates, the City's grant writer. He mentioned there is one additional proposal not on the list, as it was added late, and stated it is regarding cleanup on a Vanduzee Street property. He handed out a memo from LaBella that included the Vanduzee proposal.

Mayor Smith objected to the City spending any money, even a 10% match on a grant, to clean up the Vanduzee site since it last belonged to the State and, therefore, they should be responsible for any required cleanup.

Mr. Lumbis suggested that the grant would investigate whether cleanup would be necessary and possibly determine the State's responsibility.

Council Member Pierce suggested starting with testing to see if cleanup was necessary.

Mr. Lumbis indicated that some testing had been done but was inconclusive.

In response to Council Member Olney asking what Mr. Lumbis needed from Council, Mr. Lumbis said that, since the applications would have to go out in about a month and a half, he was looking for Council direction.

Council Member Pierce asked whether Council should pick one or two or several of the proposed projects.

Mr. Lumbis said Council could choose one of the River projects and one of the Thompson Park projects.

Council Member Pierce asked if there were cost estimates associated with any of the proposals.

Mr. Mix responded that cost estimates do not hold up well when you are proposing projects for the future. He noted that the City has often spent money to have cost estimates done and then, by the time the grant is approved, and the project has started, costs have escalated making the estimate useless.

After further discussion, Council chose the Howk Street Gateway Enhancement project and suggested applying for both Thompson Park Historic Structure Restoration and Thompson Park Amphitheater.

Mr. Lumbis cautioned that choosing two projects for the park would essentially put the City in the position of competing with itself for a grant.

Work session ended at 8:40 p.m.

*Lisa M. Carr*  
Deputy City Clerk