

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
November 20, 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  
Kristen E. Smith, Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC, City Attorney

**City staff present:** Brian MacCue, Dana Aikins, Logan Eddy, James Mills, Vicky Murphy, Michael Lumbis

The City Manager presented the following reports to Council:

- Resolution No. 1 - Accepting Bid for City Hall Elevator Replacement - Elevattitt, Inc.
- Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for 214 Hoard Street Demolition Project -Bronze Contracting, LLC
- Resolution No. 3 - Approving Amendment No. 5 of the GHD Consulting Services, Inc. Professional Services Agreement for the Water Treatment Plant Disinfection By-Product Project
- Resolution No. 4 - Authorizing the Sale of Surplus DPW Tractor and Vehicles
- Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing the Sale of Surplus DPW Various Equipment & Miscellaneous Items
- Resolution No. 6 - Approving Water Supply Agreement with the Town of Pamela
- Resolution No. 7 - Approving an Amendment to the Agreement for Public Benefit Services with the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.
- Resolution No. 8 - Adopting Amended Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees for Fiscal Year 2023-24 – City Engineer Change
- Resolution No. 9 - Adopting the Thompson Park Master Plan
- Resolution No. 10 - Approving Amendment Number 1 to the Agreement with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for the Franklin Street ADA Ramp Project
- Staff Report - CAPC Reappointments
- Staff Report - City Elections
- Staff Report - Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity – October 2023
- Staff Report - Sales Tax Revenue – October 2023

**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 November 6, 2023, and work session of November 13, 2023, 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 letter was received from Robert Avallone, president of the Watertown Senior Center, informing Council that he would no longer be using Privilege of the Floor to keep Council updated about the progress and news regarding the center, since Council has no discretion or control over the center.

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

The following claim against the City was received from William Stoodley, 632 State Street, seeking reimbursement of \$1,015.19 for damages to his vehicle while volunteering with the water distribution during the recent state of emergency on October 22, 2023.

**Above claim has been referred to the Board of Audit.**

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**S.G. Gates**, 157 Dorsey Street, first congratulated the new Mayor-elect then addressed the chair regarding his continued desire to have a dog park in Thompson Park at the lookout location. He then reminded Council of New York State's Survivor Law and its implications in an alleged sexual assault case he has previously attempted to bring to Council's attention.

Mayor Smith pointed out he was on Council in 2007 and a decision was never made about the lookout location. He added that former Superintendent of Public Works Eugene Hayes only offered, at that time, recommended locations.

**Phillip Sprague**, 1308 Sunset Ridge, President of Friends of Thompson Park, thanked Council for their support of the Thompson Park Master Plan and encouraged them to vote in favor of the resolution to adopt it. He also requested Council to restore the funding necessary to fund the projects within the plan.

**Mark Irwin**, 720 Gotham Street, thanked Council for the funding to stabilize the Zoo through the winter months and thanked the Mayor for creating the Zoo Task Force. He also announced that, due to the stable funding and the generosity of Zoo staff to volunteer, the Zoo will be able to host the Winter Lights festival on Friday and Saturday evenings throughout the month of December.

**Jason Traynor**, 424 Arsenal Street, discussed a recent poll taken regarding the Zoo and questioned whether Jefferson County should take control of the Zoo. He also talked about his concerns regarding the state of the City and the direction that it is going.

**Jonathan Phillips**, 735 Mill Street, stated that money should have gone to Thompson Park instead of the purchase of the golf course and that he supports a pool for the north side of the City. He also expressed his concerns with the Christmas decorations on Factory Street, National Grid not fixing streetlights and larger businesses not establishing within the City.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **Resolution No. 1 -Accepting Bid for City Hall Elevator Replacement - Elevattitt, Inc.**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the City desires to replace the elevator located at City Hall upon recommendation from the Codes Department as a result of recent inspections, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received two (2) sealed bids for the City Hall Elevator Replacement Project, and

WHEREAS on October 19, 2023, at 11:00 a.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 Elevattitt, Inc.,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the bid received from Elevattitt, Inc. in the amount of \$78,800.00, 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, Mr. Mix noted that the title of the resolution states “replacement” but the elevator, as a whole, is not being replaced. He explained that only the mechanical parts to the elevator are being replaced.

In response to Council Member Pierce’s question regarding the large difference between the quotes, Code Enforcement Supervisor Dana Aikins explained that Elevattitt holds the current contract for the maintenance of the elevator, therefore, they may be more familiar with the equipment and what needs to be done.

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

### **Resolution No. 2 - Accepting Bid for 214 Hoard Street Demolition Project -Bronze Contracting, LLC**

#### **Introduced by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero**

WHEREAS the City desires to abate and demolish the abandoned existing structure located on 214 Hoard Street, and

WHEREAS the Purchasing Department advertised and received two (2) sealed bids for the 214 Hoard Street Demolition Project, and

WHEREAS on November 8, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. the bids received were publicly opened and read, and

WHEREAS Purchasing Manager, Tina Bartlett-Bearup reviewed the bids received with the Code Enforcement Department and it is their recommendation that the City Council accept the lowest responsive responsible bid submitted by Bronze Contracting, LLC,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby accepts the bid received from Bronze Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$39,850.00, 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 and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 3 - Approving Amendment No. 5 of the GHD Consulting Services, Inc. Professional Services Agreement for the Water Treatment Plant Disinfection By-Product Project**

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

WHEREAS GHD Consulting Services Inc., and the City of Watertown entered into an Agreement dated April 5, 2022 to perform engineering services for a disinfection by-products system to reduce TTHM's and HAA5's, in the amount of \$43,900; and

WHEREAS the agreement with GHD was first amended to include pilot rentals/commissioning, analyses, sampling, and reporting services, which increased the contract by \$663,000, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 2 added \$20,405.00 to the cost for a funding schedule, an interim report, SEQR assistance, WIIA/IMG funding assistance, DCIP funding assistance, and additional services, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 3 added \$49,300.00 to the cost for an extension of the lease of Pilot Enclosure No. 2 by two weeks, an archaeological assessment, and additional sampling, and

WHEREAS Amendment No. 4 added \$2,925,000 to the cost for the design of a new flocculation/sedimentation basin, addition of an ozonation system to the WTP, and converting the existing filters to GAC filters, bringing the contract total to \$3,701,605 and

WHEREAS GHD has submitted Amendment No. 5 to incorporate the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation Mandatory Terms and Conditions into GHD's agreement with the City, at no additional cost and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves Amendment No. 5 of the GHD agreement, a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, leaving the contract total at \$3,701,605, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager, Kenneth Mix, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Professional Services Agreement Amendment 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 questioned the language in the resolution and contract.

Water Superintendent Vicky Murphy explained that the language is mandatory.

In response to Council Member Olney's question about whether the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) shared responsibility for some of these costs, Mr. Mix replied that they were responsible for 25 percent of the cost.

Council Member Olney asked for reassurance that DANC has been advised of this project and whether there was a letter of intent regarding the process which this would substantiate.

Mr. Mix explained that there are quarterly stockholder meetings, and the Department of Health is involved. He assured the Councilman that DANC wants this project to go forward.

Council Member Olney asked if the City was certain that the fix which the City is proposing will be adequate.

Mr. Mix informed Council that DANC has always been a proponent of the addition of a sedimentation basin, but that would raise costs even further.

Mayor Smith advised, for the public's benefit, that Mayor-Elect Pierce had been introduced to Garrison Command at Fort Drum and they discussed the grant funding through the Department of Defense for this project. He added that Fort Drum offered their support and suggested ways for the City to improve the application for next year's round of funding. He added that this meant the new Mayor would be able to hit the ground running.

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

**Resolution No. 4 - Authorizing the Sale of Surplus DPW Tractor and Vehicles**

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

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

WHEREAS these vehicles and equipment may have some value best determined by an online auction,

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

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

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

**Resolution No. 5 - Authorizing the Sale of Surplus DPW Various Equipment & Miscellaneous Items**

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

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

WHEREAS the equipment and miscellaneous items may have some value best determined by an online auction,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Watertown, New York, that it hereby authorizes the sale, by online auction, of the equipment and miscellaneous items as described in the attached listing, and

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

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Department of Public Works Superintendent Brian MacCue responded to Council Member Olney's question and explained the process for determining when equipment needs to be replaced and removed from inventory.

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

**Resolution No. 6 - Approving Water Supply Agreement with the Town of Pamelaia**

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

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 City Council approved a 10-year Water Supply Agreement with the Town of Pamelaia for Consolidated Water District No. 1 on November 15, 2021, and

WHEREAS the Town of Pamelaia has requested that the term of the agreement be extended to a 30-year term from the date of execution of a revised agreement to coincide with the term of their financing the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation,

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 Pamelaia, 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 Sarah V.C. Pierce and carried with all voting yea.**

**Resolution No. 7 -Approving an Amendment to the Agreement for Public Benefit Services with the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc.**

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

WHEREAS the Lessor, City of Watertown, owns the facility known as Thompson Park, located in the City of Watertown, County of Jefferson, State of New York, and

WHEREAS the Lessor has entered into an Agreement with the Tenant, Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc., to lease certain premises located at the Park for the operation of the “Thompson Park Zoo”, and

WHEREAS the City of Watertown has provided both financial and in-kind services in support of the Thompson Park Conservancy, and

WHEREAS the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the taxpayers of the City of Watertown to provide direct support to the Thompson Park Conservancy to assist with operations as detailed in the attached Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby approves the Amendment to the Agreement for Public Benefit Services Between the City of Watertown and the Thompson Park Conservancy, Inc., 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 this 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 -Adopting Amended Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees for Fiscal Year 2023-24 – City Engineer Change**

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

WHEREAS the City Council approved the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-24 Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees at the City Council meeting on June 5, 2023, and

WHEREAS the City Manager has recommended increasing the pay rate for the position of City Engineer from the current Grade 32 to Grade 35 in the hopes of attracting a qualified candidate,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the Annual Rates of Pay for Management Employees-Effective July 1, 2023 as amended on November 20, 2023 chart that is attached and made part of this resolution.

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Council Member Olney asked if this salary increase would be more in line with the market.

Mr. Mix said that he hoped that it would, noting that the City has gone through two rounds of advertising but has not received qualified applicants. He did confirm that the City has advertised with local engineering colleges and professional organizations.

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

**Resolution No. 9 -Adopting the Thompson Park Master Plan**

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

WHEREAS the City of Watertown desired to develop a Master Plan to guide development and set a long-range vision for Thompson Park, and

WHEREAS the City Council was awarded ARPA funding, which was used to hire Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners, PLLC who assisted with the Master Plan process, and

WHEREAS the City staff has worked closely with Starr Whitehouse to develop and finalize the plan, and

WHEREAS the City Council has reviewed the Full Environmental Assessment Form, responding to each of the questions contained in Part 2, and has determined that adopting the plan is a Type 1 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 adopting the Thompson Park Master Plan for the City of Watertown constitutes Type I Action for the purposes of SEQRA and hereby determines that the plan will not have a significant impact on the environment, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Watertown hereby adopts the Thompson Park Master Plan for the City of Watertown.

**Seconded by Council Member Sarah V.C. Pierce**

Prior to the vote on the foregoing resolution, Mr. Mix pointed out that staff recommends Council respond no to each question within the Environmental Assessment Form since this involves the adoption of a plan.

Council considered Part II of the Full Environmental Assessment Form and agreed with staff's recommendation.

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

**Resolution No. 10 - Approving Amendment Number 1 to the Agreement with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. for the Franklin Street ADA Ramp Project**



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

WHEREAS the City Council of the City of Watertown has included funding for the Franklin Street ADA Ramp Replacement Project in the Program Year 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan, and

WHEREAS the City retained Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C. to perform design services for the Franklin Street ADA Ramp Replacement Project under a professional services agreement, not to exceed \$16,900, and

WHEREAS Barton & Loguidice incurred billable hours above and beyond the original contract amount in the process of finalizing the contract plans for bidding, and

WHEREAS Barton & Loguidice has developed an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement dated March 8, 2023 between the City of Watertown and Barton & Loguidice, for an additional amount not to exceed \$1,150 to cover the overrun,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves Amendment Number 1 to the agreement with Barton & Loguidice, D.P.C., a copy of which is attached and made part of this resolution, for an additional amount not to exceed \$1,150, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to execute Amendment Number 1 on behalf of the City.

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

**STAFF REPORTS**

**City Elections**

Referring to the provided report, Council Member Olney thanked Attorney Kristin Smith for her opinion that the Board of Elections should consult with the City before closing polling places. He noted that Council had voted unanimously against closing the polling sites. He asked what kind of “teeth” the governing body has if their vote is disregarded.

Mayor Smith asked to correct the record by noting that the Board of Elections representatives did present their plan to Council before closing the polling places and, at the time, Council had no questions for them.

Council Member Olney reiterated that Council voted not to close the polling places.

**Sale of Surplus Hydro-electricity and Sales Tax Revenue – October 2023**

A report was available for Council to review.

**CAPC Reappointments**

Mr. Mix drew Council’s attention to the proposal for reappointing CAPC board members. He asked that the Council Members who had previously nominated the board members re-nominate them.

Council Member Ruggiero offered her support of Mr. Zaremba and Council Member Pierce said she would re-nominate Justin Brotherton.

Mayor Smith expressed his objections to this process, noting the mistreatment of William Kimball a year ago by the members of CAPC. He noted that he has nothing against either of the nominees, but disliked the manner in which CAPC rejected a nominee put forward by the City last year. He added his opinion is that if CAPC wants to choose its own members, then they should remove Council from the process.

Council Member Pierce asked for clarification of the nomination process.

Council Member Ruggiero stated her belief that the executive directors had to follow certain guidelines.

Mr. Mix indicated that CAPC's bylaws require Council involvement.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Mayor Smith's Response to Jonathan Phillips' Privilege of the Floor**

Mayor Smith asked Mr. Mix to contact National Grid about the poles that are not lit on Black River Parkway.

Mr. Phillips indicated that they are poles #9 and #10.

#### **Peyton Morse Memorial Highway Dedication**

Council Member Hickey informed Council that the dedication of the Peyton Morse Memorial Highway on Route 180, near Grove Cemetery, in LaFargeville had taken place on November 18 and hundreds of people had attended, including members of various fire departments and law enforcement personnel. He mentioned that Mr. Morse's father had spoken. He thanked Senator Mark Walczyk and Assemblyman Scott Gray for their assistance in getting the legislation passed to dedicate the highway.

#### **National Observations in the Month of November**

Council Member Hickey announced that November is National Hospice and Palliative Care Month as well as National Diabetes Month and National Marrow Awareness Month.

#### **Meetings and Important Dates**

Council Member Hickey noted the full Alliance meeting on Nov. 21, the anniversary of the death of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, Thanksgiving on Nov. 23, and Native American Heritage Day on Nov. 24.

#### **Matthew's Law**

Council Member Hickey advised Council that Governor Hochul had signed Matthew's Law, which expands access to drug testing supplies. He reminded Council of state-funded Drug User Health Hubs created in May and noted that, in the first six months, 98% of samples purporting to be heroin contained fentanyl and 53% contained xylazine.

### **PINK**

Council Member Hickey warned Council and the public of a new synthetic drug which has double the potency of heroin. Known as PINK, it is also called U4.

### **Clean Slate Act**

Council Member Hickey informed Council that Gov. Hochul signed the Clean Slate Act on Nov. 16 which will automatically seal the records of millions of offenders after a certain period. He noted that law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, courts and the New York State Department of Education would still have access to all criminal records under this law.

### **Privilege of the Floor – Jonathan Phillips - “What Council Wants”**

Council Member Olney contradicted Mr. Phillips’s statement during Privilege of the Floor that council members are doing what they want. He advised that Council does what the people want.

### **Lighting on Clinton Street**

Council Member Olney asked Mr. Mix about an issue with lighting on Clinton Street and wondered if it had ever been resolved.

Mr. Mix noted that he believed it had something to do with the lights being in the sidewalk.

### **Court Street Streetscape**

Council Member Olney indicated he had sent an email asking why asphalt had been poured on Court Street as he believed Council was informed there were supposed to be pavers.

Mr. Mix advised that he had responded to Council Member Olney’s email and the asphalt has been put in place temporarily for the winter until they can put in the pavers in the spring.

### **Housing Task Force**

Council Member Olney referred Council and the public to his Facebook page where he is attempting to create a task force for Watertown Housing. He noted that since Council has no authority over landlords, he is looking to create a place where people can go for help. He cited an example of a constituent contacting him about his landlord harassing him and another describing a wheelchair-bound constituent being bullied. He suggested appointing a panel of residents, landlords and businesses to make decisions regarding housing. He noted the City of Buffalo has something similar and could offer ideas going forward.

### **Western Outfall Sewer Permits/DEC Consent**

Council Member Olney proposed a work session to discuss the status of the water runoff situation in the Western Outfall.

Mr. Mix indicated the December 11 work session was available for that topic and they have been working with the town of Watertown on the issue.

Council Member Olney clarified that the new Taco Bell on State Street was not affected. He then asked how big an area the Western Outfall covered.

Mr. Mix listed that it covered an area from Coffeen Street to Iroquois Avenue and even into Thompson Park.

**Landlord Disputes**

Council Member Pierce advised Council Member Olney to have the constituent who contacted him about a landlord dispute contact the State's Attorney General as that office does a lot of work with tenant rights.

**Eclipse Committee Meeting**

Council Member Pierce announced that the next Eclipse meeting would be held in Council chambers on Nov. 21 at 12:30 p.m.

**Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting**

Council Member Pierce noted that December 1<sup>st</sup> would be the annual Christmas parade and tree lighting in Downtown Watertown.

**Small Business Saturday**

Council Member Pierce announced that Saturday, December 2, is Small Business Saturday and suggested any small business owner having an event contact her so she could help spread the word.

**Peyton Morse Dedication continued**

Council Member Ruggiero stated that she had also attended the Peyton Morse dedication and it was a beautiful ceremony and moving tribute. She noted that Fire Chief Timerman had also spoken at the event.

**Privilege of the Floor – S.G. Gates**

Council Member Ruggiero noted that there was not much that Council could do for Mr. Gates as he is reporting third- or fourth-hand information. She advised that without a police report or any kind of record it would be difficult to prosecute an event from twenty years ago. She noted that Council cannot act on something that does not exist.

**Festival of Trees**

Council Member Ruggiero advised that there are 91 trees in this year's festival, and it is being held for two weeks in the Salmon Run Mall, beginning Friday, November 24. She also noted the Festival's Gala is being held on December 1.

**Election Congratulations**

Mayor Smith offered his congratulations to Council Members-Elect Shoen and Kimball, who were in attendance, and to the historical election of Council Member Pierce as the first woman Mayor of the City of Watertown.

**Peyton Morse continued**

Mayor Smith expressed his apologies for not being able to attend the event as he was ill, and he thanked Council Members Hickey and Ruggiero for representing the City.

**Golf Course Report**

Mayor Smith asked Mr. Mills for a report on the financials from the Watertown Golf Course.

Mr. Mills replied he would have them in the next meeting or two.

**Attacks on Staff/Western Outfall/DEC Consent Order**

Mayor Smith cautioned Council Member Olney that it is inappropriate to attack staff in the media. He noted that it was inaccurate to suggest that Council was not informed of the issues with the Western Outfall sewer problems. He referred Council Member Olney to a Resolution they had all voted on, noting the explanation is on the first page of the report. He suggested Council Member Olney email or ask questions before the meetings instead of complaining about not receiving necessary information. He further explained that the issues with the Western Outfall have been well known and that previous Councils have taken steps to remedy the situation.

Council Member Olney asked Mayor Smith if he signed off on pumping sewer water into wetlands. He stated his belief that the City knowingly disposed of the water in a way he believes is illegal on the idea that it would be cheaper to pay the fines than to dispose of the wastewater properly.

Mayor Smith reiterated that staff cannot be blamed for what Council Member Olney does not understand.

In response to Council Member Olney's question about whether the attorneys were advised, Attorney Smith stated this had occurred before her firm's appointment.

Council Member Olney and Mayor Smith engaged in a lengthy disagreement about this issue.

**Robert J. Kasulke**

Mayor Smith noted the passing of Retired Major General of the Army Reserves, Dr. Robert J. Kasulke, and noted he had served his country and community admirably.

**Motion was made by Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero to move into Executive Session to discuss proposed, pending, or current litigation.**

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

Council moved into Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:42 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**At the call of the chair, meeting was duly adjourned at 8:42 p.m. until Monday, November 27, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. by motion of Council Member Lisa A. Ruggiero, seconded by Council Member Clifford G. Olney III and carried with all voting in favor thereof.**

**Lisa M. Carr**

Deputy City Clerk